

City Council – 9 September 2024

Report of the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Corporate Director / Director

Beth Brown, Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)

Report Author and Contact Details

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Title: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24

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

Yes No

Commissioner Consideration

Has this report been shared with the Commissioners' Office? Yes No

Any comments that the Commissioners wished to provide are listed below.

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 a summary of the activity carried out by the Council's five Scrutiny Committees during the 2023/24 municipal year, how they have worked to fulfil their terms of reference and the recommendations that they have made to the Council's Executive and other partners.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Full Council accepts the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2023/24.

3. Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 Article 11.4 (Overview and Scrutiny) of the Council's Constitution requires that the Overview and Scrutiny function reports to Full Council on an annual basis on its activity and outcomes during the previous year.

4. Other options considered in making recommendations

- 4.1 To not produce an Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report: as the Constitution requires that the Overview and Scrutiny function reports to Full Council on an annual basis, this option has been rejected.

5. Consideration of Risk

- 5.1 The statutory Overview and Scrutiny function represents a key component in ensuring that the Council's decision-making and governance processes operate efficiently and effectively. If the Overview and Scrutiny function did not work well, this could represent a risk to the assurance possible around the robustness of the Council's decision-making. As a result, the Annual Report is presented to Full Council so that it can take assurance that the Committees are carrying out effective scrutiny activity and delivering their terms of reference.

6. Best Value Considerations

- 6.1 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny carried out a review of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function in 2021. This included consideration of how good practice and benchmarking with other Local Authorities is applied to ensure that the function operates efficiently to fulfil the statutory duties and contribute effectively to the Council's recovery and improvement. The review made a number of recommendations for the development of the Overview and Scrutiny function, which were subsequently accepted by the Council and have now been implemented.

7. Background (including outcomes of consultation)

- 7.1 The role of the Overview and Scrutiny function within the Council's governance arrangements is to contribute to policy development and to ensure that the Council's Executive (and certain other partners) is held to account publicly for its decisions and actions. The function has a wide remit to explore how the Council and its partners could improve services and their outcomes for the people of Nottingham. Article 11 (Overview and Scrutiny) of the Council's Constitution sets out how the function operates, and an Overview and Scrutiny Protocol is in place that establishes the vision for the function and its conditions for success.
- 7.2 During the 2023/24 municipal year, the Overview and Scrutiny function was delivered through a new structure of five Scrutiny Committees: Children and Young People; Communities and Environment; Corporate; Health and Adult Social Care; and Housing and City Development. Each Committee has eight members and is politically balanced, and their new terms of reference have been established in the Council's Constitution.

7.3 The first Scrutiny Committee meetings under the new structure took place from September 2023, following an initial programme of training and development for Committee members (including carrying out work programming activity). The Annual Report summarises the activity that the Scrutiny Committees carried out during the 2023/24 municipal year, provides examples of the work that they undertook to fulfil their terms of reference, and sets out the recommendations that they made.

8. Commissioner comments

8.1 Commissioners have noted the report and have nothing further to add.

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

9.1 This report summarises the work undertaken by the Council's scrutiny committees during municipal year 2023/24. The activity was funded by the allocated budgets within Governance Services for the 2023-24 and 2024-25 Medium-Term Financial Plans. There are no additional financial implications as a direct or indirect result of this work.

Alfred Ansong, Strategic Finance Business Partner (19 August 2024)

10. Legal colleague comments

10.1 The requirement for a Local Authority operating executive arrangements to have one or more scrutiny committees is set out in Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000. Overview and Scrutiny is a fundamental part of the democratic process and of corporate governance.

10.2 This annual report to Full Council is made in accordance with Article 11 of the Council's Constitution.

Anthony Heath, Head of Legal Services (13 August 2024)

11. Other relevant comments

11.1 Not applicable

12. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

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

No



An EIA is not required because the Annual Report outlines the Overview and Scrutiny work that has taken place already, so does not contain any proposals for new or changing policies or services. Where consideration has been given to equality impact as part of specific Overview and Scrutiny activity, this has

been reflected in the reports to and minutes of the relevant Committee meetings.

13. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

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

No



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

14. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

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

No



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

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

15.1 None

16. Published documents referred to in this report

16.1 [Nottingham City Council's Constitution](#): Article 9 (Non-Executive Functions and Committees) and Article 11 (Overview and Scrutiny)

16.2 Reports to and minutes of (22 May 2023 to 20 May 2024) the:

[Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee](#)
[Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee](#)
[Corporate Scrutiny Committee](#)
[Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee](#)
[Housing and City Development Scrutiny Committee](#)

**Councillor Leslie Ayoola (2023/24) and Councillor Samuel Gardiner (2024/25)
Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee**