

# TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Report to:</b>	Council
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 April 2019
<b>Subject:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Report 2018/19
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Corporate Services
<b>Corporate Lead:</b>	Chief Executive
<b>Lead Member:</b>	Lead Member for Organisational Development
<b>Number of Appendices:</b>	One

## **Executive Summary:**

The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to assure that the Council's work is transparent, the Council is held accountable for its decision-making, and that the needs of the community are considered. Reporting the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee through an annual report provides an opportunity for both the Council and the public to view the work of the Committee. It is also a requirement of the Council's constitution that the Committee reports annually to Council. The draft Overview and Scrutiny Report 2018/19 was considered and approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 April 2019.

## **Recommendation:**

**To consider the contents of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19.**

## **Reasons for Recommendation:**

It is important to ensure that the activities of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are promoted both internally and publicly to reinforce transparency and accountability in the democratic process. It is also a requirement of the Council's Constitution that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee reports annually to Council.

## **Resource Implications:**

None.

## **Legal Implications:**

None.

## **Risk Management Implications:**

None.

**Performance Management Follow-up:**

An annual report detailing the work of the Committee provides transparency and accountability. As detailed in the report, the Committee has a forward-looking work programme that provides a comprehensive overview of the Council's priorities.

**Environmental Implications:**

None.

**1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

**1.1** The Overview and Scrutiny Committee must deliver the work required of it as set out in the Council's Constitution. The Committee has a formal work programme for the year and it ensures the volume of work does not compromise the depth of examination required, does not duplicate the work of other Committees and adds value.

**2.0 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

**2.1** Not only is it a requirement of the Council's Constitution to report the activities of the Committee on an annual basis but it is good practice. The annual report demonstrates the broad coverage of activities the Committee has scrutinised and reviewed during the year. This coverage has been undertaken through a combination of the following:

- Progress reports from officers on the delivery of key strategies and policies. For example, the Committee receives update reports on key Council strategies such as Economic Development and Tourism Strategy, Housing Strategy, Communications Strategy etc.
- Quarterly performance management reporting – Committee receives a quarterly performance tracker report on the progress of delivering Council Plan actions, key performance indicators and financial outturn performance. Further scrutiny led to individual reports on key actions around the potential re-development of Healings Mill and maximising the commercial opportunity of the trade waste service.
- Working Groups to review specific areas of interest. During the year, a Working Group was set up specifically to review grass cutting. Other work concluded in the year was the final Working Group report on the 2017 water outage and an update report on Working Group recommendations in relation to Tewkesbury Borough News.
- Presentations from Officers and external organisations. Presentations were received during the year from organisations such as Citizens Advice Bureau and Gloucestershire Healthwatch.
- Scrutiny review of new strategies and policies. The Committee reviewed the new Workforce Development Strategy and has requested an update on Single Use Plastics.

**2.2** Overall, the work of the Committee underlines the value it contributes to the Council's policy and assurance framework. As always, Officers will work closely with the Committee during 2019/20, especially as there will be a new Council, to continue to maximise its value. The 2018/19 annual report can be found in Appendix 1. The report was considered and approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 9 April 2019.

**2.3** In reviewing the report, the Committee made the following comments, but these do not affect the content of the report;

Page 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph of the report - this refers to 'Severn Vale Housing'. A Member commented this should now read as 'Bromford Housing'. It was explained the text related to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review of the Housing Strategy at their meetings on 1 May 2018 and 16 October 2018. At the time of those meetings, 'Severn Vale Housing' was still in existence and therefore the text is factually correct.

Page 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph of the report – this refers to the progress in delivering modular housing to former garage sites at Winchcombe and Staverton. A Member commented that this should also include reference to a former garage site at Prior's Park, Tewkesbury. It was explained that the text in the report was taken directly from the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 1 May 2018 and 16 October 2018. Those Minutes do not refer to the Prior's Park site. Whilst it is acknowledged that there is progression in this site, the Winchcombe and Staverton sites are at a more advanced stage.

### **3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

**3.1** None.

### **4.0 CONSULTATION**

**4.1** None.

### **5.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES**

**5.1** None.

### **6.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES**

**6.1** None.

### **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)**

**7.1** None.

### **8.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)**

**8.1** None.

### **9.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)**

**9.1** None.

### **10.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS**

**10.1** None.

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**Background Papers:** None.

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**Appendices:** 1 – Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2018/19.