

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council

DATE: 22nd April, 2014

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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR DECISION**

ANNUAL REPORTS 2013/14 – SCRUTINY AND STANDARDS

1 Purpose of Report

To present the Annual Scrutiny Report 2013/14 and Annual Standards Review 2013/14.

2 Recommendation/Proposed Action

The Council is requested to Resolve:

- (a) That the Annual Scrutiny Report 2013/14 be received.
- (b) The Annual Standards Review 2013/14 be received.

3 Sustainable Community Strategy Priorities

The Code of Conduct forms the bedrock of the conduct regime for Members and aims to ensure that ethical behaviour and governance of the highest order is maintained as this contributes to open, transparent and fair decision making

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

Overview and Scrutiny

- 5.1 Annual reports are an opportunity to review the scrutiny work for the previous year and 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. The production of an Annual Report is a requirement of the Constitution.
- 5.2 The report highlights some key achievements from the year where Scrutiny has made a difference, as well as including brief summaries of some of the challenges that lie ahead both externally and internally.
- 5.3 There is scope to build on and develop different methods of scrutiny in the coming year; particular attention being given to evidencing how Scrutiny makes a difference and forward planning, along with working to engage with the local communities.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorsed the Annual Report at its meeting on 8th April 2014 and the report is attached at Appendix A.

Standards Annual Review

- 5.6 The Council's Constitution requires the Standards Advisory Committee to produce an Annual Review of its work. The Committee considered a draft Annual Review Report at its meeting on 18th March 2014. The Report summarises the activity and action over the last year and looks ahead to activities planned in the year ahead.
- 5.7 The Annual Review is attached at Appendix B.
- 5.8 Once approved, the Annual Review will be made widely available and accessible to the Council's partners, stakeholders and the public at large through publication on the website and intranet and available in local libraries.

6 Appendices Attached

Appendix A - Annual Scrutiny Report 2013/14.
Appendix B Annual Standards Review 2013/14

7 Background Papers

None.