

Non-Executive Report of the: Full Council 19 th July 2023	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Sharon Godman Director Strategy, Transformation and Improvement	Classification: Unrestricted
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23	

Originating Officer(s)	Sharon Godman Divisional Director Strategy, Policy and Performance Afazul Hoque Head of Service, Corporate Strategy and Communities Filuck Miah Senior Strategy and Policy Officer, Corporate Strategy and Communities
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 2022-23 municipal year

Recommendations:

The Full Council is recommended to:

1. Agree to note the Annual Report to 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.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 The council's constitution requires OSC to 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 slide deck report provides a summary of the range of activities and work that scrutiny carried out last municipal year. OSC developed a video annual report¹ to increase its reach to the wider community of the borough, raise the profile the council's scrutiny process and promote opportunities for residents to get involved.
- 3.3 OSC and its sub-committees focused its scrutiny on areas of strategic priorities to ensure residents concerns were reflected. OSC kept oversight of the council's budget and submitted four recommendations² for the council's budget, MTFs and strategic performance throughout the year. OSC carried out two key scrutiny reviews focussing on current boroughwide issues including women's safety and the cost-of-living challenge on food insecurity in the borough³ which considered the extent to which food poverty is affecting residents and contributing factors and made a number of recommendations.
- 3.4 OSC also held spotlights examining topics of residents' concerns such as customer services improvements, the performance on delivering waste and recycling services, climate emergency, streets and parks cleanliness and the Mayor and Cabinet Member spotlights. The committee also reviewed the progress of service action plans covering air quality, swimming provision in the borough and parking.
- 3.5 The Children and Education Scrutiny Sub-Committee (CESSC) scrutinised key areas such as the progress on improvements for Youth Justice Service and youth provision in increasing capacity for girls, plans to increase educational attainment and council's progress against the statement of action for the SEND inspection in 2021. CESSC carried out a few site visits to better understand key issues including visiting local school, meeting care experience young people and foster carers. CESSC held a scrutiny challenge session and considered how the council and its partners can improve women and girls' access and participation with sports and physical activities in the borough. The sub-committee made six recommendations in its report⁴ which is appended in presentation report.
- 3.6 The Health and Adults Scrutiny Sub-Committee (HASSC) focussed its scrutiny attention on resident issues such as improving access to GP services, performance of adults dental and oral health, BAME inequalities access to mental health services, tackling obesity and ASC inspection preparations. HASSC also carried out a scrutiny review, focusing on the

¹ <https://tinyurl.com/Scrutiny-Annual-Report-2022-23>

² [OSC budget scrutiny report 2023-24](#)

³ [Scrutiny Review: Understanding the impact of food insecurity on residents and review whether the council and its partners response to tackling food poverty is effective and sustainable](#)

⁴ [CESSC Report on Increasing Women and Girls' Access and Participation with Sports and Physical Activities in the Borough](#)

workforce shortages across the health and care sector and made a number of recommendations for improvement outlined in its report⁵

- 3.7 The Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee focussed on scrutinising reviewing the approach and support for homeless applications and held spotlights covering topics such as parking on estates, approach to regeneration, Change in Private Sector Tenants rights and developing a new local plan. HRSSC held a scrutiny challenge session⁶ the proposed consultation to bring housing management service back in house.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Having an appreciation and understanding the challenge and implications of the cost of living of residents and reducing inequalities and promoting cohesion are all central to the work of the OSC. A number of scrutiny reviews and challenge session incorporated equality consideration such as improving women's safety, increasing access to women and girls' access to sports and physical activities and the challenge of food insecurity on residents (with protected characteristics) and the council and its partners response draws on the council's statutory duty of meeting its public sector equality duty.

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 2022-23

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.

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A

⁵ [HASSC Scrutiny Review on Workforce Shortages Across the Health and Care Sector](#)

⁶ [THH Consultation Challenge Session](#)