

Committee: Ordinary Council Meeting

Date: 8 July 2015

Agenda item:

Wards: All

Subject: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2014-2015

Lead officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services

Lead member: Councillor Peter Southgate, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission

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Recommendations:

A. That Council receives the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Council is invited to receive the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.

2. Details

2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission is required to produce an annual report outlining the work of the overview and scrutiny function over the course of the Municipal Year. This year the Commission has used the report as an opportunity to draw attention to some of the outcomes achieved as well as covering in detail the work covered by each Panel/Commission during the year.

2.2 The report (attached as appendix 1) therefore includes:

- a foreword by the 2014/15 Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Commission
- a brief explanation of the term 'overview and scrutiny'
- scrutiny achievements 2014-2015
- a report from each Panel and the Commission on activities during 2014/15
- a description of how local residents and local voluntary and community organisations can get involved in scrutiny

2.3 The report was approved for submission to Council by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 25 March 2015.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission would be in breach of the constitution if it did not produce an annual report and present it to Council.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission approved the content of the Annual Report. Each Panel Chair and Vice Chair was consulted on the section relating to their work.

5. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are none specific to this report.

6. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission is constitutionally bound to produce an annual report for the overview and scrutiny function and to present the report to the full Council. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission would be in breach of the constitution if it did not do this.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

7.1 It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engagement. Examples of how this aim is achieved are included in the annual report under the community engagement section.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Police and Justice Act 2006 requires every Council to have a scrutiny committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken by the Council and the other responsible authorities in the exercise of their crime and disorder functions.

8.2 In Merton this responsibility lies with the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and its work on these issues is described in the Commission's section of the Annual Report.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none specific to this report.

10. APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

10.1 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2014-2015.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 None.