

REPORT FOR DECISION



DECISION OF:	The Council
DATE:	22nd May 2024
SUBJECT:	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report
REPORT FROM:	Councillor Vernon, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee Councillor FitzGerald, Chair, Health Scrutiny Committee Councillor Boles, Chair, Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
CONTACT OFFICER:	Chloe Ashworth – Senior Scrutiny Officer
TYPE OF DECISION:	Council
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain.
SUMMARY:	This report provides a summary of progress and key outcomes made over the past year by the Council's Scrutiny Committees.
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	<p>Option 1 (Recommended)</p> <p>1. Note the contents of the report and progress made by the Council's Scrutiny Committees over the past year.</p> <p>Option 2 (Not recommended)</p> <p>1. Reject the above recommendation</p>
IMPLICATIONS:	No implications.
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework?
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	
Equality/Diversity implications:	N/A
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	
Wards Affected:	All Wards.
Scrutiny Interest:	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This Annual Report summarises the activities of the Council's Scrutiny Committees and reports on some of the highlights and achievements of the last year.
- 1.2 Throughout the year the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has tackled a wide and varied work programme cutting across all Council Departments. The Committee has engaged with Cabinet Members and other external partners prior to decisions being taken and also held them to account on service areas and policy development.
- 1.3 All the Scrutiny Committee's this year have been thematic covering areas in depth and allowing a full meeting to be dedicated to one themed topic which has streamlined focus and improved impact.

2.0 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IN BURY

- 2.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committees are an important part of the way we make decisions. Although they have no Executive powers, the scrutiny process does allow Members to explore issues in depth and help to influence decisions through recommendations to the Cabinet or Full Council.
- 2.2 In Bury, the role of scrutiny bodies can be broken down into these two main functions:-

3.0 HOLDING THE CABINET TO ACCOUNT

- 3.1 This involves scrutinising decisions before they are implemented by way of 'Call-in' to the relevant Scrutiny Committee for debate. The effect of a 'Call-in' is to suspend the decision until the Scrutiny Committee has had the opportunity to consider the implications of the decision and, where appropriate, to offer comments back to the Cabinet.

4.0 POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- 4.1 This involves Scrutiny Committees undertaking reviews of functions within their individual remits leading to recommendations to the Cabinet, and to assist in the development of future policies and strategies.
- 4.2 In Bury the following Committees are constituted to carry out Overview and Scrutiny in Bury:

5.0 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- 5.1 This Committee is set up to scrutinise Cabinet decisions and Council performance, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee operates within the following terms of reference:
 - To review and scrutinise the decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions.
 - To review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and all particular service areas.

- To set up, appoint and monitor Overview Project Groups (set up to carry out reviews of policies, services or the impact of decisions).
- To make recommendations to the Cabinet and/or appropriate Committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the Scrutiny process.
- To review or scrutinise decisions made or other action taken in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions.
- Oversight of the provision, planning and management of the assets and audit arrangements.
- Oversight of the Council's corporate plans and strategies and the monitoring of the corporate plan and departmental plans.
- To scrutinise outside bodies and partners relevant to the Council.
- To receive all reports from external inspectors.

5.2 As well as:

- Budget and policy framework matters
- Statutory flood risk management scrutiny powers
- Statutory community safety and policing scrutiny powers
- Services within the business and regeneration directorate
- Services within the corporate core/Corporate performance

6.0 HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6.1 A dedicated Health Scrutiny Committee was set up to scrutinise partner organisations on issues relevant to the residents of the Borough. Full terms of reference are;

6.2 To review the policies and performance of the Council and external organisations in relation to the following areas:

- Adult social care (including adult safeguarding)
- Health and wellbeing board
- Housing
- Public health
- Adults and Communities budget and policy framework
- Statutory health scrutiny powers including the review and scrutiny of any matter relating to the planning provision and operation of health services for children and young people, including transitional health care services, affecting the area and to make reports and recommendations on these matters

7.0 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7.1 A dedicated Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee was set up to scrutinise children and young people issues relevant to the residents of the Borough. Full terms of reference are;

7.2 To review the policies and performance of the Council and external organisations in relation to the following areas:

- Education and Schools
- Children and Young People Support and Safeguarding Services
- Children and Young People Specialist Services

- To scrutinise individual Cabinet decisions relating to the above areas.
- To monitor the Council's performance in the above areas.

7.3 To scrutinise statutory inspection reports and oversee the implementation of any recommendations arising from such reports:

- Transitional arrangements between children and adult services
- Statutory education scrutiny powers

8.0 KEY OUTCOMES

8.1 During 2022/2023 the Council's Scrutiny Committees and Overview Project Groups have looked at a wide range of topics and issues. Various methods have been used to examine and investigate issues which have resulted in positive outcomes in terms of policy development and holding decision makers to account.

9.0 CONCLUSION

9.1 The Scrutiny function is well established in Bury, with good examples of in-depth reviews and partnership working.

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