

Slough Borough Council

Report To:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	22 nd March 2023
Subject:	Draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2022/23
Chief Officer:	Stephen Taylor, Monitoring Officer
Contact Officer:	Alexander Polak, Head of Governance and Scrutiny and Statutory Scrutiny Officer
Ward(s):	All
Exempt:	NO
Appendices:	Appendix A - Draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

1. Summary and Recommendations

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to comment on and endorse the Draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2022/23 (appended) which will be submitted to Council.

Recommendations:

Committee is recommended to:

- (a) Endorse the draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 as final; and
- (b) Recommend to Council that the Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 be noted.

Reason: It is a requirement of the constitution that a Scrutiny Annual Report be presented to Council. The Annual Report is important evidence for Members, the public and Commissioners of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function during 2022/23.

Commissioner Review

The Commissioners welcome this report which reflects on the work of the Scrutiny function over the past year and identifies some areas which worked well, and other areas for further development which should be taken forward to the new Council following the upcoming elections.

Scrutiny has an important part to play on the democratic running of the Council and it is pleasing to see the increased involvement of members in this.

1. Report

- 1.1 Overview and Scrutiny is an important part of the Council's governance arrangements. It is a requirement of the constitution that an annual report about scrutiny's business be presented to Council. The draft Annual Report 2022/23 is appended to this covering report. It is self-contained and self-explanatory.

- 1.2 As covered in more detail in section 2 of the appended draft Annual Report 2022/23, Commissioners appointed by the Secretary of State are currently monitoring, as part of a suite of Directions made to the council, the Council's progress on achieving "improvements in relation to the proper functioning of the scrutiny function". The Annual Report is important evidence for Members, the public and Commissioners of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function during 2022/23. The Annual Report can be expected to constitute part of the evidence considered by them in their planned April 2023 'deep dive' into what progress is being made towards improving scrutiny.

3. Implications of the Recommendation

3.1 Financial implications

3.1.1 None

3.2 Legal implications

3.2.1 None

3.3 Risk management implications

3.3.1 The risk of either not endorsing an annual report or of endorsing a substandard or incorrect annual report is primarily of reputational damage to the council.

3.4 Environmental implications

3.4.1 None

3.5 Equality implications

3.5.1 None

4. Background Papers

None