
Meeting	Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date	18 April 2012
Subject	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2011/12
Report of	Scrutiny Office
Summary	The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report, attached at Appendix A, provides the Council with details of overview and scrutiny work undertaken during 2011/12.

Officer Contributors	Andrew Charlwood, Overview and Scrutiny Manager Melissa James, Overview and Scrutiny Officer John Murphy, Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	All
Enclosures	Appendix A – Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2011/12
For decision by	Council

Contact for further information:
Andrew Charlwood, Overview and Scrutiny Manager
020 8359 2014, andrew.charlwood@barnet.gov.uk

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Committee endorse the Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2011/12 as set out at Appendix A for onward referral to Council.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Council, 19 May 2009, 'Report of the Special Committee (Constitution Review), 21 April 2009, 'Overview & Scrutiny: New Arrangements'
- 2.2 Policy and Performance Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 13 April 2010, 'Scrutiny Review of Effectiveness'
- 2.3 Business Management Overview & Scrutiny sub-Committee, 16 December 2010, 'Overview & Scrutiny Review'
- 2.4 Policy and Performance Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 6 April 2011, Overview & Scrutiny Review
- 2.5 Special Committee (Constitution Review), 6 April 2011, Overview & Scrutiny Review
- 2.6 Annual Council, 17 May 2011, Report of the Special Committee (Constitution Review)
- 2.7 Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 11 July 2011, Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2010/11
- 2.8 Council, 12 July 2011, Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2010/11

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committees must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the Council's priorities.
- 3.2 The three priorities in the Corporate Plan 2012-13 are: –
- Better services with less money
 - Sharing opportunities, sharing responsibilities
 - A successful London suburb

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 None in the context of this report.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 Pursuant to the Equality Act 2010, the Council has a legislative duty to have 'due regard' to eliminating unlawful discrimination, advancing equality and fostering good relations in the contexts of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy, and maternity, religion or belief and sexual orientation.
- 5.2 In addition to the Terms of Reference of the Committee, and in so far as relating to matters within its remit, the role of the Committee is to perform the Overview and Scrutiny role in relation to:
- The Council's leadership role in relation to diversity and inclusiveness; and
 - The fulfilment of the Council's duties as employer including recruitment and retention, personnel, pensions and payroll services, staff development, equalities and health and safety.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 6.1 Any financial implications will be managed within existing budgets.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 Overview and Scrutiny is a function of local authorities in England and Wales. It was introduced by the Local Government Act 2000 which created separate Executive and Overview and Scrutiny functions within councils. Councils operating Executive Arrangements are required to create an Overview and Scrutiny Committee which is composed of councillors who are not on the Executive Committee of that council.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 8.1 The scope of Overview and Scrutiny Committees is contained within Part 2, Article 6 of the Constitution.
- 8.2 The Terms of Reference of the Overview and Scrutiny committees are set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Constitution).
- 8.3 Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 7 requires that the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee will, each year, produce an Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for Council.

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 Revised Overview & Scrutiny arrangements have been introduced in May 2009 and May 2011.
- 9.2 When the revised scrutiny arrangements were implemented in May 2009, it was agreed that the effectiveness of the Scrutiny function should be reviewed annually.
- 9.3 In accordance with the requirement, a review of effectiveness was carried out in early 2011. As a consequence of the findings of the review, the Council adopted a revised Overview & Scrutiny structure in May 2011.
- 9.4 Under the current structure, the Council has four Overview & Scrutiny Committees, together with scope for the establishment of Panels and Task and Finish Groups.
- 9.4 **Appendix A** provides a summary of the work undertaken by Barnet's Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Panels, and Task and Finish Groups during 2011/12.
- 9.5 The Committee are requested to endorse the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2011/12 for reporting to Council on 10 July 2012.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None.

Cleared by Finance	JH/MC
Cleared by Legal	POJ