

29 June 2016		ITEM: 11
Council		
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015-16		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-Key	
Report of: David Lawson, Deputy Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer		
Accountable Head of Service: David Lawson, Deputy Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer		
Accountable Director: Lyn Carpenter, Chief Executive		
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 2015-16 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 but also by understanding the issues that have arisen in the community. The continued use of task and finish groups has meant that this annual report will focus again on the key issues that the committees picked for in depth investigation, rather than a general overview of each committee's day to day work or a simple recounting of the work programmes of each committee.

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.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 The report outlines the positive work that has been undertaken during 2015-16 and is being referred to Council for review in order for Members to comment on the overall Overview and Scrutiny function of Thurrock Council, and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

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.

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

- 6.1 The positive impact of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny committees for 2015 and 2016, in allowing residents to participate in decision making and tackling key issues of local concern, is clearly documented in the annual report. In receiving this report at its meeting, the Council has the opportunity to further align the Overview and Scrutiny function with corporate and community priorities by suggesting issues for investigation in the forthcoming year.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**
Senior Finance Officer – Management Accounts

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: **David Lawson**
Monitoring Officer

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report but it is good practice to produce an annual report reviewing Overview and Scrutiny activity.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**
Community Development Officer

The Overview and Scrutiny function recognises the importance and role of diversity and equality issues. All work in 2015-16 sought to include sections of the community relevant to the issues being investigated. Members made every effort to engage and consult Thurrock residents when required.

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

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 2015-16

Report Author:

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Principal Governance & Democratic Services Officer

Legal and Democratic Services