

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2011/2012 REPORT NO. 26

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

COUNCIL
- 6 July 2011

REPORT OF:

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Agenda - Part: 1	Item: 10
Subject: ENFIELD'S SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2010/11 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 2010/11 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 2010/11 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 2010/11 Annual Report will be the 12th produced by Enfield's Scrutiny function.
- 3.2 The Annual Report provides 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 (prior to the change in scrutiny structure agreed by Council on 4th May 2011)

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 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 expanded remits and new Scrutiny Panel structure (agreed following Council on 4 May 2011) along with the proposal to integrate a single theme running through the scrutiny work programme each year;
- implement the scrutiny requirements contained within new legislation, in particular the Health and Social Care Bill and the Localism Bill as and when agreed by Parliament;
- continue to work with and scrutinise a wide range of local partners;
- to build on the success achieved to date in engaging with the public and other interested stakeholders in the work being undertaken by scrutiny;
- to continue the very effective collaborative (cross-party) working between scrutiny chairs & members.

3.6 The Annual Report has been presented in draft and, subject to endorsement by Council, will then be published in its final format. Once again this year access to the report will be 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. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

No material risks have been identified.

8 IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES

8.1 Fairness for All

The role of scrutiny in Enfield includes ensuring, as part of any review, that services are being provided on a fair and equitable basis for all members of our communities.

8.2 Growth & Sustainability

Growth and Sustainability are key areas of work specifically identified in the work programmes for the Place Shaping & Enterprise and Environment, Parks & Leisure Scrutiny Panels over 2010/11. As part of the approach towards scrutiny in Enfield all Panels are encouraged to consider issues relating to sustainability and the support that can be provided to secure further inward investment in the borough.

8.3 Strong Communities

The scrutiny process provides an opportunity for elected members of scrutiny panels, and members of the local community, to actively contribute towards reviewing the delivery, performance and development of public services provided to all residents of Enfield by the Council and its partners. Community engagement has been recognised as a particular strength of scrutiny in Enfield and it's intended to continue encouraging this approach over the coming year.

9. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 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 and Safer Stronger Communities Board);
- to assist in the monitoring & development of Council policies and strategies;

9.2 The work programmes produced by each Panel are designed to reflect these aims and as such the work undertaken by the Council's scrutiny function has a significant role to play in the Council's performance management framework.

Background Papers:

None