

ASSEMBLY

28 February 2024

Title: Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2022/23	
Report of the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
Open Report	For Information
Wards Affected: None	Key Decision: No
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Summary The four principles of good public scrutiny as described by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny are: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Provide a constructive “critical friend” challenge;2. Amplify the voice and concerns of the public;3. Be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role; and4. Drive improvement in public services. This report outlines the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which can be found at Appendix A.	
Recommendation(s) The Cabinet is recommended to note the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2022/23, as set out at Appendix A to the report.	
Reason(s) 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 has been successfully operating for four years.
- 1.2 The Committee has looked at various issues throughout the municipal year, which are referred to in Appendix A.
- 1.3 There have been no referrals, call-ins or petitions to the Committee over the past year.

2. Financial Implications

Implications completed by: Sandra Pillinger, Finance Manager

- 2.1 This report outlines the work of the Scrutiny Committee and has no direct financial implications.

3. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Dr Paul Feild, Principal Standards and Governance Lawyer

- 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. 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.
- 3.2 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.

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

List of appendices:

- **Appendix A:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) Annual Report 2022/23