

Non-Executive Report of the: Overview and Scrutiny Committee 26 April 2021	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Sharon Godman Divisional Director Strategy, Policy and Performance	Classification: Open
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020-21	

Originating Officer(s)	Sharon Godman Divisional Director Strategy, Policy and Performance Filuck Miah Strategy and Policy Officer, Corporate
Wards affected	All Wards

Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of the work that Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), it's sub-committees and scrutiny leads delivered in 2020-21 municipal year

Recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the attached Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020-21, comment and agree the report for submission to Full Council in the new municipal year; and
2. Authorise the Divisional Director Strategy, Policy and Performance to amend the report following comments by the committee and include scrutiny in numbers section before submission to Full Council.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The council's constitution requires that the OSC must report annually to the council on its work.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 To take no action. This is not recommended as the council's constitution requires OSC to report annually to the council on its work
- 2.2 OSC could decline to agree the report. This is also not recommended as the report outlines the work undertaken by scrutiny Members and officers to identify areas of improvement.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 Under the council's constitution, OSC must report annually to the council, evidencing the committees activities during the past year and include the work of its sub-committees.
- 3.2 The attached report (Appendix 1) provides a summary of the range of activities and work that scrutiny undertook this municipal year and includes its oversight on the council's budget, MTFs and strategic performance (as standing agenda items on its work programme). The committee further undertook spotlight sessions examining topics of resident concerns such as ASB, domestic abuse, resident engagement, impact of Covid-19 on children's education and rough sleeping.
- 3.3 The committee continued its spotlight on the Borough Commander and were keen to focus on how reporting ASB can be improved. The Committee also brought back waste services to examine its performance since the service was brought back 'in house'. The committee also engaged with a variety of stakeholders which enabled the meetings to be more robust in discussion.
- 3.4 This year the committee placed particular focus on the pandemic and regularly invited the Divisional Director for Public Health providing monthly Covid-19 updates to the committee.
- 3.5 The committee also challenged some services to improve its performance including WorkPath services as coming out of the pandemic, employment will be a key feature. The committee also undertook a couple of challenge sessions looking at the impact on council's revised approach to the Idea stores and library services and examining the performance towards air quality commitments and resident's health outcomes.
- 3.6 The work of OSC is split into different scrutiny activities and this includes in depth scrutiny reviews, challenge sessions, call-ins and spotlight sessions focussing on council and partner services.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Reducing inequalities and promoting cohesion and building community leadership are all central to the work of the OSC. A number of reviews and challenge sessions incorporated equality consideration such as considering the impact on reducing services on service user groups children, the elderly and

disabled particularly around savings. This was also considered with the call-in such as the changes to the day ops services.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

5.2 [Report authors should identify any other specific issues relevant to consideration of this report. Including, but not limited to, the issues noted above. This section of the report can also be used to re-emphasise particular issues that Members must have considered before taking the decision (for example issues that may come up if an objection was taken to court). Note – Paragraph 5.1 MUST NOT be deleted.]

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 There are no direct financial arising from the recommendations in this report

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 This report complies with the Council's constitutional requirements

7.2 There are no other legal issues arising directly from this report

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE.

Appendices

- Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020-21

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report

List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.

- These must be sent to Democratic Services with the report
- State NONE if none.

Officer contact details for documents:

Filuck Miah - Strategy and Policy Officer, Corporate