

## **Divisions Affected – All**

# **OXFORDSHIRE JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**05 JUNE 2025**

## **Draft HOSC Annual Report 2024/25**

**Report by Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**1. The Committee is RECOMMENDED to:**

1.1 Note the requirement for the Committee to produce an annual report.

1.2 Approve the wording of the annual report, annexed to this report in draft, subject to any required amendments of the Committee.

1.3 Delegate authority to the Health Scrutiny Officer:

1.3.1 for the design of the final report,

1.3.2 to make minor updates or amendments as required, in consultation with the Chair,

1.3.3 for publication of the final report

### **Executive Summary**

2. The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) is under a constitutional duty to prepare an annual report. This paper seeks to obtain agreement from the Committee on the content and wording of the draft annual report, which is annexed to this cover report, subject to any amendments that may be required.

3. The annual report annexed to this cover report explains some of the key accomplishments and highlights of the Committee's activities over the past municipal year including:

**Supporting Oxfordshire Place in the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board Restructure:** The Committee requested a call-in from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care in regards to the Integrated Care Board's proposed restructure. Whilst the Secretary of State did not invoke the call-in power, they urged the Council and the ICB to continue to work together to find a resolution. The outcome was that the ICB made alterations to its initial proposals in response to the JHOSC's feedback and recommendations.

**Securing additional primary care estate:** As a result of its ongoing scrutiny of primary care services and its recommendations for primary care estate development in response to increased demand, the Committee was pleased to hear that planning permission was granted for primary care estate development on the Didcot Great Western Park.

**Promoting healthy weight policies in Oxford and Cherwell:** As part of efforts to promote Healthy Weight throughout the County, the Committee wrote to the Chief executives of Oxford City and Cherwell District Councils. The JHOSC urged both authorities to implement policies that promote healthier advertising and that restrict the opening of hot food takeaway outlets besides schools in areas with the highest levels of childhood obesity.

**Securing further resource for epilepsy services:** The Committee conducted a deep-dive into the current state of Oxfordshire's epilepsy services, and recommended that further resourcing for epilepsy services is sought by Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and NHS England South-East Region. This recommendation was accepted, with system partners committing to working with national bodies to achieve this.

**Securing further CIL funds for redeveloping Wantage Community Hospital:** The Committee's substantial change working group urged for and managed to secure additional Community Infrastructure Levy funding from the Vale District Council, to support the progress of the project to redevelop Wantage Community Hospital.

## **Background**

4. Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Regulation 28(1) of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 the Council has a duty to "review and scrutinise any matter relating to the planning, provision and operation of the health services in its area".
5. As part of this overarching duty it has a duty, enshrined in the Council's Constitution, to report on its activity over the preceding year. The Committee complies with it by producing an annual report on its activity over the preceding year.

6. The Constitution specifies in Part 6.1B s 23 that this report is to be produced each year. The aim is to publish this year's annual report in the agenda papers for the Council meeting on 08 July 2025.

## **Corporate Priorities**

7. Improving health and wellbeing of residents and reducing health inequalities are stated ambitions within the Council's Strategic Plan. This annual report indicates the Committee's scrutiny of the extent to which progress is being made by the Council and its NHS partners in achieving this.

## **Financial Implications**

8. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report and it is expected that any additional costs relating to co-optees can be met within existing budgets.

Drew Hodgson, Strategic Finance Business Partner.

## **Legal Implications**

9. Part 6.1B, s. 23 of the Council's constitution states that:

The Committee shall produce in April each year a report for the Appointing Authorities on its activities during the preceding year. That report shall also be published to health bodies and the public.

Kim Sawyer, Interim Head of Legal & Governance.

## **Staff Implications**

10. None arising from this report.

## **Equality & Inclusion Implications**

11. None arising from this report.

## **Sustainability Implications**

12. None arising from this report.

## **Risk Management**

13. If Members do not agree to sign off the report, the draft will have to be considered at the next HOSC meeting, meaning further delay to its publication.

Anita Bradley  
Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Annex: 1. Draft Annual Report

Background papers: None

Other Documents: None

Contact Officer: Dr Omid Nouri, Health Scrutiny Officer  
Omid.nouri@oxfordshire.gov.uk

June 2025