

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee **DATE:** 10 April 2012

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**WARDS:** All

### **PART I** **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

#### **ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2011/12**

##### 1. **Purpose of Report**

It is customary at this time of 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, and to provide members with an opportunity to comment on the draft report and seeks views on any other information that should be included in the Report.

##### 2. **Recommendation**

The Committee is requested to:

- 1) suggest any amendments to the draft Report they feel necessary; and
- 2) subject to any amendments, endorse that the Report be presented to Council on 24 April 2012.

##### 3. **Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities**

- **Economy and Skills**
- **Health and Wellbeing**
- **Housing**
- **Regeneration and Environment**
- **Safer Communities**

3.1 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. **Supporting Information**

- 4.1 Annual reports are an opportunity to review the scrutiny work programme for the past year and assess the impact of 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.
- 4.2 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/”
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 There is scope to build on and develop different methods of scrutiny next year; particular attention needs to be given on evidencing how Scrutiny actually makes a difference and forward planning (things that changes in officer support during the 2011/12 year made difficult to track).
- 4.5 The Annual Report includes brief summaries of some of the challenges that lie ahead both externally and internally.

#### 5. **Conclusion**

- 5.1 The Local Authority, through its Overview and Scrutiny function, has an influential, as well as 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.

#### 8. **Appendices Attached**

- Annual Scrutiny Report 2011/12.

#### 9. **Background Papers**

None.