

Division(s): N/A

Performance Scrutiny Committee – 9 July 2020

Scrutiny Annual Report 2019-2020

Report by Director of Customer and Organisational Development

RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to approve the Scrutiny Annual report prior to its submission to Council.**

Executive Summary

2. The Overview and Scrutiny function forms an integral part of the Council's operations. Its influence can be seen in the budget setting process, policy development and scrutiny of key partners including the health service in order to drive for continuous service improvement and transparent decision making.
3. This annual report highlights the key work undertaken by the Council's scrutiny committees to address current and emerging issues including the delivery of improved services for the residents of Oxfordshire.
4. The Scrutiny Annual Report 2019-2020 is presented here for approval and any additional comments from the Performance Scrutiny Committee will be summarised by the Chairman of the Performance Scrutiny Committee at full Council on 14 July.

Introduction

5. Each year the Scrutiny Annual report provides a summary of the work and impact of the Council's scrutiny function. The Council has three scrutiny committees: Performance Scrutiny, Education Scrutiny and the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In addition to the work of the three main committees, the Annual Report also summarises the work of the Joint Horton Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Joint Transformation (Audit and Governance and Performance Scrutiny) Sub-Committee.
6. In total twenty-nine public scrutiny meetings were held over the past year, demonstrating that the role of scrutiny continues to be an important tool for ensuring that the needs of Oxfordshire residents are at the forefront of decisions about local services. The full report is attached at Annex 1 to this report.

Performance Scrutiny

7. The Performance Scrutiny Committee have used the move to monthly business management reporting as a key method for identifying areas of scrutiny, leading to further in-depth scrutiny to understand the reasons behind increases in delayed transfers of care between hospital to residents' homes or supporting living. The committee has continued to play an important role in scrutiny of the Council's Corporate Plan and Services and Resources Planning approaches and has undertaken scrutiny of key partnership arrangements including the Local Enterprise Partnership, Police and Crime Commissioner and Safeguarding Boards.

Education Scrutiny Committee

8. The Education Scrutiny Committee completed a deep dive into educational attainment and has also had representatives from both the Regional Schools Commissioner's Office and Ofsted attend during the year.

Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

9. The Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) has established a task and finish group to review the ongoing rollout of the Population Health and Care Needs Assessment Framework in the OX12 locality. The Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has continued its work to scrutinise future proposals for the Horton General Hospital in Banbury.

Next Steps

10. In the usually annual cycle, the Annual Report is approved in the May meeting of Performance Scrutiny ahead of submission to Council in July. In 2020, no May meeting was held as scrutiny committees were suspended due to the impact of COVID-19. In order to ensure timely reporting, it is the intention that this report will be presented to Council on 14 July rather than wait for the next meeting in September. Papers for Council will be published prior to this Committee meeting and so any comments or amendments from the Committee will be noted and presented by the Committee Chairman on the Committee's behalf and incorporated into the final draft.

Robin Rogers
Head of Strategy

Background papers:

Contact Officer: Lauren Rushen, lauren.rushen@oxfordshire.gov.uk
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