

Division(s): N/A

## COUNTY COUNCIL - 16 May 2017

### SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17

#### Report by Assistant Chief Executive

1. Each year the Scrutiny Annual Report (attached at Annex 1) 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 structured by committee and highlights where the committees' influence has been greatest. It emphasises the areas where scrutiny has had a tangible impact on decision-making and held decision-makers to account.
3. In the face of budget pressures across the local authority and the NHS locally, the role of scrutiny has become increasingly important for ensuring the needs of Oxfordshire residents are at the forefront of decisions about local services.
4. To ensure that scrutiny continues to robustly challenge and influence the decisions of the new council and Health partners, officers are identifying a range of practical steps to improve the effectiveness of the council's existing scrutiny arrangements. This will focus on enabling more flexible, councillor-led scrutiny that centres on priority areas for Oxfordshire and balances this against areas of emerging concern.
5. The Audit and Governance Committee has reviewed this report and its layout has been amended to reflect their comments.

#### RECOMMENDATION

6. **The Council is RECOMMENDED to receive the report.**

**MAGGIE SCOTT**

Assistant Chief Executive

Background paper: Scrutiny Annual Report 2016-17

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