

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny
Date of Meeting:	5 April 2022
Subject:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2021/22
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 2021/22.

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.

2.2 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.

2.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees were held virtually for the first months of 2021, until legislative changes meant the Committee was required to meet in person from June 2021. Irrespective of how the meetings took place and the challenges the pandemic presented to the Council, the Committee has always been critical in supporting the delivery of high-quality services and our challenge and scrutiny continued throughout 2021/22.

2.4 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.

2.5 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 and policies such as the Housing and Homelessness Strategy, Digital Approach Strategy and the Social Media Policy 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.
- 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, Severn Trent Water providing an update on the water-outage works, and Bromford Housing on Modern Methods of Construction.

- Other general scrutiny reviews - the Committee reviewed multiple reports which varied from the Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan, use of mobile surveillance equipment for fly-tipping investigations and private rented sector housing scheme etc. 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.

2.6 Following approval of the annual report, it will be presented by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Council on 12 April 2022. This fulfils the reporting requirement within the Council's Constitution. The 2021/22 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: Appendix 1 – Annual Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report 2021/22