

16 November 2021		ITEM: 10
Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee		
Thurrock's Scrutiny Review: An Update		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key	
Report of: Lucy Tricker, Senior Democratic Services Officer		
Accountable Assistant Director: Ian Hunt, Assistant Director Legal and Governance, and Monitoring Officer		
Accountable Director: Sean Clark, Corporate Director Resources and Place Delivery		
This report is public		

Executive Summary

This report provides an update to Thurrock's Scrutiny Review, which was agreed by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November 2020 and by Cabinet in December 2020. The outcome of the review was to ensure that scrutiny functioned for all Members of the Council, and met national best practice guidelines. This report outlines the work that has been undertaken so far to implement the recommendations.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee comment on the implementation of the review recommendations thus far, as outlined in Appendix 1.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The review began in 2018 as Members wished to have an in-depth look into the scrutiny function and process. Following on from this, multiple events were held as well as detailed research to look into the workings of scrutiny, and if the function could be improved.

2.2 The final report, which included ten recommendations, was agreed by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November 2020, and then agreed by Cabinet in December 2020.

2.3 Since the agreement of the review, the Democratic Services team have been working with officers and Members to implement the recommendations of the

review, and have continued to ensure the successful function of overview and scrutiny.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1 The issues, options and analysis are included at appendix one of the report.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 As part of the agreement of the review, Members of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee wished to see regular updates as to the progress of the recommendations.

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

5.1 This report has been through all necessary internal process including Directors Board, and governance procedures.

5.2 Members of overview and scrutiny, as well as the Executive, were extensively consulted on the original review recommendations.

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

6.1 Delivery of successful, high-quality governance has a significant impact on all of Thurrock Council's priorities. Specifically, on including the community in governance procedures such as Committee meetings and asking questions of Members.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**
Senior Management Accountant

There are no financial implications set out in the report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Ian Hunt**
**Assistant Director Law and Governance, and
Monitoring Officer**

There are no legal implications set out in the report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**
Team Manager – Community Development and Equalities

There are no diversity and equality implications set out in the report.

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, and 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):

- Cabinet – Item 10 – Overview and Scrutiny at Thurrock: A Review – 9 December 2020: [Agenda for Cabinet on Wednesday, 9th December, 2020, 7.00 pm | Thurrock Council](#)

9. **Appendices to the report**

- Appendix 1 – The Scrutiny Review: An Update

Report Author:

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Resources and Place Delivery