

Committee: Council

Date: 15th September 2021

Wards: All

Subject: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020-21

Lead officer: Lysanne Eddy, Interim Policy and Scrutiny Manager

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

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Recommendations:

- A. That Council receives the 'Scrutiny in Merton' Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Council is invited to receive the 'Scrutiny in Merton' 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 key outcomes achieved during the year as well as identifying other topics covered by each of the Panels and the Commission itself.
- 2.2. The redesigned Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21 is a shorter report with a greater use of graphics. This aims to make it more reader friendly but continues to explain the:
- (i) Overview and Scrutiny structure;
 - (ii) Breadth of topics discussed throughout the year;
 - (iii) Focus on a single key outcome achieved per panel;
 - (iv) number of meetings, members and stakeholders; and
 - (v) number of task group reviews and their impact
- 2.3. The report was approved for submission to Council by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission virtually on 2nd July 2021.

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 the report by email for comments and approved it virtually, with no comments received, by the deadline of 2nd July 2021.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are none specific to this report.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. Under Part 2 Article 6.3 (e) of the Council's Constitution, the Overview and Scrutiny Commission must report annually to full Council on its workings and the workings of its panels, make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods, if appropriate.

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 Scrutiny in Action section and supported by the publication of Scrutiny in Numbers.

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

- 'Scrutiny in Merton' Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020-21

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1. None