

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 13th JULY 2011

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE
(LEGAL SERVICES)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Under the Council's Constitution, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must report annually to the Council documenting the Committee's activities during the past year.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered and approved its annual report for the year 2010-11 at the meeting of the Committee held on 10th May 2011. The annual report is attached for Members' information.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council note the annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2010-11 as attached.

3. THE ANNUAL REPORT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

- 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 Lead Members. 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 2010-11. It highlights the range of scrutiny activity undertaken including performance monitoring, policy development, scrutiny of the budget, pre-decision scrutiny and call-in of Cabinet decisions. The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny has also led a scrutiny review on the role of scrutiny itself under an Executive Mayor.

3.3 Following presentation to the Council, the annual report will be publicised and circulated widely within the Council and to its partners.

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.

5.2 The report details a summary by Scrutiny Lead Members of their overview and scrutiny work during the civic year 2010/11. The reviews include scrutiny of the budget process and value for money issues that allow monitoring of the use of resources by the Council and as evidence to the Audit Commission's assessment of how well it is managing and using its resources to deliver value for money and better and sustainable outcomes for local people.

5.3 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 CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Equal opportunities are central to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A number of reports and reviews as set out in the Annual Report have specific equalities or anti-poverty themes and make proposals that seek to reduce inequalities and improve 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.