

South Lakeland District Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Friday, 23 April 2021
Draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2019-21

Portfolio:	Cllr Vicky Hughes, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Report from:	Director of Strategy, Innovation and Resources
Report Authors:	Rachel Ireland – Trainee Solicitor Linda Fisher - Legal, Governance and Democracy Specialist (Monitoring Officer)
Wards:	N/A
Forward Plan:	N/A

1.0 Expected Outcome

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be able to demonstrate the work that it has undertaken during the 2019-21 municipal years and the value it has added. It will also be able to outline the work planned for the municipal year 2021/22.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approve the Draft Scrutiny Report 2019-21 attached at Appendix 1 for referral to Full Council, subject to any relevant updates following this meeting.**

3.0 Background and Proposals

- 3.1 Article 6.04 (Overview and Scrutiny) of the Council's Constitution requires that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must report annually to Council on its work, with recommendations for its future work programme and any amended working methods, if appropriate.
- 3.2 The Scrutiny Annual Report 2019-21 looks back at the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee over the past 24 months, as well as looking forward to the year ahead. The Scrutiny Annual Report would ordinarily look over the past 12 months but due to the impact of COVID-19 the Committee's 24 April 2020 meeting was cancelled, and in turn, the Scrutiny Annual Report 2019-20 was deferred. Therefore, the 2019-20 report has now been combined with the 2020-21 report, to cover the past 2 years. The report demonstrates that effective scrutiny is taking place, in line with good governance, but that more precise timetabling of reviews would be beneficial in ensuring that resources can be allocated to ensure that the work programme can be completed on time.
- 3.3 It is anticipated that, subject to the approval of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the final Scrutiny Annual Report 2019-21 will be presented to Council at its Annual

Meeting on 19 May 2021. Those areas of the report highlighted in yellow will be updated, in consultation with the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, prior to its submission to Full Council.

- 3.4 Each year, a review is undertaken of the effectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Since 2017, the scrutiny effectiveness review has used a checklist framework based upon that used by the Audit Committee. The Review of Effectiveness 2019-21 can be found elsewhere on this Agenda.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Annual Report has been produced in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required by the Council's Constitution to produce an annual report. Members could choose to amend the content of the report prior to its consideration by Council on 19 May 2021.

6.0 Links to Council Priorities

- 6.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee seeks to exercise its function so as to consider, challenge and add value to the Council's approach to delivering the priorities and targets set out in the Council Plan.

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

- 7.1 There are no financial or resource implications arising from this report. The work undertaken by scrutiny needs to provide value for money and make the best use of available resources.

Human Resources

- 7.2 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report. However, it should be noted that items on the work programme, such as Task & Finish Groups and Workshops can have an impact upon staffing resources

Legal

- 7.3 There is a legal requirement for local authorities to operate an Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In order to ensure that the work of the committee adds value to the work of the Council and underpins the Council Plan priorities, it is important that the Committee is effective in its role.

Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

- 7.4 Have you completed a Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment? No
- 7.5 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: This is a look back at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work undertaken over the past 24 months.

Equality and Diversity

- 7.7 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No
- 7.8 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: This is a look back at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work undertaken over the past 24 months.

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
An annual report is not produced.	Failure to maintain constitutional requirements. The opportunity to consider and promote the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is lost.	A comprehensive and timely annual report is produced.
The Overview and Scrutiny work programme does not address the Council's delivery of priorities and targets in the Council Plan	Absence of challenge and overview of the Council progress in meeting the Council's priorities	The annual report and work programme are utilised to focus the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function

Contact Officers

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Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Scrutiny Annual Report 2019-21

Background Documents Available

None.

Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent	Date Signed off
Legal Services	12/04/21	15/04/2021
Section 151 Officer	12/04/21	15/04/2021
Monitoring Officer	12/04/21	15/04/2021

Circulated to	Date sent
Lead Specialist	N/A
Human Resources Lead Specialist	N/A
Communications Team	N/A
Leader	N/A
Committee Chairman	12/04/21
Portfolio Holder	N/A
Ward Councillor(s)	N/A
Committee	23/04/21
Executive (Cabinet)	N/A
Council	N/A