

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO:	Cabinet
DATE:	26 th July 2021
SUBJECT:	Slough Borough Council Annual Report 2020/21
CHIEF OFFICER:	Associate Director, Strategy & Improvement
CONTACT OFFICER:	Thomas Overend, Strategy and Policy Lead Dr Ellie Gaddes, Principal Strategy and Policy Officer
WARD(S):	All
PORTFOLIO:	Councillor Swindlehurst, Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Financial Governance, Economic Development and Council Plans
KEY DECISION:	NO
EXEMPT:	NO
DECISION SUBJECT TO CALL IN:	YES
APPENDICES:	<i>A – Draft Annual Report 2020/21</i>

1 Summary and Recommendations

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with the draft Annual Report for 2020/21.
- 1.2 Cabinet is requested to approve the content of the draft Annual Report 2020/21 for publication.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to resolve that the content of the draft Annual Report 2020/21 be approved for publication.

Reason: To demonstrate the progress made in delivery of the Five Year Plan outcomes.

2 Report

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The Annual Report supports the delivery of the 5 Year Plan Priority Outcomes by detailing the work the council has done over the last 12 months to meet these objectives. The report addresses all five outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful.

- Outcome 2: Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs.
- Outcome 3: Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay.
- Outcome 4: Our residents will live in good quality homes.
- Outcome 5: Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide opportunities for our residents.

2.1.2 The Annual Report also supports the delivery of the four priority areas outlined in the Slough Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025, by detailing the work done across the council in the last year. Much of this work will help meet these four priorities. However, the Annual Report does not specifically outline how these projects sought to meet the Wellbeing Strategy priority areas, as this information will be detailed in the Wellbeing Board Annual Report for 2020/21.

2.1.3 The four priority areas found in the Wellbeing Strategy are:

- Starting Well
- Integration
- Strong, healthy and attractive neighbourhoods
- Workplace Health

The priorities in the Wellbeing Strategy are informed by evidence of need contained in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

Options considered

Option 1 – approve the Annual Report as set out in Appendix A

Option 2 – suggest amendments to the draft Annual Report.

Option 1 is recommended

Background

2.1.4 This report provides Cabinet with a draft of the Slough Borough Council Annual Report for the 2020 -2021 financial year. The draft report can be found attached as Appendix A.

2.1.5 The Annual Report includes:

- A joint introduction from the Council Leader and Council Chief Executive.
- A timeline of key events from the last year.
- Information on the COVID-19 response.
- Information and data on work done to achieve each of the council's five priorities.
- Information on partnership working in Slough.
- High-level information on the budget and finances of the last year.

2.1.6 This year's annual report contains several changes from previous years. These changes have all been introduced either to keep the document clear, accessible and engaging to a range of audiences, or to ensure that major events or projects from the last year were addressed.

In particular, these changes include:

- A joint introduction from the Leader of the Council and the Council Chief Executive. This joint introduction keeps the document shorter and easier to access, as well as demonstrating joined up and collaborative working between officers and members.
- A timeline of key events from the last year. This will provide a highly visual overview of the last year, making the document more engaging and interactive. It will also provide a context to the COVID-19 section of the report, by providing an overview of some of the key events in the COVID-19 pandemic.
- COVID-19 section. In order to recognise the fact that much of the work the council has done over the last year has been part of the COVID-19 response, a designated section in the Annual Report has been created this year. This section provides an overview of some of the key work done by the council to respond to the challenges created by the pandemic, including the #OneSlough response, community testing, enforcement, support to care homes and support to schools.
- Information on priorities. The structure of these sections has been altered to include an overview of the work done for each priority, a case study of one project in that area, and the performance indicator data for that priority. Including a case study for each priority area aims to expand the use of case studies, after their success in the previous report. Including the performance indicator data in the main body of the report - rather than at the end of the report - allows us to incorporate this quantitative evidence directly into our discussion of our work and projects, and ensures this data is as transparent as possible.
- Partnership working. This section has been added to the report in order to detail some of the partnership working taking place across the council, including the partnership boards and the Slough Leaders group.

3. Implications of the Recommendation

3.1 Financial implications

3.1.1 There are no financial implications of proposed action.

3.2 Legal implications

3.2.1 There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from this report.

There is no legal requirement to present an Annual Report to Cabinet, however the Annual Report allows cabinet to evaluate the progress of the Council over the last year in meeting our priority outcomes.

3.3 Risk management implications

3.3.1 There are no risk management implications of proposed action.

3.4 Environmental implications

3.4.1 None.

3.5 Equality implications

3.5.1 There are no equalities implications arising directly from this report. However, the report does highlight some of our achievements over the last year in promoting equality in Slough, including:

- Food vouchers were provided to young people who would normally be in receipt of free school meals. These vouchers were provided not only during term time when schools were closed to the majority of pupils, but also during the school holidays. Free, virtual activity clubs were also provided during the holidays for these young people, to make sure young people of all backgrounds were able to access the support they require during these challenging times.
- Slough residents living with disabilities were supported fully throughout the pandemic. Social workers combined virtual support with face-to-face support where necessary, and support such as day centres which could not run as normal were adapted to continue throughout the pandemic. Unpaid carers were also supported, and the council worked with carers in Slough to co-produce a new Carers Plan outlining how carers would be supported.
- The youth engagement team continued to work with young people across Slough, including the Spectrum group, which works with young LGBTQ+ people in Slough.
- Rough sleepers continued to be supported throughout the pandemic, and the 'Everyone In' initiative allowed rough sleepers across Slough to be provided with emergency accommodation at the start of the pandemic. 51 rough sleepers in Slough were housed, and received help and support from council officers.

4. Background Papers

None