

**Divisions Affected – N/A**

## **COUNTY COUNCIL**

**7 November 2023**

### **Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23**

#### **Report by Director of Law and Governance**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. The Council is **RECOMMENDED** to receive the Scrutiny Annual Report

#### **Executive Summary**

2. This report invites the Council to consider the Scrutiny Annual Report and formally receive it.

#### **Background**

3. In July 2021 the Council agreed unanimously to refresh the Council's Scrutiny function by establishing a broader set of overview and scrutiny committees be in place of the two existing overview and scrutiny committees. This was to enable a greater range and depth of scrutiny activity inclusive of a wider range of members of the Council.
4. Within the Council's Constitution Scrutiny is given the right to submit an annual report (Part 6.2 (4)) to Council. In addition, the Council has committed to the production of a Scrutiny Annual Report as set out in its Strategic Plan. As part of the Council's strategic priority to 'play our part in a vibrant and participatory local democracy' it has identified an objective to 'demonstrate the contribution of each scrutiny committee to the development of policy and decision-making through the publication of an annual report.' This is the first Scrutiny Annual Report published since Council's decision to refresh the Scrutiny function.
5. It should be noted that the Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has its own constitutional requirements under Part 6.1B (23), which requires the production and dissemination of a specific annual report for the work of this particular committee. That annual report was presented to Council in July 2023, detailing the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee's activity. Consequently, that activity is not covered within this report. However, the Health Overview Scrutiny Committee annual report is hyperlinked to within the

current Annual Report. Comment around the challenges and future aspirations for the Scrutiny function are equally relevant to Health and non-Health committees.

## Financial Implications

6. There are no financial implications associated with the formal receipt of the Scrutiny Annual Report.

Comments checked by: Kathy Wilcox, Head of Financial Strategy

## Legal Implications

7. The Local Government Act 2000 introduced a new political governance system for local councils in England and Wales, requiring them to have a separate 'executive' in the form of a leader, or elected mayor, and cabinet. The Council has a Leader and Cabinet system of governance.
8. Under Section 9F(1) of the Local Government Act 2000 Executive arrangements by a local authority must include provision for the appointment by the authority of one or more committees of the authority referred to as overview and scrutiny committees.
9. The powers set out in the Local Government Act 2000 include the power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive and in connection with those powers to make reports or recommendations to the authority.
10. Part 6.2 4 (viii) of the Council's constitution provides Scrutiny with the ability to "report annually to full Council on their work and make recommendations for future work programmes as appropriate."

Comments checked by: Anita Bradley, Director of Law and Governance

Anita Bradley  
Director of Law and Governance

Annex: Annex 1 – Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

Background papers: None

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