

30 June 2021		ITEM: 10
Council		
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key	
Report of: Overview and Scrutiny Chairs		
Accountable Assistant Director: Ian Hunt, Assistant Director Law and Governance, and Monitoring Officer		
Accountable Director: Sean Clark, Corporate Director of Resource and Place Delivery		
This report is public		

Executive Summary

This report introduces the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report, which in accordance with the Council's Constitution, should be presented to the Council.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the contents of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21 be noted.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Each year an Annual Report is produced detailing the work of the six Overview and Scrutiny committees and their main achievements for that municipal year. The report is designed to inform residents of this work in an accessible and engaging format.
- 2.2 The last municipal year has seen Overview and Scrutiny tackle a wide range of topics, with Members leading on issues that have come to the fore both through their own research and through the recommendations of Council officers.
- 2.3 Throughout the last municipal year, Overview and Scrutiny have also been dealing with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and have worked hard to change their approach, which is detailed in Appendix 1.
- 2.4 This report, as in 2019/20, highlights the key projects and achievements of each Committee, and therefore does not provide an exhaustive list of all meetings, discussions, or recommendations that occurred in Overview and

Scrutiny this year.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 It is hoped that the format of the Annual Report will highlight to residents how the Overview and Scrutiny committees have picked relevant community issues, and how Members undertook work to form recommendations that positively affected these issues.
- 3.2 The report will be published on the Council's website and key community groups and participants from last year's work will be made aware of its publication directly.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The report outlines the positive work that has been undertaken during 2020/21 and is being referred to Council for review in order for Members to comment on the overall Overview and Scrutiny function of Thurrock Council.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 In accordance with Chapter 4, Part 1, Rule 7.1 of the Constitution, the annual report is submitted to Council for their consideration and comment.
- 5.2 Overview and Scrutiny Chairs were consulted on the contents of the report in April 2021.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 This report has a community impact as the work of the Overview and Scrutiny committees for 2020/21 allows residents to participate in decision making and tackling key issues of local concern, which is clearly documented in the annual report.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by:

Dammy Adewole

**Senior Management Accountant –
Central Services**

There are no direct financial implications arising out of this report. If any recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for adoption by the Council have financial implications they are identified separately in each report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Tim Hallam**
Deputy Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. It is good practice to produce an annual report reviewing Overview and Scrutiny activity, and meets the requirement of the Constitution to report (Chapter 4, Part 1, Article 6, paragraph 7.1).

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roxanne Scanlon**
Community Engagement and Project Monitoring Officer

The Overview and Scrutiny function is carried out with due regard to equality and inclusion legislation and specifically the Equality Act 2010. The Annual Report, as well as all other Overview and Scrutiny documents, are designed to be easy to understand and as accessible as possible. All members of the public are encouraged to participate in the Overview and Scrutiny process regardless of any protected characteristics they may have.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, impact on Looked After Children)

None.

8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Agenda, Reports and Minutes of meetings of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Task and Finish Reviews, available from:

<http://democracy.thurrock.gov.uk/thurrock/>

9. Appendices to the report

Appendix 1: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21

Report Author:

Lucy Tricker
Senior Democratic Services Officer