

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Council
Date of Meeting:	29 September 2020
Subject:	Overview and Scrutiny Report 2019/20
Report of:	Head of Corporate Services
Corporate Lead:	Chief Executive
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Organisational Development
Number of Appendices:	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 2019/20 was considered and approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1 September 2020.

Recommendation:

To consider the contents of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20.

Reasons for Recommendation:

It is important to ensure 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 must report 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.

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 varied from updates of the Single-Use Plastics action plan, Community Services and Development Services improvement plans and Tewkesbury Borough News review etc.

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 2020/21, especially as there will be a new Council, Covid-19 recovery plan to monitor and to maximise its value. The 2019/20 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 1 September 2020.

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.

Background Papers: None.

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Appendices: 1 – Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2019/20.