

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee      **DATE:** 31 March 2011

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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **FOR CONSIDERATION**

#### **ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2010/11**

##### **1      Purpose of Report**

It is customary at this time of the year to be drafting the Annual Scrutiny Report. The purpose of this cover report is to provide the Committee with background on the constitutional requirement of an Annual Scrutiny Report to Council. To further provide members with an early opportunity to comment on the draft report and seek views on any other information that should be included in the Annual Scrutiny report.

##### **2      Recommendation(s) / Proposed Action**

The Committee is requested to:

- I. Suggest any improvements or amendments to the draft report.
- II. Subject to any amendments and final approval by members of the committee that the report is presented to full council on the 19 April 2011.

##### **3      Key Priorities – Taking Pride in Slough and Making a Difference to Communities**

###### **Community Strategy Priorities**

Overview and Scrutiny is a process by which decision-makers are accountable to local people, via their elected representatives for improving outcomes relating to all priorities for the Borough and its residents. Scrutiny seeks to influence those who make decisions by considering the major issues affecting the Borough and making recommendations about how services can be improved. The Annual Scrutiny Report supports the Scrutiny function by providing a record of the work carried out during the year and plans for the future year.

##### **4      Other Implications**

- (a) Financial – None
- (b) Risk Management – None

## **5 Supporting Information**

5.1 Annual reports are an opportunity to review the scrutiny work programme for the past year and assess the impact scrutiny has had on influencing policy and holding the Executive to account. Looking at an Annual Report can help us to understand the nature of the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny and to assess its effectiveness. It also gives an opportunity to reflect on any lessons learned during the year to help guide future work.

5.2 The production of an Annual Report is a statutory requirement of the Constitution and in addition the Committee “must report annually to the full Council on future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.”

5.3 This Committee is provided with a draft of the Annual Scrutiny Report which highlights some key achievements from the year where scrutiny has made a difference.

5.4 There is scope to build on and develop different approaches to scrutiny next year; particular attention needs to be given perhaps on evidencing how scrutiny actually makes a difference; forward planning and appropriate selection of items within the work programme, fewer routine reports for noting and challenging the status quo by making recommendations through scrutiny will help with this.

5.5 The Annual Report concludes with a summary of some of the challenges that lie ahead both externally and internally.

## **6 Conclusion**

The local authority through its Overview and Scrutiny function has an influential as well as a statutory role in scrutinising the activities and performance of the Executive and External bodies. The Annual Scrutiny Report provides an opportunity to communicate the work the Committee and its Panels have undertaken, challenges faced and the improvements made as a result of scrutiny.

## **Appendices**

Annual Scrutiny Report 2010 11