

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2009/2010 REPORT NO. 29

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

COUNCIL
- 1 July 2009

REPORT OF:

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Agenda - Part: 1

Item: 12

Subject:

ENFIELD'S SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT
2008/09

WARDS: None Specific

Cabinet Members consulted: N/A

Contact officer and telephone number:

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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 2008/09 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 2008/09 for publication;
- 2.2 That Council notes the areas identified as future challenges for Enfield's scrutiny function within the Annual Report, including the implementation of the new powers for scrutiny contained within the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and Councillor Call for Action.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The 2008/09 Annual Report will be the tenth 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 six Scrutiny Panels and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, with each Panel providing a summary of the work they have undertaken with a focus 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 include more focus on the key outcomes being achieved by scrutiny as well as to make the publication as cost effective to produce and user friendly as possible.
- 3.4 As well as highlighting 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 2008/09 have included:
- (a) Introduction of a Crime & Safety Scrutiny Panel, one year in advance of the formal Regulations within the Police & Justice Act 2006, to focus on the work of the partners on the Safer & Stronger Communities Board. The way in which Enfield's Crime & Safety Scrutiny Panel operates has been cited by the Home Officer as one of ten national hallmarks of effective Partnerships.
 - (b) Introduction of the Councillor Call for Action, with scrutiny being used as means of "last resort" when all other attempts at resolution have been exhausted.
 - (c) the establishment of a 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 and various community events.
- 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 the new powers for scrutiny, in relation to wider partnership working, contained within the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act – including Councillor Call for Action; and
 - develop the role of scrutiny in relation to the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), as the new performance framework for local public services.
- 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. Copies will, however, continue to be provided for all libraries.

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; 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. 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 2007/08 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