

## ASSEMBLY

27 JANUARY 2021

<b>Title:</b> Annual Scrutiny Report 2019/20	
<b>Report of the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Chair of Health Scrutiny Committee</b>	
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> None	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
<b>Report Authors:</b> Claudia Wakefield, Senior Governance Officer Yusuf Olow, Senior Governance Officer	<b>Contact Details:</b> Tel: 020 8227 5276 / 020 3911 7919 E-mail: <a href="mailto:claudia.wakefield@lbbd.gov.uk">claudia.wakefield@lbbd.gov.uk/</a> <a href="mailto:yusuf.olow@lbbd.gov.uk">yusuf.olow@lbbd.gov.uk</a>
<b>Accountable Strategic Leadership Director:</b> Mark Tyson, Director of Policy and Participation and Statutory Scrutiny Officer	
<b>Summary</b>  The four principles of good public scrutiny as described by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny are:  <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Provide a constructive “critical friend” challenge;</li><li>2. Amplify the voice and concerns of the public;</li><li>3. Be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role; and</li><li>4. Drive improvement in public services.</li></ol> This report outlines the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Appendix A) and Health Scrutiny Committee (Appendix B) in 2019/20 and how they have endeavoured to achieve these outcomes.	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>  The Assembly is recommended to note the report.	
<b>Reason(s)</b>  It is good practice for the Assembly to be made aware of the work of the Scrutiny Committees during the last municipal year.	

## **1. Introduction and Background**

- 1.1 Following a review of the Council's governance arrangements in 2018 (Minute 56 refers), the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Health Scrutiny Committee have been successfully operating for two years.
- 1.2 The two Committees have looked at various issues throughout the municipal year, which are referred to in the Appendices. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has also undertaken two in-depth scrutiny reviews in 2019/20.
- 1.3 There have been no referrals, call-ins or petitions to either Committee over the past year.

## **2. Financial Implications**

Implications completed by: Sandra Pillinger, Group Accountant

- 2.1 There are no direct financial implications for this report.

## **3. Legal Implications**

Implications completed by: Dr Paul Feild, Senior Governance Solicitor

- 3.1 As the content of the report explains there is a legal requirement for councils which establish executive governance (this includes Leader and Cabinet, our model) to establish scrutiny and overview committees under the Local Government Act 2000. The precise arrangements are a matter for local determination and an amendment to the Act to require the appointment of a statutory scrutiny officer has given that role a specific duty to promote the scrutiny and overview function and provide support for the committee(s) and members.
- 3.2 The Council's arrangements are to operate an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a Health Scrutiny Committee. The division of responsibility is that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the lead Scrutiny Committee except for health matters.
- 3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is a committee established under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended by the Localism Act 2011. Its functions are set out by law and also determined locally. It is responsible for addressing any Call-in/Councillor Call For Action that is received, except where the subject primarily relates to health matters in which case it will be dealt with by the Health Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.4 The Health Scrutiny Committee carries out health scrutiny in accordance with Section 244 (and Regulations under that section) of the National Health Services Act 2006 as amended by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 relating to local health service matters. Where a proposal to substantially vary a health service relates to more than one local

authority area, it must be considered by a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee appointed by each of the local authorities in question.

- 3.5 The Statutory Scrutiny Officer role was originally introduced by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, the requirement for English councils to designate a “statutory” scrutiny officer can now be found at Section 9FB of the Local Government Act 2000 (the legislative framework having been altered by the Localism Act 2011).

**Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:** None

**List of appendices:**

- Appendix A: Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) Annual Report 2019/20
- Appendix B: Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) Annual Report 2019/20