

Meeting: Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee

Date: 3 April 2024

Title: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24

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Service: Governance

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 At the Annual Council meeting in May 2023 a new structure of Scrutiny committees was agreed by full Council. The work which has taken place by these Scrutiny committees during 2023/24, covering the whole breadth of the Authority's Scrutiny functions, is summarised in the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report attached as **Annex 1** for the Committee's consideration and approval.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is recommended to:
- (a) Consider the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee, and the five Scrutiny Sub-Committees, during 2023/24 which is summarised in the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24 attached as **Annex 1**;
 - (b) Approve the contents of this Annual Report, for submission to the next Annual Council meeting, as required by part 3.5 of the Constitution (Terms of Reference for Council and Committees); and
 - (c) Note that arrangements are being made for development of work programmes by all Scrutiny Committees for 2024/25, which will involve members of each respective Scrutiny Committee, once the meeting of Annual Council has taken place on 16 May 2024 and 2024/25 membership of Scrutiny Committees is known.

3. Background

3.1 In 2022/23 the Authority worked with an external body, the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, to undertake a member-led review of Scrutiny arrangements. In response to feedback received during that review full Council agreed a new Scrutiny Committee structure at the Annual Council meeting in May 2023. From May 2023 Scrutiny has been delivered in North Tyneside Council through the following six new Scrutiny committees:

- Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination and Finance Committee
- Caring Scrutiny Sub-Committee
- Family Friendly Scrutiny Sub-Committee
- Green Scrutiny Sub-Committee
- Secure Scrutiny Sub-Committee
- Thriving Scrutiny Sub-Committee

3.2 Meetings of these Scrutiny Committees commenced in June 2023. The approach adopted to Scrutiny during 2023/24, including development of the 'critical friend' role, and a summary of all Scrutiny work undertaken in 2023/24 is summarised in the Annual Report attached as **Annex 1** to this report.

3.3 As required by the Constitution (Version 27, May 2023), the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required to approve the contents of an Annual Report summarising work performed over the previous year, for submission to the next Annual Council meeting. The next Annual Council meeting will take place on 16 May 2024.

3.4 Arrangements are being made for the development of work programmes by all Scrutiny Committees for 2024/25, which will involve members of each respective Scrutiny Committee, once the meeting of Annual Council has taken place on 16 May 2024 and 2024/25 membership of Scrutiny Committees is known.

Background Information

- **Annex 1:** Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24 (March 2024)