

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - ENVIRONMENT

29 September 2021

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BIENNIAL REPORT 2019/20 AND 2020/21

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Paul Follows, Leader of the Council

Head of Service: Ms Louise Norie, Corporate Policy Manager

Key decision: No

Access: Public

1. Purpose and summary

1.1 To enable the Committee to comment on the report on its activities in 2019/20 and 2020/21.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Committee endorse the report included as annexe 1 whilst making any suggestions for amendments.

3. Reason for the recommendation

3.1 To provide the rest of the Council and the Waverley community with an accurate picture of the activities of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

3.2 To provide councillors sitting on the Overview and Scrutiny Committees with an opportunity to reflect on what has worked well, where there are lessons to be drawn and where improvements could be made.

4. Background

4.1 Annual Scrutiny Reports were published for the municipal years 2017/18 and 2018/19. However, the strain on the capacity of officers and committee members prevented a report being produced for 2019/20. Therefore, this report covers both 2019/20 and 2020/21.

4.2 An earlier draft of the Biennial Report for 2019/21 and 2020/21 was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Board. This Board is comprised of the chairs and vice-chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. They asked for modest changes. Subject to these being made, the Board unanimously endorsed the report.

5. Relationship to the Corporate Strategy and Service Plan

5.1 Overview and scrutiny is an independent, Member led function that facilitates and achieves democratic accountability for public services. As such, it seeks to ensure that the work of the Council fully meets the Council's corporate priorities.

6. Implications of decision

6.1 Resource (Finance, procurement, staffing, IT)

There are no resource implications of this report.

6.2 Risk Management

No risks arising from the recommendations of this report have been identified.

6.3 Legal

There are no legal implications from this report.

6.4 Equality, diversity and inclusion

There are no direct equality and diversity implications from this report.

6.5 Climate emergency declaration

There are no direct climate change implications from this report.

7. Consultation and engagement

7.1 Discussed in paragraph 4.2.

8. Other options considered

8.1 The Council could decline to report on O&S's activities. However, this would deprive councillors and residents of a resource for understanding this aspect of the Council's activity.

9. Governance Journey

9.1 Once the report has been considered by the Community Wellbeing, Environment, Housing and Value for Money Overview and Scrutiny Committees it will return to Co-ordinating Board. They will review any comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and make a decision on the final contents of the report before submission to the Council.

Annexes:

Annexe 1 – Overview and Scrutiny Biennial Report 2019/20 and 2020/21

Background Papers

There are no background papers, as defined by Section 100D (5) of the Local Government Act (1972)

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