

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 12th April 2018

CONTACT OFFICER: Councillor Chohan – Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee
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WARDS: All

PART I **FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION**

ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2017/18

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The last meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) for each Municipal Year receives the draft Annual Scrutiny Report. The purpose of this cover report is to provide OSC 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 provide views on any other information that should be included in the Report.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 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 24th April 2018.

3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan

- 3.1 The Council's decision-making and the effective scrutiny of it underpins the delivery of all the Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy priorities. The OSC, alongside the 3 Scrutiny Panels combine to meet the local authority's statutory requirement to provide public transparency and accountability, ensuring the best outcomes for the residents of Slough.
- 3.2 The work of scrutiny also reflects the priorities of the Five Year Plan, as follows:
- Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and visit.
 - Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide jobs and opportunities for our residents.
 - Our residents will have access to good quality homes.
 - Our people will become healthier and will manage their own health, care and support needs.

- Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives

3.3 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.

4. **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

The work of the scrutiny function is included within existing SBC budgets.

(b) Risk Management

Recommendation	Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation(s)
Endorse that the Report be presented to Council on 24 th April 2017.	The information and narrative provided in the Report is not agreed by the Scrutiny Committees	The Report has been submitted to Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Committees for comment

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act implications. The work of scrutiny functions in local authorities is outlined in the Local Government Act 2000.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

Equality Impact Assessments have been undertaken in scrutiny work where appropriate (e.g. the Obesity Task & Finish Group).

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. 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 Constitutional requirement and in addition the Committee “must report annually to the full Council on future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.” OSC is provided with a draft of the Annual Scrutiny Report which highlights some key achievements from the year where Scrutiny has made a difference.
- 5.3 There is scope to build on and develop different methods of scrutiny next year; particular attention needs to be given on using overarching policy documents such as the Five Year Plan and how they should shape the work of scrutiny. In addition, members may wish to consider increasing the variety of methods used by scrutiny

(e.g. Task & Finish Groups, co-option of members). We will be undertaking some research into Scrutiny best practice for consideration at a future date.

6. **Conclusion**

- 6.1 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 Cabinet and External Bodies (e.g. the Clinical Commissioning Group). 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.

6. **Appendices Attached**

A - Draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2017/18

7. **Background Papers**

Local Government Act 2000 (Section 21).