

City Council – 13 November 2023

Report of the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Corporate Director/ Director:

Malcolm Townroe, Director of Legal and Governance

Report Author and Contact Details:

Nancy Barnard, Statutory Scrutiny Officer

nancy.barnard@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Title: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

Does the report form part of the Budget or Policy Framework?

Yes No

Does this report contain any information that is exempt from publication?

No

Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:

Green, Clean and Connected Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safer Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child-Friendly Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Living Well in our Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Moving	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve the City Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>
Better Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serving People Well	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report provides an overview of the activity undertaken by the Council's scrutiny committees during municipal year 2022/23 to fulfil their terms of reference, and the outputs and impact of that work.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To accept the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23.

3. Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 Article 11 – Overview and Scrutiny – of the Constitution requires an annual report to Council on the activity and achievements of overview and scrutiny.

4. Other options considered in making recommendations

- 4.1 None as the Constitution requires an annual report to Council on the activity and achievements of overview and scrutiny.

5. Consideration of Risk

5.1 The statutory scrutiny function is a key component of the Council's decision making and governance arrangements and there are risks if this fails to operate in an efficient and effective way.

6. Best Value Considerations

6.1 In 2021 the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny carried out a review of the Council's overview and scrutiny function. This included consideration of application of good practice and comparison with other local authorities to ensure that the function is fulfilling its statutory duties, contributing effectively to the Council's recovery and improvement and operating efficiently. The review made a number of recommendations for improvement, which were subsequently accepted by Council and have been implemented.

7. Background (including outcomes of consultation)

7.1 The role of Overview and Scrutiny within the Council's governance arrangements is to contribute to policy development and to ensure that the Council's Executive, and certain other partners, are publicly held to account for their decisions and actions. Overview and Scrutiny has wide remit to explore how the Council and its partners could improve services for the people of Nottingham. Article 11 – Overview and Scrutiny – of the Council's Constitution sets out how the overview and scrutiny function operates.

7.2 During municipal year 2022/23 the overview and scrutiny role was carried out by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a Call-In Sub Committee, a Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and a Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee. Their terms of reference were set out in the Council's Constitution for that period.

7.3 The Annual Report summarises the activity of those committees and gives examples of the work they undertook to fulfil their terms of reference during 2022/23, and the impact of that activity. The Annual Report also sets out the improvement activity that took place to continue to develop and improve the overview and scrutiny function to ensure that it can effectively contribute to good governance of the Council.

8. Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money)

This report summarises the work undertaken by the Council's scrutiny committees during municipal year 2022/23. The activity is funded by the allocated budgets for Governance Services within the 2023-24 Medium-Term Financial Plan. There is no additional financial implication as a direct or indirect result of this work.

Alfred Ansong, Strategic Finance Business Partner 23/10/2023

9. Legal colleague comments

The requirement for a local authority operating executive arrangements to have scrutiny committees is set out in the Local Government Act 2000. Overview and Scrutiny is a fundamental part of the democratic process and of corporate governance.

This annual report to full Council is made in accordance with Article 9 of the City Council's Constitution.

Beth Brown, Head of Legal, 18 October 2023

10. **Other relevant comments**

10.1 None

11. **Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)**

11.1 Not applicable

12. **Social value considerations (If Applicable)**

12.1 Not applicable

13. **Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)**

13.1 Not applicable

14. **Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

14.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



An EIA is not required because the Annual Report outlines work that has already taken place and does not contain any proposals for new or changing policies or services. Where consideration has been given to equality impact as part of overview and scrutiny activity this will be reflected in the reports to, and minutes of the relevant committee meetings.

15. **Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)**

15.1 Has the data protection impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



A DPIA is not required because the Annual Report outlines work that has already taken place and does not contain any proposals for new or changing policies or services. Where consideration has been given to data protection as part of overview and scrutiny activity this will be reflected in the reports to, and minutes of the relevant committee meetings.

16. **Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)**

16.1 Has the carbon impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No



A CIA is not required because the Annual Report outlines work that has already taken place and does not contain any proposals for new or changing policies or services. Where consideration has been given to carbon impact as part of overview and scrutiny activity this will be reflected in the reports to, and minutes of the relevant committee meetings.

17. **List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)**

17.1 None

18. Published documents referred to in this report

18.1 Nottingham City Council Constitution

18.2 Agendas and minutes of meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee during municipal year 2022/23.

18.3 Report of the Review of the Scrutiny Function carried out by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny

Councillor Leslie Ayoola
Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee