

**South Lakeland District Council**  
**Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
**Friday, 4 March 2022**  
**Review of Effectiveness and Scrutiny**  
**Recommendations Report**  
  
**2021/2022**

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**Portfolio:** Cllr Vicky Hughes  
**Report from:** Monitoring Officer  
**Report Author:** Linda Fisher – Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist (Monitoring Officer)  
Ross Ette – Case Management Officer  
**Wards:** (All Wards);  
**Forward Plan:** N/A

**Links to Council Plan Priorities:** The work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee contributes to the following Corporate Priorities, Working across boundaries, Delivering a balanced community, A fairer South Lakeland and Addressing the climate emergency.

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**1.0 Expected Outcome and Measures of Success**

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**

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. Please note this review covers a period of 12 months.

3.2 The review concludes that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has continued to be effective over the past 12 months notwithstanding the impact of COVID-19. The Committee did meet four times formally over the past year.

- 3.3 On 25 March 2020 Cabinet decided to delegate urgent decisions to the Chief Executive to protect the Council's interests in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. In accordance with Part 4 of the Constitution – Rules of Procedure – Access to Information Rules – Rule 16 (Special Urgency) the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee can agree that a decision is urgent and cannot be reasonably deferred. See [the Council's Constitution](#). These have reduced in the last year as we moved back to face to face meetings.
- 3.4 During April 2021 to March 2022, the Chairman provided consultation in 5 decisions where the Urgency Provision was used. This process has been fundamental to the continuation of good governance and has provided the Council with the ability to act in an agile way to meet the needs of those within the locality.

### **Scrutiny Recommendations Progress**

- 3.5 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 reports, the Committee receive verbal updates at meetings throughout the year during consideration of the latest Work Programme.
- 3.6 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a number of other policy documents including, but not limited to, the Council Plan, the Medium Term Financial Plan, the Treasury Management Statement, the Procurement Strategy, the Change in Management and Safety of Memorials Policy and the Lake Encroachment Policy
- 3.7 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 by Portfolio Holders during consideration by Cabinet. Throughout 2021-22, Portfolio Holders have shown a strong commitment to the scrutiny process and had consistent attendance at Committee meetings.
- 3.8 At its August meeting, the Committee received updates from two partners - Northern Rail and the South Cumbria Community Safety Partnership. The Committee welcomed the updates and the opportunity to learn more about what projects are going in the area. They also used the opportunity to raise issues and concerns on behalf of residents of South Lakeland.
- 3.9 Finally, in addition to reports received the Committee has also considered the following Portfolio Holder reports:-
- Finance and Assets (27 August 2021);
  - Health, Wellbeing and Poverty Alleviation (27 August 2021);
  - Economy, Culture and Leisure (02 February 2022);
  - Housing (02 February 2022);
  - Promoting South Lakeland and Innovation (02 February 2022);
  - Customer and Locality Services (04 March 2022);
  - Climate Action and Biodiversity (04 March 2022).

#### 4.0 Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Review of Effectiveness

#### 5.0 Consultation

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

#### 6.0 Alternative Options

6.1 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.

6.2 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

#### 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 Human Resources implications arising out of this report.

##### Legal

7.3 There are no direct legal implications arising out of this report.

##### Health and Sustainability Impact Assessment

7.4 Have you completed a Health and Sustainability Impact Assessment? No.

7.5 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: This report is a review of work already undertaken.

##### Equality and Diversity

7.7 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No.

7.8 If you have not completed an Impact Analysis, please explain your reasons: This report is a review of work already undertaken.

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

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## Background Documents Available

None

## Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent	Date Signed off
Section 151 Officer	N/A	N/A
Monitoring Officer	Report Author	N/A
CMT	N/A	N/A

Circulated to	Date sent
Lead Specialist	N/A
Human Resources Lead Specialist	N/A
Communications Team	N/A
Leader	N/A
Committee Chairman	06/02/22
Portfolio Holder	N/A
Ward Councillor(s)	N/A
Committee	04/03/22
Executive (Cabinet)	N/A
Council	N/A