

East Herts Council Report

Council

Date of Meeting: 17 May 2023

Report by: Scrutiny Officer

Report title: Annual Scrutiny Report 2022/23

Ward(s) affected: All Wards

Summary – This report introduces the Annual scrutiny report for 2022/23 on behalf of the Chairman of Overview and scrutiny committee with introductory commentary by the Chief Executive. It provides an overview of what the Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinised during the respective civic year.

The Council strives to enhance the lives and well-being of residents in the context of the Council's Corporate Plan. In order to ensure that this continues to support the Council's vision and priorities, Officers will be arranging workshops with Members in order to establish their priorities for scrutiny and inclusion in the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL

- a) That the Annual Scrutiny Report covering the 2022/23 Civic Year be agreed and published on the Council's website, and**
- b) That workshops be arranged with Members and Key Officers to establish Work Programme priorities for inclusion in the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2023/24.**

1.0 Proposal(s)

- 1.1 The Annual Report for 2022/23 is attached at Appendix A and summarises the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the respective period.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 An Annual Scrutiny Report is prepared each year and presented to Council as required by the Constitution. Once agreed by Council, the report will be published on the Council's website.

3.0 Reason(s)

- 3.1 The Council's Constitution at Chapter 5, paragraph 5.1 states that Scrutiny Committee *"must report annually to the council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate"* action.

4.0 Options

- 4.1 No alternatives have been considered.

5.0 Risks

- 5.1 Publication of an Annual Scrutiny Report provides a summary of what issues have been reviewed in the preceding year, which can be assessed against the council's priorities in terms of the Corporate Plan.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

- 6.1 The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Leader have both been consulted on this document. The Annual Scrutiny Report is a summary of what individual report authors have to respective meetings of committee(s).

Community Safety

Yes

Data Protection

Yes

Equalities

Yes

Environmental Sustainability

Yes – Integral to the council's Corporate Plan is the issue of environmental sustainability in terms of the SEED Principles

Financial

None

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

Yes – Scrutiny is enshrined in law by virtue of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Localism Act 2011. The Council's Constitution (Section 5, paragraph 5.1) requires Overview and Scrutiny Committee to report annual to the Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes.

Specific Wards

No

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

7.1 Reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the civic year 2022/23

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