

Meeting of the Council – 15th April, 2024

Report of the Lead for Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report 2023/24

Purpose

1. To consider the annual Overview and Scrutiny Report.

Recommendation

2. That the annual Overview and Scrutiny Report for 2023/24 be received and noted.

Background

3. Article 6.02 of the Council's [Constitution](#), requires that Scrutiny/Select Committees will submit an annual report to the Council.
4. The Annual Report for 2023/24 is attached. Minutes and outcomes of all Scrutiny/Select Committee meetings can be accessed online via the [Council's Website](#).
5. Consideration is being given to the Council's scrutiny arrangements and programme for the 2024/25 municipal year in the context of the Council's Improvement and Sustainability Programme ('Fit for the Future'). The attached report also contains ongoing items that will need to be considered for the scrutiny programme for 2024/25.
6. The Council has a flexible approach to developing the scrutiny programme to incorporate any issues that might arise during the year. Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs have considerable discretion to adapt their approaches to carry out the scrutiny work allocated to them.

7. The Council has recognised the importance of retaining an annual review and report process. This is to ensure that the arrangements continue to align themselves to the needs of the Council and that the scrutiny arrangements remain adaptable and flexible to changes in circumstances.

Finance

8. The costs of operating the Council's scrutiny arrangements are being contained within existing budgetary allocations.

Law

9. Scrutiny/Select Committees are established in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the requirements of the Council's Constitution, which was adopted under the Local Government Act 2000, subsequent legislation and associated Regulations and Guidance.
10. Scrutiny powers relating to health are included in the Health and Social Care Acts 2001 and 2012, and associated Regulations and statutory guidance. The Police and Justice Act 2006 gives the Council powers to scrutinise the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enables local authorities to scrutinise other partners. Much of this legislation is consolidated in the Localism Act 2011.
11. The Council's scrutiny arrangements are set out in Article 6 of the [Constitution](#) and the associated Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules.

Risk Management

12. Scrutiny Committees are an integral part of the Council's governance arrangements, which ensure that the Council considers any ongoing material risks as part of the Council's Risk Management Framework.

Equality Impact

13. Provision exists within the scrutiny arrangements for overview and scrutiny to be undertaken of the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

14. Any human resources/organisational development issues are referred to in individual reports on the items concerned.

Commercial/Procurement

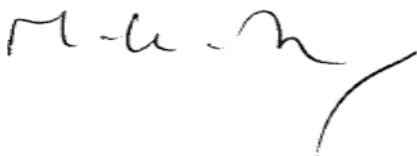
15. Reports to Scrutiny/Select Committees include a Commercial/Procurement paragraph. Consideration is also given to compliance with Contract Standing Orders and Procurement legislation.

Environment/Climate Change

16. The Leader has established a specific Cabinet portfolio for Climate Change to reinforce the Council's commitment to addressing environmental issues and climate change. The Council also established the Climate Change Select Committee for the 2023/24 municipal year.

Council Priorities and Projects

17. The Council's governance arrangements, including the work of Scrutiny/Select Committees, underpin the delivery of key Council priorities and projects.



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Mohammed Farooq
Lead for Law and Governance
(Monitoring Officer)