

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
22 MARCH 2016**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

17

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY OFFICER

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 A draft Annual Report to Council of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2015/16 is attached at **Appendix A** for the Committee's consideration.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- review its work in 2015/16;
 - consider its priorities for next year;
 - comment on the draft Annual Report;
 - note that some sections will have to be completed between now and Annual Council; and
 - agree that the Chairman should sign off any further necessary changes to the report so it can be presented to Annual Council.

3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To enable the Committee to comment on the Annual Report to Council.

4. FORWARD PLAN

- 4.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

5. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 5.1 The annual report has a similar structure to previous years, looking back at the work of the Committee and its task and finish groups, and looking forward to the Committee's intended approach in 2016/17. The sections recording the output from the Committee's meetings in terms of resolutions made and Cabinet's response will be completed after Cabinet's meeting on 30 March 2016.
- 5.2 The Committee will wish to consider how its new emphasis on overview has worked this year and make any suggestions on how it could be improved next year.

- 5.3 There will not be another regular meeting of the Committee before this report is presented to Annual Council on 19 May. It will therefore be necessary for the Committee to give the Chairman the authority to sign off the final version before Annual Council.
- 5.4 Public participation has been lower this year (4 members of the public so far) compared to 18 last year when public interest in items on community centres and Hitchin Town Hall boosted attendance.
- 5.5 The task and finish group programme has been interesting but somewhat delayed by discussions about the new protocol which prevented the Task and Finish group on the Quality of Council Reports from starting until December 2015. Only two task and finish groups have been completed with another about to start shortly.
- 5.6 Section 4 of the Annual Report will be completed once the Committee has agreed its priorities for 2016/17.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from the contents of this report.

7. FINANCE AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial or risk implications arising from the contents of this report.

8. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no new HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Equality Act 2010 came into force on 1 October 2010, a major piece of legislation. The Act also created a new Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on 5 April 2011. There is a General duty, described in 12.2, that public bodies must meet, underpinned by more specific duties which are designed to help meet them.
- 9.2 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, a public body must, in the exercise of its functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 9.3 The report's recommendations have no equalities impact.

10. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 As the recommendations made in this report do not constitute a public service contract, the measurement of 'social value' as required by the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 need not be applied.

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A: Draft Annual Report to Council of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

12. CONTACT OFFICERS

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13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 None.