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<b>Meeting</b>	Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date</b>	23 April 2014
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2013/14</b>
<b>Report of Summary</b>	Scrutiny Office The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report, attached at Appendix A, provides the Council with details of overview and scrutiny work undertaken during 2013/14.

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<b>Officer Contributors</b>	Andrew Charlwood, Overview and Scrutiny Manager Anita Vukomanovic, Overview and Scrutiny Officer Ash Tadjrishi, Overview and Scrutiny Officer
<b>Status (public or exempt)</b>	Public
<b>Wards affected</b>	All
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix – Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2012/13
<b>For decision by</b>	Council

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## **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 That the Committee endorse the Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2013/14 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
- 2.9 Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 18 April 2012, Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2011/12
- 2.10 Council, 10 July 2012, Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2011/12
- 2.11 Council, 16 April 2013, Report of the Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee – Council approved a report from Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee which included the establishment of the following new committees:
- Contract Monitoring Overview and Scrutiny Committee
  - Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 2.12 Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 2 May 2013, Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2012/13

### **3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the Council's priorities.
- 3.2 The three priority outcomes set out in the 2013 – 2016 Corporate Plan are: –
- Promote responsible growth, development and success across the borough.
  - Support families and individuals that need it – promoting independence, learning and well-being.
  - Improve the satisfaction of residents and businesses with the London Borough of Barnet as a place to live, work and study.
- 3.3 All Overview and Scrutiny work undertaken during 2013/14 has given due consideration to the Council's priorities, strategic objectives, outcomes and targets as detailed on the 2013 – 2016 Corporate Plan.

### **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 arising from overview and scrutiny work was addressed in individual reports to the relevant decision-making body.

## **7. LEGAL ISSUES**

- 7.1 Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 provides that the Executive arrangements by a local authority must:
- (1) include provision for the appointment by the authority of one or more overview and scrutiny committees.
  - (2) ensure that their overview and scrutiny committees have power between them –
    - i) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive,
    - ii) to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive,
    - iii) to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are not the responsibility of the executive,
    - iv) to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are not the responsibility of the executive,
    - v) to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of that area”.
- 7.2 The Localism Act 2011 allows Councils to return to a committee form of governance under schedule 2. The Council passed a resolution at full Council in January 2014. A committee system form of governance will come into effect from Annual Council (2 June 2014). As a consequence, overview and scrutiny arrangements will no longer exist in their current format. The Localism Act 2011 requires that health scrutiny is retained in a committee system form of governance.

## **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.

8.4 Full Council has approved a draft constitution which deletes all sections relating to overview and scrutiny except for provisions relating to health scrutiny. The new constitution will be effective from Annual Council 2014.

## **9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

9.1 Revised Overview & Scrutiny arrangements have been introduced in May 2009, May 2011 and May 2013.

9.2 When the revised scrutiny arrangements were implemented in May 2009, it was agreed that the effectiveness of the Overview & 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 six Overview & Scrutiny Committees, together with scope for the establishment of Panels and Task and Finish Groups.

9.5 The appendix provides a summary of the work undertaken by Barnet's Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Panels and Task and Finish Groups during 2013/14.

9.6 The Committee are requested to endorse the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2013/14 for reporting to Council.

## **10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 None.

<b>Cleared by Finance</b>	<b>JH/AD</b>
<b>Cleared by Legal</b>	<b>SW</b>