

Divisions Affected – N/A

COUNTY COUNCIL

10 December 2024

Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24

Report by Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Council is **RECOMMENDED** to
 - a) 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 that 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 at Part 6.2 paragraph 4 (viii) the scrutiny committees are given the right to submit an annual report. This is given effect through a Scrutiny Annual Report, and the attached report is the second to be 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 paragraph 23 of the Constitution, 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 2024, 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: Drew Hodgson, Strategic Finance Business Partner

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 paragraph 4(viii) of the Council's constitution provides scrutiny committees with the ability to "report annually to full Council on their work and make recommendations for future work programmes as appropriate."

Comments checked by: Paul Grant, Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Anita Bradley
Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Annex: Annex 1 – Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24

Background papers: None

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December 2024