

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION

A. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Introduction

1. The Constitution requires that the Scrutiny Commission and Overview and Scrutiny Committees submit an Annual Report to the Council (or the Scrutiny Commission in a single report on their behalf) on their workings. The report may make recommendations about future work programmes and changes in working methods.

Annual Report

2. Attached as Appendix A to this report is a copy of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2020/21. It is intended as a public facing summary of the key highlights of scrutiny activity undertaken during the year and serves to draw out the work undertaken at committee level, including review panels, and how this has had an impact.
3. The Annual Report sums up a varied and busy year for Overview and Scrutiny despite the challenges faced due to the Covid pandemic; the Committees have operated remotely since April 2020 and continued to scrutinise issues across the whole range of services provided by the County Council. The level of public interest in Overview and Scrutiny has been very positive this year, with an increased number of questions and petitions being received and representations heard from members of the public on a number of occasions.

Conclusions and Looking Forward

4. The work of Overview and Scrutiny remains important in holding decision makers such as the Cabinet to account, in ensuring that the Council's budget and performance is closely monitored, and in making certain that outcomes are delivered for the benefit of the residents of Leicestershire.
5. During 2020/21 the impact of Covid 19 dominated the work of all scrutiny bodies as they considered each departments response and recovery plans, and the financial implications for the Council as a whole, both in the short and longer term. Other critical work continued, as did the planned scrutiny review panel on flooding which made a number of valuable recommendations to improve current partnership arrangements and ensure residents are properly signposted both before and during a flooding event.
6. Looking forward, a key area of focus will inevitably still be the longer term impact of Covid 19 on Council services and its finances as the Council looks to build back stronger for the future. The need for member involvement in the recovery process will be crucial and scrutiny will continue to monitor how the recovery plans impact on service users and local communities.

7. With a number of new members joining the Council following the May elections, training and development will be a key issue and this is something the Scrutiny Commissioners are currently planning for the Autumn for all scrutiny members, as well as the Chairs, Vice Chairs and Spokespersons now appointed.

(Motion to be moved:

That the information contained in the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21, attached as Appendix A to this report, on its activities, be noted.)

9 June 2021

**Mr. M. T. Mullaney CC
Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission**

Background Papers

Report to the Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 9 June 2021 – Draft Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21.

Appendix

Appendix A - Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21