

East Herts Council Report

Annual Council

Date of Meeting: 13 May 2026

Report by: Councillor David Jacobs, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report title: Annual Scrutiny Report 2025/26

Ward(s) affected: All Wards

Summary

- This report introduces the Annual Scrutiny report for 2025/26 on behalf of the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It provides an overview of the topics scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the 2025/26 civic year.
- The Council's LEAF corporate plan priorities and the work of Members and Officers is aimed at listening to residents and working together with our communities to deliver fair services.
- The Council strives to do this with the support of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which, and the detail of its work is set out in detail in Appendix A. The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is as an independent source of challenge in reviewing the policies of the Executive.
- On 28 February 2024, the Council approved its new "LEAF" corporate priorities. These set out the strategic priorities of the Council and were grouped under the following four headings:
 - Listening, Open and Transparent
 - Environmentally Focused
 - Acting with the Community
 - Fair and Inclusive

RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL:

(A) That the Annual Scrutiny Report covering the 2025/26 Civic Year be agreed and published on the Council's website.

1.0 Proposal(s)

1.1 The Annual Report for 2025/26 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 [Section 5](#), paragraph 5.5.1 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"*.

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 Chair 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 submitted to respective meetings of committee(s).

Community Safety

Yes – Overview and Scrutiny Committee can consider matters that affect the public, and can impact on community safety.

Data Protection

None arising from the report.

Equalities

None arising from the report.

Environmental Sustainability

Yes - Integral to the Council's [Corporate Plan](#) is the issue of environmental sustainability in terms of the LEAF Priorities.

Financial

Yes – Overview and Scrutiny Committee can consider and make recommendations to the Executive on matters where there are budgetary implications.

Health and Safety

None arising from the report.

Human Resources

None arising from the report.

Human Rights

None arising from the report.

Legal

Yes - Overview and Scrutiny Committees are enshrined in law by virtue of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Localism Act 2011, as well as recent statutory guidance from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in April 2024.

Specific Wards

None arising from the report.

Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

Appendix A – Annual Scrutiny Report 2025/26

Reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the civic year 2025/26.

Reports to the Executive for the civic year 2025/2026

Reports to Council for the civic year 2025/26

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