

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
21 MARCH 2017**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

18

**TITLE OF REPORT: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY OFFICER**

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 A draft of the Committee's Annual Report to Council is attached at **Appendix A** for the Committee's consideration.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:
- comment on the report;
 - consider its priorities for next year; and
 - agree that the Chairman should sign off any further necessary changes so it can be presented to Annual Council on 18 May.

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 2017/18.
- 5.2 A number of sections will be completed after this meeting and that of Cabinet on 28 March and these are highlighted in bold italics:
- The Chairman's introduction;
 - the Committee's resolutions and Cabinet's response to them (para 2.7);
 - the Committee's priorities for 2017/18 (para 5.1); and
 - the final public attendance (para 6.2).
- 5.3 There will not be another regular meeting of the Committee before this report is presented to Annual Council on 18 May. The Committee is asked to give the Chairman the authority to sign off the final version before Annual Council.

- 5.4 Public participation has been higher this year. 20 members of the public have attended the Committee's meetings so far compared to 7 last year. Attendance has been boosted by public interest in items on community centres, larger projects and green spaces. A further 4 members of the public have attended the Larger Projects Task and Finish Group on more than one occasion. They have made useful contributions to its work.
- 5.5 Only two task and finish groups have been completed this year, fewer than hoped. Next year task and finish groups will begin on fixed dates to reduce the problem of member and officer availability.
- 5.6 The Committee revised its Protocol for TFGs in March 2016 and it is time to review it after the first year of operation. Last year's main changes are set out in para 4.5.1 of the Annual Report. The Committee is invited to make any observations on its operation.
- 5.7 Last time the Committee reviewed the Protocol it established a small working group to do the detailed work before bringing a revised version back to the Committee for final consideration and approval. If the Committee decided to adopt this approach, it would receive a final version of the Protocol in June or July 2017.

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 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

12. CONTACT OFFICERS

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13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 None.