

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 11th JULY 2012

**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 2011-12 at the meeting of the Committee held on 19th June 2012. 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 2011-12 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 2011-12. 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.

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 This report provides a review of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work in 2011-12. There are no financial implications arising from this report. However In the event that the Council agrees further action in response to this report then officers will be obliged to seek the appropriate financial approval before further financial commitments are made.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Reducing inequality, promoting community cohesion and building community leadership are all central to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A number of pieces of work raised specific equalities issues including scrutiny of the budget, the scrutiny review of children's centres and the work to map consultation and engagement with service users in adult social care.

7. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 7.1 The content of this report has no implications for a greener environment.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

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

9. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 9.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee contributes to the efficiency of the council, particularly through its scrutiny of the budget process where the committee ensures services are achieving value for money.