

South Lakeland District Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Friday, 26 April 2019
Review of Effectiveness and Scrutiny
Recommendations Report

Portfolio:	Cllr Vicky Hughes – Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Report from:	David Sykes – Director of Strategy, Innovation and Resources
Report Author:	Anthea Lowe – Solicitor to the Council
Wards:	N/A
Forward Plan:	N/A

1.0 Expected Outcome

- 1.1 By monitoring both the effectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the progress made by Cabinet and officers in implementing the recommendations made by the Committee, Members are able to ensure that maximum value is added by scrutiny and retain sight of proposals and outcomes. The regular reviewing of recommendations made by Members will also ensure that the effectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is both maintained and monitored.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the following:-**
- (1) **the findings of the Review of Effectiveness, as attached at Appendix 1; and**
 - (2) **the progress made by Cabinet in implementing the recommendations of the Committee.**

3.0 Background and Proposals

Review of Effectiveness

- 3.1 Each year, a review is undertaken of the effectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This review is undertaken utilising a similar checklist framework to that used by the Audit Committee. This effectiveness checklist is included as **Appendix 1** to this report.
- 3.2 The review concludes that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has continued to be effective over the past 12 months. Despite this, more accurate timetabling of workshops/task and finish groups in the future would be beneficial in ensuring that resources can be allocated to ensure that the work programme can be completed on time. There are no other recommendations arising from the review of effectiveness.

Scrutiny Recommendations Progress

- 3.3 Monitoring the progress of recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to decision-makers is an important part of effective governance. In addition to these biannual reports, the Committee receive verbal updates at meetings throughout the year during consideration of the latest Work Programme.
- 3.4 During 2018/19, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has presented one formal report to Cabinet arising out of the review of the Asset Management Strategy; this later became the Property and Land Management Strategy 2019 – 2024 including the creation of the Strategic Asset management Plan Board (CEX/62). The recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were adopted by Cabinet.
- 3.5 In addition to the consideration of the Asset Management Strategy, Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a number of other policy documents including, but not limited to, the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, the Cost Recovery and Hardship Policy in respect of Contaminated Land and the Cumbria Health Strategy.
- 3.6 As well as the formal recommendations made by the Committee, a number of comments and/or suggestions were raised throughout various items considered at committee meetings. In situations where these comments were raised against executive items, these comments were highlighted during consideration by Cabinet. Other changes requested of officers, for example in relation to grammatical or presentational issues, were typically taken into account before the item was presented to Cabinet. Throughout 2018/19, Portfolio Holders have shown a strong commitment to the scrutiny process.
- 3.7 In March 2019, a Task and Finish Group held its first meeting on Customer Connect Locality Working. This group is due to meet on at least 3 further occasions before presenting its findings to the Committee.
- 3.8 Also in March 2019, a workshop was held to consider the possible impacts of a 'no-deal Brexit' on the Council's business. A formal report will be presented to the committee once central government has provided some clarity around any departure from the European Union.
- 3.9 Finally, whilst not requiring any recommendations being made to Cabinet, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has also paid attention to a number of issues affecting the local community, including the performance of Northern Rail and the effectiveness of the health offering within South Lakeland.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 This report has been prepared in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Council's Corporate Management Team.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 This report is to note. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee could choose not to undertake regular monitoring of its effectiveness or the recommendations that it has made. This is not recommended as the Committee will have no oversight of its recommendations after they have been made.
- 5.2 Should the Committee feel that its recommendations are not being progressed adequately it could request more regular updates from the relevant decision-maker. It also has the power, under the Council's Constitution, to request certain individuals to attend a committee meeting and answer any questions that it puts to them.

6.0 Links to Council Priorities

6.1 The broad remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and its varied work programme, mean that its work often links to all of the priorities and targets contained within the Council Plan.

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising out of this report.

Human Resources

7.2 There are no direct staffing implications arising out of this report.

Legal

7.3 There is a legal requirement for local authorities to operate an overview and scrutiny committee. The committee needs to be effective in its role. This report demonstrates that the committee has been effective during 2018/19.

Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

7.4 Have you completed a Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment? No – this report is a review of work already undertaken.

Equality and Diversity

7.5 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No – this report is a review of work already undertaken.

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
That the Council's scrutiny arrangements are ineffective or inefficient.	The scrutiny work undertaken by the committee does not add value in the manner that it ought to. Areas where scrutiny is required are missed.	An effective overview and scrutiny function, reviewed regularly, is in operation.

Contact Officers

Anthea Lowe – Solicitor to the Council anthea.lowe@southlakeland.gov.uk

Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Review of Effectiveness

Background Documents Available

None.

Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent
Legal Services	Report author
Section 151 Officer	1 April 2019
Monitoring Officer	1 April 2019
SMT	11 April 2019

Circulated to	Date sent
Assistant Director	N/A
Human Resources Manager	N/A
Communications Team	N/A
Leader	N/A
Committee Chairman	1 April 2019
Portfolio Holder	N/A
Ward Councillor(s)	N/A
Committee	26 April 2019
Executive (Cabinet)	N/A
Council	N/A