

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2012/2013 REPORT NO. 25

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

Council
4TH July 2012

REPORT OF:

Overview & Scrutiny
Committee

Agenda – Part: 1

Item: 17

**Subject: Enfield's Scrutiny Annual Report
2011-12**

Wards: None Specific

Cabinet Member 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 2011-12 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 2011-12 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 2011-12 Annual Report will be the 13th 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 six Scrutiny Panels (since the revised 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:
- continue to support the implementation of scrutiny requirements contained within new legislation, in particular Health & Social Care Act and the Localism Act;
 - 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 and members.
 - Develop and continue to widen community engagement.
- 3.6 The Annual Report which has been presented in draft and is subject to endorsement by the Council, will then be published in its final format. Once again this year access to the report will be via the scrutiny website with minimal hard copy production.

4. 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.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

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

6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1 Financial Implications

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

6.2 Legal Implications

6.2.1 Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended most recently by the Localism Act 2011) requires principal local authorities to have at least one Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Its functions are to:

- review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions;
- , make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions;
- review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are not the responsibility of the executive;
- make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are not the responsibility of the executive;
- make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area;

In the case of the overview and scrutiny committee, or committees, of an authority to which section 244 of the National Health Service Act 2006 applies—

- to review and scrutinise, in accordance with regulations under that section, matters relating to the health service in the authority's area, and;
- to make reports and recommendations on such matters in accordance with the regulations.

6.2.2 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.

6.3 Property Implications

No property implications are deemed necessary for completion and agreement of the Scrutiny Annual Report.

7. KEY RISKS

No material risks have been identified, however having an Overview & Scrutiny Committee is a legal requirement, and an annual report provides an opportunity to raise awareness both within the Council and also with stakeholders including the public.

8. IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES

8.1 Fairness for All

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

8.2 Growth and Sustainability

Growth and Sustainability are key areas of work specifically identified in the work programmes for Sustainability and Environment and Housing, Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Panels over 2011-12. 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 is intended to continue encouraging this approach over the coming year.

9. EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

It is not relevant or proportionate for an equality impact assessment/analysis to be undertaken for noting the report. However, depending on the individual nature of individual scrutinised issues, an assessment/analysis might be required at the appropriate stage of progress.

10. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The key aims for the Council's Scrutiny function include:

- to review and 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 and development of Council policies and strategies;

10.2 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.