

**Council** 21 July 2021

**Report title:** Overview & Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2020-21

**Wards:** All

**Portfolio:** Cabinet Member for Finance and Performance: Councillor Andy Wilson

**Report Authorised by:** Director of Legal and Governance: Tasnim Shawkat

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### **Report summary**

Scrutiny is required to report annually to Full Council. The attached report sets out the activities of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee and scrutiny commissions during 2020–21.

### **Finance summary**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### **Recommendation**

1. That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2020-21 be approved.

## **1. Context**

- 1.1 The attached report provides an account of the activities of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee and scrutiny commissions in the 2020-21 municipal year.

## **2. Proposal and Reasons**

- 2.1 Scrutiny is a key democratic mechanism for holding public service decision-makers and providers in Lambeth to account and facilitating the improvement of public services in the area. Working with citizens and professionals, scrutiny councillors undertake the following roles:
  - a. monitor, question and investigate the performance of the Council's Cabinet, individual decision-makers and council services;
  - b. develop, review and make recommendations for the improvement of services and activities commissioned by the council;
  - c. hold the Cabinet and officers making decisions on behalf of the council to account in public; and,
  - d. scrutinise other public service providers' work and its impact on the local community.
- 2.2 Effective scrutiny enhances accountability, ensures transparency of decision-making, contributes to service improvement and acts as a 'check and balance' on decision-makers.
- 2.3 Scrutiny is required to report annually to Full Council on its activities. The attached report sets out the activities in the municipal year 2020-21.

## **3. Finance**

- 3.1 There are no specific capital or revenue implications arising as a direct result of this report.

## **4. Legal and Democracy**

- 4.1 The role and functions of Overview and Scrutiny are set out in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution, which includes the requirement that Overview & Scrutiny Committee (and its Sub-Committee(s) and commissions) must report annually to full Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.
- 4.2 There are no further comments from Democratic Services.

## **5. Consultation and co-production**

- 5.1 As set out in the annual report.

## **6. Risk management**

None.

## **7. Equalities impact assessment**

None.

## **8. Community safety**

None.

## **9. Organisational implications**

None

## **10. Timetable for implementation**

Not applicable.

| <b>Audit Trail</b>  |   |                  |                      |                               |
|---|---|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Consultation</b>   |   |                  |                      |                               |
| <b>Name/Position</b>  | <b>Lambeth directorate / department or partner</b>          | <b>Date Sent</b> | <b>Date Received</b> | <b>Comments in paragraph:</b> |
| Councillor Liz Atkins   | Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee                      | 02.07.21         | 07.07.21             |                               |
| Councillor Lucy Caldicott   | Chair, Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee (2020/21) | 02.07.21         | 07.07.21             |                               |
| Wayne Chandai, Head of Chief Executive's Office & Democratic Services | Legal & Governance  | 02.07.21         | 04.07.21             |                               |
| Nisar Visram<br>Assistant Director,<br>Corporate Finance              | Finance & Investment  | 02.07.21         | 02.07.21             |                               |
| Andrew Pavlou, Legal Services   | Legal & Governance  | 02.07.21         | 05.07.21             | 4.1                           |

| <b>Report History</b>   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Original discussion with Cabinet Member</b>                          | N/A   |
| <b>Report deadline</b>  | 09.07.2021  |
| <b>Date final report sent</b>   | 09.07.2021  |
| <b>Part II Exempt from Disclosure/confidential accompanying report?</b> | No  |
| <b>Key decision report</b>  | No  |
| <b>Date first appeared on forward plan</b>                              | N/A   |
| <b>Key decision reasons</b>   | N/A   |
| <b>Background information</b>   | Agenda and minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Committee<br><a href="https://moderngov.lambeth.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=113">https://moderngov.lambeth.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=113</a><br><br>Agenda and minutes of Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee<br><a href="http://moderngov.lambeth.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=778">http://moderngov.lambeth.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=778</a> |
| <b>Appendices</b>   | Appendix 1: Overview & Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2020-21   |