

Slough Borough Council

Report To:	Council
Date:	28 th March 2023
Subject:	Recommendation of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee from its meeting held on 22 nd March 2023 - 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 That Council is asked to receive and endorse the Annual Scrutiny Report 2022/23, which the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is due to consider at its meeting on 22nd March 2023 (attached at Appendix A).

Recommendation -

That the Annual Scrutiny Report 2022/23 as attached at Appendix A be endorsed.

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. Comments of Other Committees

4.1 The Annual Scrutiny Report will be considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 22nd March 2023 and should any additional comments be received these will be reported at the meeting.

5. Background Papers

None