

# TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	1 September 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20
<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, that 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.

## **Recommendation:**

**To APPROVE the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20.**

## **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:**

Annual review of the work of the Committee provides transparency and accountability and helps the Overview and Scrutiny Committee prepare its work programme.

**Environmental Implications:**

None.

**1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny function 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. Over the past year, the Committee has once again been at the heart of the Council's decision-making process and acted as a critical friend to the Executive Committee in helping shape and inform the Council's decision making. This year's annual report includes a brief summary of the role and responsibilities of Overview and Scrutiny, the work undertaken over the past year and the various outcomes. In summary, the work 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 strategies such as Economic Development and Tourism Strategy, Housing Strategy, Communications Strategy etc.
- Quarterly performance management reporting – The 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 being received on planning performance and the trade waste service, looking at maximising the commercial opportunity of the service.
- Working groups to review specific areas of interest - during the year, working groups were set up to review the Parking Strategy and Depot Services , as well as the final report from the Grounds Maintenance Working Group, which was formed to specifically tackle grass cutting concerns throughout the borough.
- Presentations from officers and external organisations - presentations were received during the year from organisations such as Citizens' Advice Bureau, Gfirst Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Growth Hub.
- A special meeting was held in August to look at the motion to declare a climate change emergency.
- Other general scrutiny reviews- the Committee reviewed multiple reports which included from updates on the Community Services and Development Services improvement plans and Tewkesbury Borough News review.

- 2.2 Following approval of the annual report, it will be presented by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Council on 29 September 2020. This fulfils the reporting requirement within the Council's Constitution. The 2019/20 annual report can be found at Appendix 1.

**4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

4.1 None.

**5.0 CONSULTATION**

5.1 None.

**6.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES**

6.1 None.

**7.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES**

7.1 None.

**8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)**

8.1 None

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

9.1 None

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

10.1 None

**11.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS**

11.1 None.

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**Background Papers:** None

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**Appendix:** Appendix 1 – Annual Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report 2019/20