

To: **COUNCIL**
24 April 2019

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018-19
Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The Council's Constitution requires the Overview and Scrutiny Commission to submit an annual report to the Council on overview and scrutiny activities and their outcomes. The attached report informs Members of progress made in respect of the operation and development of Overview and Scrutiny in Bracknell Forest during 2018/19. The Commission recommends that Council adopts the report.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 **That the 2018/19 Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission be adopted;**
- 2.2 **That the commitment, role and value of the Overview and Scrutiny function be acknowledged and that non-executive Members continue to be supported in their role.**

3 Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 3.1 To meet the requirements of the Constitution.

4 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5 Supporting Information

Activities

- 5.2 The activities of Overview and Scrutiny in 2018/19 are summarised in the Annual Report.

Outcomes

- 5.3 The Commission and Panels have maintained a rolling coverage of various matters including budget scrutiny and rigorously monitoring the performance of all Council Departments. The main focus of the Overview and Scrutiny's function has been playing a key role examining, monitoring and commenting on the Council's Transformation Programme. Progress of the working groups is reflected within the report.

Developing Scrutiny

- 5.4 The Centre for Public Scrutiny Healthcheck findings will provide a springboard to critically assess how to shape overview & scrutiny activity over the next four years. Strong prioritisation, the development of strategic work programming and

engagement in evidence based objective enquiry at the earliest opportunity must be ensured. Scrutiny activity must have measurable impact on policy shaping, decision-making, value and quality of Council services.

6 Consultation and Other Considerations

Legal Advice

- 6.1 The Scrutiny function has an important role to play in providing local accountability and transparency in decision-making. It was introduced by the Local Government Act 2000 primarily to serve as a check and balance on Executive powers. Subsequent legislation has conferred on Councils the responsibility for scrutinising local NHS Trusts, the work of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, and other partners, such as the Environment Agency. It sits alongside the Council's Standards regime in delivering the accountability that constitutes one of the Seven Principles of Public Life.

Financial Advice

- 6.2 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Other Consultation Responses

- 6.3 Statutory Scrutiny Officer

The Annual Report highlights the work of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Panels and the outcomes of this work. Overview and Scrutiny has exercised its functions in order to support the development of policy within the Council; to scrutinise the Council's financial proposals; and to improve services the Council and its partners provide with the overarching objective of seeking to benefit local communities. The Centre for Public Scrutiny Healthcheck findings will provide a springboard to assess how scrutiny will be developed in the future to have a measurable impact on policy shaping, decision making, value and quality of Council services.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.4 This report has no impact on equalities issues.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.5 This report has no impact on strategic risk management issues.

Background Papers

Agendas, Minutes and papers of meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Panels in 2018/19.

Contact for further information

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