

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2009**  
**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**1. Report**

- 1.1 Under the Council's constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Committee must report annually to the Council documenting the Committee's activities over the past year.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered and approved its annual report for the year 2008-09 at the meeting of the Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2009. The annual report is enclosed with the agenda papers.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 Council is asked to note the annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2008-09.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee co-ordinates all of the scrutiny activity within the Council. Alongside the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee, there are six Scrutiny Leads: one each for the five new Community Plan themes, with a further Lead for Excellent Public Services. Under the Council's Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny must submit an annual report of its work to Council. This is attached.
- 3.2 The Annual Report outlines the work of both the Committee and the Scrutiny Leads and their working groups during the municipal year 2008-09. It highlights the constructive policy development role that scrutiny undertakes through its reviews. It also outlines the ongoing progress that has been made in embedding overview and scrutiny within the Council. Pre-decision scrutiny of Cabinet reports continues to encourage greater debate around key issues, while call-ins have been debated in a rigorous manner at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The majority of the work programme agreed at the start of the year has been delivered.

- 3.3 Following presentation to the Council, the annual report will be circulated widely within the Council and to its partners. A summary article will also be placed in East End Life.

#### **4. Concurrent Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services)**

- 4.1 By virtue of Section 21 Local Government Act 2000 the Council has a duty to deliver effective and robust overview and scrutiny of the discharge of executive functions through the medium of one or more Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 4.2 Article 6.03 (d) of the Constitution provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must report annually to the Council on its work. This report fulfils that obligation.

#### **5. Comments of the Chief Financial Officer**

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Any financial implications arising from specific Overview and Scrutiny reviews and recommendations as set out in the annual report will be reported to the appropriate executive decision-making body when those recommendations are considered.

#### **6. One Tower Hamlets Consideration**

- 6.1 Equal opportunities are central to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A number of reports and reviews have specific equalities themes including End of Life Care, Child Poverty and Alcohol Misuse Amongst Young people.
- 6.2 Anti-poverty is central to some aspects of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee particularly the review undertaken by the Scrutiny Lead on Child Poverty and Affordable Homeownership looks at reducing inequalities and improving outcomes for our local residents.

#### **7. Sustainable Action for a Greener Environment**

- 7.1 There are no direct implications.

#### **8. Risk Management**

- 8.1 There are no direct risk management implications arising from this report.