
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee – Wednesday 17th March 2021

Report of the Lead for Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report 2020/21

Purpose

1. To consider the annual overview and scrutiny report for 2020/21.

Recommendations

2. That the Committee receive and comment on the attached draft annual report.
3. That the Lead for Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer), following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, be authorised to make any necessary amendments to update the annual report prior to its submission to the Council.
4. That the Committee identify any items that need to be rolled-forward for inclusion in the draft Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2021/22.

Background

5. The Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules, as set out in the Council's [Constitution](#), require that an annual overview and scrutiny report is submitted to the Council.
6. The Committee's draft annual report for 2020/21 is attached as an Appendix. Minutes and outcomes of all Scrutiny Committee meetings can be accessed online via the [Committee Management Information System](#). Subject to any amendments, the Annual Report will be presented to the Council on 19th April 2021.
7. The Council has recognised the importance of retaining an annual review and report process. This is to ensure that the arrangements continue to align themselves to the needs of the Council and that the scrutiny arrangements remain adaptable and flexible to changes in circumstances.

Draft Annual Scrutiny Programme 2021/22

8. Work to develop the Annual Scrutiny Programme at this stage needs to allow for flexibility given any potential changes arising from the annual meeting of the Council. All Scrutiny Committee Chairs/Vice-Chairs, Officers and others will be invited to contribute to the development of the Annual Scrutiny Programme.
9. Arising from the annual report, the views of the Committee are invited on any items that need to be 'rolled forward' to the next municipal year or any items they would like to suggest at this stage for inclusion in the draft Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2021/22.
10. Members will be aware that it is being proposed that the following Scrutiny Committees be constituted by the Council for the 2021/22 municipal year:
 - Future Council Scrutiny Committee
 - Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
 - Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee
 - Housing and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee
11. A meeting of the Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs is being provisionally scheduled for 27th May 2021 to discuss the Annual Scrutiny Programme for the 2021/22 municipal year.

Finance

12. The costs of operating the Council's scrutiny arrangements are being contained within existing budgetary allocations.

Law

13. Scrutiny Committees are established in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the requirements of the Council's Constitution, which was adopted under the Local Government Act 2000, subsequent legislation and associated Regulations and Guidance.
14. Scrutiny powers relating to health are included in the Health and Social Care Acts 2001 and 2012, and associated Regulations and statutory guidance. The Police and Justice Act 2006 gives the Council powers to scrutinise the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enables local authorities to scrutinise other partners. Much of this legislation is consolidated in the Localism Act 2011.

Equality Impact

15. Provision exists within the scrutiny arrangements for overview and scrutiny to be undertaken of the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

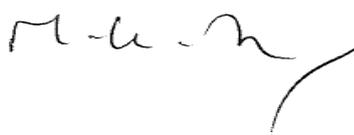
16. Overview and Scrutiny work is primarily administered within the resources available to the Democratic Services Team with support from Directorates and other Officers as required. Any proposals to develop the Council's overview and scrutiny functions have to be set in the context of the resources available and the organisational capacity to support scrutiny work.

Commercial/Procurement

17. This report has no impact on the Council's potential to commercially trade. Individual items included in the Annual Scrutiny Programme may have commercial implications, which will be reported to the relevant Scrutiny Committee.

Health, Wellbeing and Safety

18. Reports to Scrutiny Committees will consider the impact on the health, wellbeing and safety of the Borough's citizens. This is consistent with building stronger, safer and more resilient communities in line with the Dudley Vision and to protect our residents' physical, and emotional health for the future.



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Appendix

Draft Annual Report 2020/21

List of Background Documents

[The Council's Constitution](#) – Article 6 and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules

Scrutiny Reports and Minutes available on the [Committee Management Information System](#)