

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide a summary of the work of the Overview Committee and the three select committees during 2022/23 and to detail how the Council's Scrutiny function has worked to support delivery of the objectives contained in Nottinghamshire Plan 2021-31.

Information

2. The Local Government Act 2000 introduced a new political management system for local councils in England and Wales, requiring them to have a separate 'executive' in the form of a leader, or elected mayor, and cabinet. To provide a counterweight for this, the Act also introduced the concept of 'overview and scrutiny', whereby every council with an executive management structure is required to have one or more overview and scrutiny committee.
3. At its meeting 31 March 2022, the Council agreed unanimously to change from a committee system of governance to the executive system (Leader and Cabinet model), with the accompanying introduction of a scrutiny function.
4. Scrutiny aims to ensure that public services and policies best meet the needs of Nottinghamshire residents. Scrutiny acts as the check and balance to the Council's Executive decision makers, the Cabinet, by contributing to policy review and development; holding the Council's Cabinet and partners to account for decisions and performance and investigating issues that matter to residents and working with Council officers and partners to improve services.
5. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Overview Committee is required to report at least annually to Full Council on the workings of the overview and scrutiny function. This first annual report presents a summary of scrutiny work carried out by the Overview Committee and the Adult Social Care and Public Health, Children and Families and Place Select Committees. To highlight the impact of scrutiny in helping the Council achieve its goals, this report describes outcomes across the ambitions set out in the Nottinghamshire Plan 2021-31.
6. In Nottinghamshire, the Council's Statutory Healthy Scrutiny Committee operates independently from the Overview Committee and the three select committees, as such the work of the Council's Statutory Healthy Scrutiny Committee is not included in the Annual Report.

7. An independent review of the Council's scrutiny arrangements is currently underway being led by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, with all Members having the opportunity to feed their views and ideas into the review.
8. The Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 is attached at **Appendix A**.

Other Options Considered

9. None. In accordance with the Overview Committee's Procedure Rules, as set out at Section 6, Part 2 (o.) of the Council's Constitution, the Overview Committee is required to report at least annually to Full Council on the workings of the overview and scrutiny function and on any other matters of a general nature which it wishes to bring to the attention of Council.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. To meet the requirements of the Council's Constitution for the Overview Committee to report annually to Full Council on the on the workings of the overview and scrutiny function.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

12. There are no direct financial implications relating to the recommendations of the report.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 be noted.

Councillor Boyd Elliott
Chairman, Overview Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Martin Elliott, Senior Scrutiny Officer, Tel: 0115 9772564, e-mail: martin.elliott@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (LW 14/09/2023)

13. Full Council is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report. Under section 2(o) of Overview Committee's Terms of Reference, Overview Committee is required to report at

least annually to Full Council on the workings of the overview and scrutiny function and any other matters of a general nature which it wishes to bring to the attention of Council.

Financial Comments (SES 15/09/2023)

14. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Local Government Act 2000 Part 1A Chapter 2 – Overview and Scrutiny Committees
- Change to Council Governance Arrangements – Report to Council 31 March 2022

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All