

Council – 12 November 2018

Annual Scrutiny Report 2017/18

Service: Legal and Democratic Services

Wards: All

1. Summary of report

This is the annual report to Council outlining the work of scrutiny in 2017/18.

The report (reproduced separately to the reports bundle) provides an analysis of the work undertaken during the municipal year by the Committees and their respective working groups.

2. Recommendations

That, subject to any comments Members may wish to make, the annual scrutiny report for the 2017/18 municipal year (annexed) be noted.

3. Resource and legal considerations

Scrutiny is a key aspect of the governance framework and an integral part of how the council makes effective decisions. Good scrutiny can help to inform policy making and help ensure that decisions taken by the cabinet are effectively considered prior to implementation. The role of Scrutiny is defined in Walsall Council's constitution, Article 6.

4. Council Corporate Plan Priorities

This report reflects the Council's corporate priority on *Internal Focus – all council services are efficient and effective* as reflection and evaluation on the previous year's scrutiny work enables lessons to be learned and taken forward.

Further to this the report is structured around the Council's five corporate plan priorities to demonstrate how scrutiny committees have contributed to the achievement of the organisation's strategic plan.

5. Risk Management

The role of Scrutiny is fundamental in ensuring that the most effective and informed decisions are taken whilst delivering value for money for residents.

This report provides an overview of the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny Committees which helps to achieve these objectives.

Asking members to recognise and review past achievements and consider the potential items to scrutinise helps to ensure that the Overview and Scrutiny Committees focus their attention on the main issues that have strategic relevance and importance to the council as a whole. Incorporating an effective scoping process enables a risk based approach to be taken in the development of potential work programmes; focussing on the key issues that affect the performance of the council, impact on service delivery or potentially result in service delivery that does not meet resident expectation or offer value for money. The Council's priorities and pledges are all considered when looking at potential work programmes for the following year and frequent performance monitoring reports are presented to individual Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

6. Financial implications

Overview and Scrutiny Committees continually monitor the financial position of the Council and undertake an annual scrutiny process of draft budgets. There are no direct financial implications from this report.

7. Legal implications

Article 6 of the Walsall Council Constitution requires Overview and Scrutiny Committees to report annually to Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

8. Property implications

There are no direct property implications from this report.

9. Health and wellbeing implications

Work and reviews undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny Committees seeks to have a positive impact on resident's health and wellbeing through influencing the service provision of the Council and its partners. There are no direct health and wellbeing implications from this report.

10. Staffing implications

There are no direct staffing implications from this report.

11. Reducing inequality

This report details all of the work that has been done across the whole borough. Scrutiny Members represent a number of wards across the borough and actively work with residents to best represent their views at Scrutiny. This helps to ensure the delivery of the Council equality duties through promoting a thorough understanding of the needs of our diverse communities and supports the delivery of the Councils vision that: *Inequalities are reduced and all potential is maximised.*

12. Consultation

Individual Committees have sought expert opinion and views from witnesses, where appropriate, to ensure that a balanced perspective is provided against any of the work topics under consideration. This year, evidence has been brought to the Committees by officers, members of the public, officers from other authorities, partners and independent experts.

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