

Division(s):

## **PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 24 MAY 2018**

### **DRAFT SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18**

#### **Report by Assistant Chief Executive**

#### **BACKGROUND**

1. Each year the Scrutiny Annual Report provides a summary of the work and impact of the council's three scrutiny committees; Performance Scrutiny, Education Scrutiny and Health Overview & Scrutiny, and any Cabinet Advisory Groups appointed by Cabinet during the year.
2. The report is attached as Annex 1. It is structured by committee and highlights where scrutiny has had a tangible impact on decision-making and held decision-makers to account. It has been drafted in partnership between Chairmen and Scrutiny Officers.
3. To ensure that scrutiny continues to robustly challenge and influence the decisions of the Council and Health partners, a range of practical steps have been taken to improve the effectiveness of the Council's scrutiny arrangements. These changes have focused on enabling more flexible, councillor-led scrutiny that centres on priority areas for Oxfordshire and balances this against areas of emerging concern.

#### **AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

4. The Audit and Governance Committee reviewed the draft scrutiny annual report on 25 April and provided the following feedback, which the Performance Scrutiny Committee may wish to consider:
  - Members noted that there had been no call-ins during 2017/18, meaning that scrutiny was happening at an early stage.
  - The Committee was encouraged that engagement with the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been good and the relationship with the Clinical Commissioning Group is less confrontational. There is now more collaboration with neighbouring authorities, many of whose residents use health facilities in this county.
  - The Committee acknowledged that NHS transformation plans are likely to be in a different form following consultation.
  - The Committee felt it is unlikely that Government will accept the recommendations of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee to make it obligatory for external providers to attend scrutiny when requested. Currently external providers are scrutinised through the service areas that commission them and they can be invited to attend scrutiny when appropriate.

5. Audit and Governance members were also keen to know how the implementation of Oxfordshire's Housing and Growth Deal will be scrutinised going forward. The proposal is for a joint scrutiny group to review key stages of implementation. This will not preclude the Council from locally scrutinising decisions of the County Council in relation to the Housing and Growth Deal. The Cabinet plans to appoint members to the joint scrutiny group at its June meeting.

### **NEXT STEPS**

6. The attached report is draft and will be subject to change following comments from the Performance Scrutiny Committee on 24 May 2018.
7. The final report will be presented to Council on 10 July 2018.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

8. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to comment on the report prior to its submission to Council for approval.**

### **MAGGIE SCOTT**

Assistant Chief Executive

Background paper: Draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2017-18

Contact Officer: Katie Read, Senior Policy Officer  
07584 909530

May 2018