

Committee: Council

Date: 10 July 2019

Wards: All

Subject: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018-19

Lead officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services

Lead member: Councillor Peter Southgate, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Commission

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Recommendations:

1. That Council receives the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Council is invited to receive the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission is required to produce an annual report outlining the work of the overview and scrutiny function over the course of the Municipal Year. The Commission has used the report as an opportunity to draw attention to some of the outcomes achieved during the year as well as covering in detail the work undertaken by each of the Panels and the Commission itself.
- 2.2. The report (attached as appendix 1) therefore includes:
 - a foreword by the 2018/19 Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Commission
 - a brief explanation of the term 'overview and scrutiny'
 - scrutiny achievements 2018-2019
 - a report from each Panel and the Commission on activities during 2018/19
 - a description of how local residents and local voluntary and community organisations can get involved in scrutiny
- 2.3. The report was approved for submission to Council by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 24 April 2019.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission would be in breach of the constitution if it did not produce an annual report and present it to Council.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission approved the content of the Annual Report. Each Panel Chair was consulted on the section relating to their work.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission received, commented on and approved the report at its meeting on 24 April 2019.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are none specific to this report.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission is constitutionally bound to produce an annual report for the overview and scrutiny function and to present the report to the full Council. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission would be in breach of the constitution if it did not do this.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engagement. Examples of how this aim is achieved are included in the annual report under the community engagement section.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. The Police and Justice Act 2006 requires every Council to have a scrutiny committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken by the Council and the other responsible authorities in the exercise of their crime and disorder functions.
- 9.2. In Merton this responsibility lies with the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and its work on these issues is described in the Commission's section of the Annual Report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. There are none specific to this report.

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018-2019

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1. None