

## **REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION**

### **A. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20**

#### **Introduction**

1. The Constitution requires that the Scrutiny Commission and Overview and Scrutiny Committees submit an Annual Report to the Council (or the Scrutiny Commission in a single report on their behalf) on their workings. The report may make recommendations about future work programmes and changes in working methods.

#### **Annual Report**

2. Attached as Appendix A to this report is a copy of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20. It is intended as a public facing summary of the key highlights of scrutiny activity undertaken during the year and serves to draw out the work undertaken at committee level, including review panels, and how this has had an impact.
3. The Annual Report sums up a varied and busy year for Overview and Scrutiny; the Committees have scrutinised issues across the whole range of services provided by the County Council. The level of public interest in Overview and Scrutiny has also been positive, with petitions being received and representations heard from members of the public on a number of occasions.

#### **Conclusions and Looking Forward**

4. The work of Overview and Scrutiny remains critical in ensuring that the Council's budget and performance is closely monitored, that services are delivered effectively and efficiently and that they meet the needs of local people. Looking back over the last 12 months environmental concerns have been at the top of the agenda for a number of our committees. Environmental considerations must form part of every policy and decision, whether in relation to the carbon friendly nature of our plans for economic development, the need for major transport infrastructure to also promote sustainable travel and tackle air quality issues or the need for the health and social care economy to make environmental and sustainability issues a priority.
5. Looking forward the Council will be moving to a recovery process as the Government eases restrictions on behaviour and movement. Recovering from COVID-19 may take considerable time, years rather than months, to address the enduring social, emotional, physical and economic consequences of the pandemic; acknowledging that some things may have changed forever. The need for member involvement in the recovery process will be crucial. Whilst agreement has been reached with Group Leaders to establish a cross-party working group to provide high-level direction and political perspective to the County Council's Recovery work it is also recognised that Scrutiny bodies will

have a key role in monitoring how the recovery plans impact on service users and local communities.

**Motion to be moved:**

**That the information contained in the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20, attached as Appendix A to this report, on its activities, be noted.**

**Mr. S. J. Galton CC  
Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission**

**Appendix**

Appendix A - Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20