

Title: Scrutiny Annual Report 2025-2026**Meeting: Scrutiny Management Board****Meeting date: Monday 12 October 2026****Report by: Statutory Scrutiny Officer****Classification**

Open

Report purpose

To provide the committee with the scrutiny annual report for 2025-26.

Background

1. The Herefordshire Council Constitution assigns responsibility to the Scrutiny Management Board for the co-ordination of an annual effectiveness review. This requirement supports the council's commitment, agreed by Council on 4 March 2022, to undertake regular reviews of its governance and scrutiny arrangements to ensure they remain effective and fit for purpose.
2. The importance of this process was subsequently reaffirmed through the 2025 Annual Review of Effectiveness - Scrutiny Review, which examined the culture, structure and operation of scrutiny at Herefordshire Council and made recommendations intended to strengthen scrutiny's effectiveness, accountability and impact.

Meeting objectives

3. To agree the Scrutiny Annual Review 2025-26.
4. To agree any changes to the review before it is presented to Council.

Report information

5. The report is divided into two sections. The first provides an introduction to the 2025 review of effectiveness, providing an update on recommendation made within that report and agreed by Council in May 2025.
6. The second section includes an overview of the work of the council's five committees and its task and finish group. These overviews also consider the impact of recommendations made by committees, their working groups, and task and finish groups set up by committees.

Consultees

7. None

Appendices

Appendix 1 Scrutiny Annual Report 2025-26

Background papers and resources

None identified.