

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	Council
DATE OF DECISION	9 October 2024
REPORT TITLE:	Annual Report of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee 2023-2024
CORPORATE DIRECTOR / DIRECTOR:	Stephen Lawrence-Orumwense Director of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer
LEAD OFFICER:	Simon Trevaskis Senior Democratic Services and Governance Officer – Scrutiny
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Leila Ben Hassel Chair of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee
DECISION TAKER:	Council
AUTHORITY TO TAKE DECISION:	This report is prepared in keeping with paragraphs 3.65 – 3.68 of the Council Procedure Rules at Part 4A of the Constitution.
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION? <i>(* See guidance)</i>	No Public
WARDS AFFECTED:	N/A

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 In accordance with Part 4A of the Council’s Constitution, Council can receive Annual Reports from Committees. The Constitution also prescribes how these Annual Reports are treated by Council.
- 1.2 Appended to this report is the Annual Report from the Scrutiny & Overview Committee, which summarises the work of the Committee and its four Sub-Committees, namely Children & Young People Sub-Committee, Health & Social Care Sub-Committee, Homes Sub-Committee and the Streets & Environment Sub-Committee, during the 2023 – 2024 municipal year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 For the reasons set out in the report and its appendix, Council is recommended:
 - 1. To receive the Annual Report of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. The provision for Council to receive annual reports is set out in the Council's Procedure Rules in Part 4A of the Constitution.

4. PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERING THE SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

- 4.1. The procedure for Council receiving the Annual Report of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee is set out in paragraphs 3.66 to 3.68 of Part 4A Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution. The procedure is set out as follows:-

Extract from Part 4A: Council Procedure Rules, Council Constitution

- 3.66 The overall time, which may be devoted to questioning the Annual Report of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee, shall be not more than 20 minutes. The Chair of the Committee (or in the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair) and the Chairs of each Sub-Committee shall introduce and answer questions on the Report. The Chair of the Committee shall have not more than 3 minutes' speaking time and the Chairs of each Sub-Committee shall each have not more than 3 minutes' speaking time to introduce the report.
- 3.67 For the remaining time available, the report will be open to questions. In the event that any recommendation in the report has not been reached when the overall time limit has expired, it shall be put immediately to the vote.
- 3.68 Any Member, except the Secunder of the Report, may ask the Chair, Deputy or Vice Chair, as appropriate, not more than two questions on each paragraph of the Report.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1. None. The requirement for Council to receive the Annual Report of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee is set out in the Council's Constitution.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1. The Scrutiny & Overview Committee Annual Report had been prepared with the input of the Scrutiny Chairs and signed off by the Scrutiny & Overview Committee for submission to Council.

7. CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- 7.1 A key role for Scrutiny is to monitor the delivery of the Council's priorities and hold decision makers to account on the performance of the Council against these priorities.

8. IMPLICATIONS

8.1. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1.1 There are no direct financial consequences arising from this report.

- 8.1.2 Comments approved by Allister Bannin, Director of Finance, 1/10/2024)

8.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.2.1 The Constitution provides at Part 4A: Council Procedure Rules, paragraph 2.3, that the Annual Meeting of the Council shall be reserved for, amongst other things, the receipt of annual reports from Committees where required, including the Scrutiny and Overview Committee.
- 8.2.2 In addition, the Council Procedure Rules set out the overall time which may be devoted to questioning the Annual Report of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee and the order of questions as detailed in paragraph 4 of this report.
- 8.2.3 Separately, at Part 4E of the Constitution the Scrutiny and Overview Procedure Rules also provide for the Scrutiny and Overview Committee to submit an Annual Report on the work it has undertaken during the year and on the work programme as agreed at its first meeting of the year, to Annual Council.
- 8.2.4 Due to the amount of business on previous agenda and other practical issues presentation of the Annual Report has been delayed and the Civic Mayor has agreed for the item to be included on this Council agenda.
- 8.2.5 Comments approved by Gina Clarke Principal Lawyer Corporate Law and Litigation, on behalf of the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer. (Date 30/09/2024)

8.3 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 8.3.1 The Council has a statutory duty to comply with the provisions set out in the Equality Act 2010. In summary, the Council must in the exercise of all its functions, “have due regard to” the need to comply with the three arms or aims of the general equality duty. These are to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act;
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it; and
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.
- 8.3.2 Having due regard means to consider the three aims of the Equality Duty as part of the process of decision-making. This means that decision makers must be able to evidence that they have taken into account any impact of the proposals under consideration on people who share the protected characteristics before decisions are taken.
- 8.3.3 There are no further equality implications, any implications are covered in the main reports.
- 8.3.4 Comments approved by Ken Orlukwu, Senior Equalities Officer, on behalf of Helen Reeves, Head of Strategy & Policy on 01/10/2024

9. APPENDICES

- 9.1 Appendix A: Scrutiny Annual Report 2023-2024

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None