

Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report

Council

Date: 26th September 2013

Author: Chair of Scrutiny Committee and Director of Law and Democratic Services

Wards: All Wards

Locality Affected: All Locality Areas

Parishes Affected: All Parish Areas

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Committee has a role as the management committee for the Overview and Scrutiny function in Swindon, it therefore is required to keep an overview of the work being undertaken by the various Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.2 Under the Council's Constitution, Scrutiny Committee is required to report annually to full Council on the workings of Overview & Scrutiny and to make recommendations for future work and amended working methods if appropriate.
- 1.3 The work programme details the various topics and issues that each Committee intends to look into during the coming year with the aim of producing evidence based recommendations intended to provide service improvements for Cabinet and external agencies/bodies to consider.

2. Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

- 2.1 (1) Welcome and approve the Annual Overview and Scrutiny report 2012/13.
- (2) Authorise the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, to make any necessary amendments to the report prior to publication.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The purpose of the Annual Report is to:
 - Provide an update to Full Council regarding the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny function in the past 12 months
 - Raise awareness of the role of Overview and Scrutiny in Swindon

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Jodie Townsend, Direct Dial Telephone Number 01793 463109, jtownsend@swindon.gov.uk.

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- Raise awareness of challenges facing the Overview and Scrutiny function

- 3.2 The draft Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report 2012/13 is attached at Appendix A.
- 3.3 On the 1st July 2013 the Scrutiny Committee received the draft report and agreed to send it to Full Council in order to illustrate the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny function and to seek final approval of the report.
- 3.4 Council is asked to consider the contents of the draft Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report 2012/13, agree any suggested amendments and provide final approval.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 The Committee can choose not to have an Annual Overview and Scrutiny report although it is considered best practice to do so.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial or procurement implications arising as a result of this report. Any expenditure arising as a result of the production of the Annual Scrutiny Report has been met within the existing Overview and Scrutiny budget.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Section 21 of the Local Government Act requires every local authority to establish an overview and scrutiny function to hold the Executive to account, undertake policy development and review, monitor and improve performance.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 There are no other direct implications arising as a result of this report. Any further implications will be identified when a topic is reviewed by the Scrutiny Committee and in any recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee.

Links to One Swindon, Strategic Objectives, Plans and Policies

- 5.4 The remit of the Committee includes the review, scrutiny and development of policy recommendations and the monitoring performance of corporate priorities including One Swindon.

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Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 No Diversity Impact Assessment is required at this stage, any DIA that is required during review of topics included within the work programme will be identified at the appropriate stage.

Risk Management

- 5.6 No risk management issues have been identified at this stage, any risk management issues will be identified at the appropriate time when a topic is under review by the Scrutiny Committee and if it makes any recommendations.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director Finance, Revenues, Benefits and Property (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 Suggestions for topics to be included in the Scrutiny Committee work programme to the Scrutiny Unit. Full details of these can be obtained from the Scrutiny Unit.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 APPENDIX A – DRAFT ANNUAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORT 2012/13