

Non-Executive Report of the: Overview and Scrutiny Committee 22 nd March 2018	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Will Tuckley, Chief Executive	Classification: Unrestricted
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual report 2017-18	

Originating Officer(s)	Elizabeth Bailey – Senior Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer
Wards affected	All

Summary

1.1 The Annual Report provides a summary of the work the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, the Health, Housing and Grants Sub Committees and Scrutiny Leads have delivered in the 2017-2018 municipal year.

Recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1. Comment and agree the report for submission to Full Council in the new municipal year;
2. Authorise the Divisional Director Strategy, Policy & Performance to amend the report following comments by the Committee before submission to Full Council.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the diverse range of scrutiny work carried out during the year by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Health, Housing and Grants Sub Committees.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The committee may decline to agree the recommendations. This is not recommended as the report outlines work undertaken by councillors and officers to identify areas of improvement.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 Under the council's Constitution, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) must report annually to Council documenting the Committee's activities during the past year, including on the work of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee.
- 3.2 The attached report (Appendix 1) highlights the range of work delivered by Scrutiny during the municipal year this includes five in-depth reviews focusing on fire safety, access to health and social care services for homeless people, recreation activities for young people, gangs and serious youth violence and budget scrutiny. Scrutiny also held a one-off challenge session looking at the impact of Brexit on the Council. A key focus for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been on the progress in delivering the improvements in Children's Services. The Committee has held a number of sessions with internal and external stakeholders to understand this and welcomes the positive feedback received from Ofsted. However, it recognises this is an area of on-going work and it is important that the 2018-19 Overview and Scrutiny Committee remains committed to undertaking further work.
- 3.3 The work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is broken down into the range of types of scrutiny activity including in depth scrutiny reviews and challenge sessions, a revised approach to pre scrutiny of Cabinet decisions and spotlight sessions focusing on the Council and partners service performance.

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 This report provides a summary of the work carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during 2017-18.
- 4.2 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1 Article 6.03 (d) of the Council's constitution provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must report annually to Full Council on its work. The

report submitted to Council following this consideration will fulfil that obligation.

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 reviews incorporated an equalities perspective in their consideration including the Brexit session which focused on rise of hate crime following the EU referendum. The review on recreation activities for young people also considered needs of different communities including those under represented in accessing services such as girls and BME communities.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The recommendations in this report are made as part of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee's role in helping to secure continuous improvement for the council, as required under its Best Value duty.
- 7.2 The Committee has also provided input into the council's Best Value improvement plan, which supports its efforts to meet its duties in this regard

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 There are no direct sustainable actions for greener environment arising from this report.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no direct risk management implications arising from this report. The report on Fire Safety makes a number of recommendations to improve fire safety in high rise buildings in Tower Hamlets.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report. The report on Gangs and Serious Violence makes a number of recommendations on how the Council working with partners and community can reduce gang crime and serious youth violence.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- **Appendix 1: Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2016/17**

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.