

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 11 June 2020

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WARDS: All

PART I **FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION**

DRAFT ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2019-20

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the Annual Scrutiny Report which will be submitted to Council.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to endorse the report, subject to any amendments, before it is presented to council.

3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Five Year Plan

- 3.1 The council's decision-making and the effective scrutiny of it underpins the delivery of all the Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy priorities. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, alongside the three scrutiny panels combine to meet the local authority's statutory requirement to provide public transparency and accountability, ensuring the best outcomes for the residents of Slough.
- 3.2 The work of scrutiny also reflects the priorities of the Five Year plan, as follows:
- Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful
 - Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs
 - Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay
 - Our residents will live in good quality homes.
 - Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide opportunities for our residents.
- 3.3 Overview and Scrutiny is a process by which decision-makers are accountable to local people, via their elected representatives for improving outcomes relating to all priorities for the borough and its residents. Scrutiny seeks to influence those who make decisions by considering the major issues affecting the borough and making recommendations about how services can be improved.

4. **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

The work of the scrutiny function is included within existing SBC budgets.

(b) Risk Management

Recommendation	Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation(s)
Endorse that the report be presented to council.	The information and narrative is not agreed by the scrutiny committees	The report has been submitted to chairs and vice chairs of the committees for comment.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act implications. The work of scrutiny functions in local authorities is outlined in the Local Government Act 2000.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There are no Equality Impact Assessments required as a result of this report.

5. **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 At the last meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee for each municipal year the committee receives the draft Annual Scrutiny Report. This has been delayed this year as a result of the cancellation of a number of council meetings following the Covid-19 outbreak.
- 5.2 Annual reports are an opportunity to review the scrutiny work programme for the past year and assess the impact scrutiny has had on influencing policy. Looking at an annual report can help us to understand the nature of the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny and to assess its effectiveness. It also gives an opportunity to reflect on any lessons learned during the year to help guide future work.
- 5.3 The production of an annual report is a constitutional requirement and in addition the committee “must report annually to the full council on future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.” The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is provided with a draft of the Annual Scrutiny Report which highlights some key achievements from the year where scrutiny has made a difference.
- 5.4 There is scope to build on and develop different methods of scrutiny next year; particular attention needs to be given on using overarching policy documents such as the Five Year Plan and how they should shape the work of scrutiny. In addition, members may wish to consider increasing the variety of methods used by scrutiny (e.g. Task and Finish Groups, co-option of members). We will be undertaking some research into scrutiny best practice for consideration at a future date.

6. **Conclusion**

- 6.1 The Local Authority, through its Overview and Scrutiny Function, has an influential, as well as statutory, role in scrutinising the activities and performance of the Cabinet and External Bodies (e.g. the Clinical Commissioning Group). The Annual Scrutiny Report provides an opportunity to communicate the work the committee and its panels have undertaken, challenges faced and the improvements made as a result of scrutiny.

6. **Appendix Attached**

A Draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2019/20

7. **Background Papers**

Local Government Act 2000 (Section 21)