

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny
Date of Meeting:	6 April 2021
Subject:	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21
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, 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 2020/21.

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 supported 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.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee held its first-ever virtual meeting in July 2020, thanks to the use of improved technology. It was a great success and has continued for the remainder of the municipal year as the pandemic continues. Despite the disruptions, the annual report highlights that the Committee has scrutinised a range of topics and has once again helped to shape and inform Council decisions and provide support to key areas.

The Committee's 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 the Customer Care Strategy, Economic Development and Tourism Strategy, Workforce Development Strategy, and Communications Strategy etc.
- Quarterly performance management reporting – The Committee receives a quarterly performance tracker report on the progress of delivering Council Plan and COVID-19 Recovery Plan actions, Key Performance Indicators and financial outturn performance. Further scrutiny led to additional presentations and reports on areas such as the tourism review, Tewkesbury 2021 project and the trade waste service - looking at maximising the commercial opportunities for the service.
- Working Groups to review specific areas of interest - as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Working Groups have been limited during the course of the year but two Working Groups continued to review the Parking Strategy and Depot Services.
- Presentations from officers and external organisations - presentations were received during the year from organisations such as the Citizens' Advice Bureau and an external consultant provided an in-depth presentation for the tourism review.

- Other general scrutiny reviews - the Committee reviewed multiple reports which came from two Council motions - to support the Tech Talent Charter and support for a local Electricity Bill. The Committee also received updates from the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee, Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel and Gloucestershire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.2 Following approval of the annual report, it will be presented by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Council on 13 April 2021. This fulfils the reporting requirement within the Council's Constitution. The 2020/21 annual report can be found at Appendix 1.

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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Appendix: 1 – Annual Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report 2020/21.