

MEETING:	COUNCIL
MEETING DATE:	18 JULY 2014
TITLE OF REPORT:	ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2013/14
REPORT BY:	GENERAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To inform Council of the work undertaken by the General Overview and Scrutiny during the municipal year 2013/14.

Recommendation

THAT: the report be noted

Alternative Options

- 1 There are no alternative options as the report is for information only.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 To comply with the requirement in the council's constitution that Council will receive annual reports from committees.
- 3 The scrutiny function is a legal requirement by virtue of Schedule 2 of the Localism Act 2011.

Key Considerations

- 4 Since the Annual Meeting of Council, the General Overview and Scrutiny Committee has met in public on twelve occasions and also met jointly with the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review budget proposals. The Committee also met to undertake a call in of cabinet's decision regarding changes to the school transport funding arrangements.
- 5 From January 2014 the frequency of meetings was reduced and, to facilitate more effective working arrangements better use has been made of informal workshops and briefings. Task and finish reviews remain the appropriate forum for more in depth reviews of subject areas.
- 6 A number of subjects have been considered by the Committee throughout the year, notably the Local Development Plan, the Waste Management contract and arm's length companies.
- 7 A summary of the Committee's work is provided below

Scrutiny Reviews

The following in-depth scrutiny reviews have been completed or are in progress:

- Housing Allocation Policy
- Community Infrastructure Levy, Part 2
- Cultural Services
- Fire and Rescue Service Consultation
- Household Recycling Centres
- Digital Strategy (in progress)

Pre-Decision Scrutiny

The following matters were subject to pre-decision scrutiny:

- Consultation on the Local Development Framework
- Budget 2013-2014 and Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Waste management contract

Call In

There was one call in of the Cabinet decision concerning the changes to Hereford Schools and Post-16 Transport Policy).

Updates

The Committee has heard updates on:

- Streetscene
- Freedom of Information and arms lengths companies
- Governance of Hereford Futures
- School Examinations Performance
- Update from the Police Crime Commissioner
- The Changes to the Probation Service
- Community Safety Strategy

- 8 The Chairman of the General Overview and Scrutiny Committee would like to thank members of the public and co-opted members of the Committee for their continued participation in the work of the Committee during the year.
- 9 The Committee would also like to give thanks to the outgoing Chairman and Vice-Chairman for their work over the year.

Appendices

- None

Background Papers

- None identified.