

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/2011 REPORT NO.

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

COUNCIL
- 30 June 2010

REPORT OF:

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Agenda - Part: 1	Item:
Subject: ENFIELD'S SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10 WARDS: None Specific	
Cabinet Members consulted: N/A	

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council Constitution requires the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to prepare and present an Annual Report to Council detailing the work undertaken by the Council's scrutiny function over the last Municipal Year.
- 1.2 A copy of the Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/10 has been attached (as Appendix 1) for consideration and endorsement, prior to publication.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council considers and endorses the Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/10 for publication;
- 2.2 That Council notes the areas identified as future challenges for Enfield's scrutiny function within the Annual Report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The 2009/10 Annual Report will be the eleventh produced by Enfield's Scrutiny function.
- 3.2 The Annual Report is designed to provide a summary and evaluation of key scrutiny activities over the year, with a focus on its key outcomes.

- 3.3 The report covers the work of each of the Council's seven Scrutiny Panels and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, with each Panel providing a summary of the work they have undertaken focussed around their overall effectiveness and key outcomes. Its structure and content has been designed and approved by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The format of the report has been amended over recent years to highlight the key outcomes being achieved by scrutiny, as well as to make the publication as cost effective and user friendly as possible.
- 3.4 As well as outlining the varied work undertaken by individual Panels, the Annual Report also has a key role to play in raising awareness and the profile of the Council's scrutiny function not only within the Authority but also amongst its external partners/stakeholders and with the public.
- 3.5 Significant scrutiny developments during 2009/10 have included:
- (a) Establishment of an additional Scrutiny Panel to cover Place Shaping & Enterprise.
 - (b) Implementation of Councillor Call for Action, with scrutiny being used as means of "last resort" when all other attempts at resolution have been exhausted. The work being undertaken by scrutiny to resolve issues raised under the process has been shortlisted for a national Municipal Journal achievement award.
 - (c) completion of the Scrutiny Commission to look, in detail, at the life opportunities available to young people in the borough. This has represented a significant piece of scrutiny work involving a wide range of engagement with young people, adults and various community events. Again the work undertaken by scrutiny on this review has been shortlisted for a national scrutiny award by the Centre for Public Scrutiny.
 - (d) the appointment, as a result of the Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009, of a Statutory Officer for Scrutiny, which in Enfield has been designated as the Head of Corporate Scrutiny.
- 3.6 The Annual Report also includes a specific section looking forward and identifying a number of key challenges to be addressed by the Council's scrutiny function over the coming year. Of particular interest will be the need to:
- implement new powers for scrutiny, in relation to wider partnership working and the Council's new petition scheme;
 - develop the role of scrutiny in relation to any new/existing performance frameworks for local public services; and
 - to continue the very effective collaborative (cross-party) working between Scrutiny Chairman & members.
- 3.7 The Annual Report has been presented in draft and, subject to endorsement by Council, will then be published in its final format. Attempts will continue this

year to encourage access to the report, wherever possible, via the scrutiny website.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

To comply with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

No other options have been considered, as the scrutiny function is required, under the Council's Constitution, to present an annual report to Council for adoption.

6. DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & CORPORATE RESOURCES COMMENTS

6.1 Finance Implications

All costs associated with the production and publication of the Scrutiny Annual Report will be contained within the current budget allocated to the Council's scrutiny function.

6.2 Legal Implications

Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 requires principal local authorities to have at least one overview and scrutiny committee.

Its functions are to:

- review or scrutinise decisions or actions taken by the cabinet or any non-executive part of the council;
- make reports or recommendations to the Council or the Cabinet on any issue to do with the Council's functions;
- make recommendations to a wide range of the Council's partners; and
- recommend that any decision be re-considered

The Council's Constitution requires the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to present an Annual Report to Council, which includes details of the reviews undertaken and the key outcomes along with any work planned for the coming year.

7. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The key aims for the Council's scrutiny function include:

- to review & assess the delivery and performance of services provided by the Council (along with the health service);
- to assist in the monitoring & development of Council policies and strategies;

7.2 The work undertaken by each Panel, summarised in the Annual Report, is designed to reflect these aims and as such the Council's scrutiny function has a significant role to play in the Council's performance management framework.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Under the terms of the Council's Constitution, Overview & Scrutiny Committee is required (in order to address the risk of non compliance) to produce an Annual Report setting out the work undertaken by the scrutiny function over the last year. No material risks have been identified and any risks relating to the individual scrutiny reviews that have been undertaken, or are planned for the coming year, will have been assessed through the scrutiny review scoping process.

9. COMMUNITY IMPLICATIONS

The scrutiny process provides an opportunity for members of the local community to actively contribute towards reviewing the delivery, performance and development of public services provided by the Council and its partners. The work undertaken by scrutiny, in this respect, over the previous year has been summarised within the Annual Report.

10. PUTTING ENFIELD FIRST

The work undertaken by Enfield's Scrutiny Panels during 2009/10 and ongoing into future years can be seen to have an impact on all of the aims within Putting Enfield First:

- Aim 1 – A cleaner greener, sustainable Enfield
- Aim 2 – Ensure every Child matters and provide high quality education for all
- Aim 3 – A Safer Enfield
- Aim 4 – A healthier Enfield where people are able to live independent lives;
- Aim 5 – Provide high quality & efficient services
- Aim 6 – Build prosperous, sustainable communities;

Background Papers:

None