

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION

A. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

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 for 2021/22. 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 and how this has had an impact.
3. The Annual Report sums up a varied and busy year for Overview and Scrutiny with continued challenges due to the Covid pandemic. Whilst for some of the year the Committees have operated remotely, we are now seeing a full return to face-to-face meetings. During the last year the focus has been on the impact of Covid 19 on Council services and its finances as the Council looks to build back stronger for the future. Recently the focus has been on increases in the price of goods and services which has had a significant impact on residents and on the Council, particularly the delivery of its capital programme. The level of public interest in Overview and Scrutiny continues to be positive, with a number of questions and petitions being received and representations made by members of the public on a number of occasions.

Conclusions and Looking Forward

4. The work of Overview and Scrutiny remains important in holding decision makers such as the Cabinet to account, in ensuring that the Council's budget and performance is closely monitored, and in making certain that outcomes are delivered for the benefit of the residents of Leicestershire.
5. Looking forward to the coming year there will be an increased focus on the County Council's financial outlook particularly focused on Special Educational Needs, the High Needs Block deficit, adult social care and the capital programme. As we emerge from the pandemic, we will be looking at support for those parents who now choose to home educate and request plans to address the backlog in health screenings and increased waiting times. Environmental and Net Zero are key issues and we will be looking at plans for delivering on our commitments in these areas. We will also be inviting the water companies and Environment agency to explore how we can improve the water quality in our rivers.

(Motion to be moved:

That the information contained in the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22, attached as Appendix A to this report, on its activities, be noted.)

8th June 2022

**Mr. M. T. Mullaney CC
Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission**

Background Papers

Report to the Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 8 June 2022 – Draft Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22.

Appendix

Appendix A - Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22