

Eden District Council

Council

12 May 2022

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report
2021-2022**

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| Report from: | Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee |
| Wards: | All Wards |
| OPEN PUBLIC ITEM | |

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report presents the work of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its Task and Finish Groups during the 2021-2022 Council year.

2 Recommendation

That the work of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its Task and Finish Groups during the 2021-2022 Council year be noted, and that the report be considered by Council at its annual meeting on 26 May 2022.

3 Report Details

- 3.1 This is the fourteenth annual report on Scrutiny in Eden District and describes the activities that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its Task and Finish Groups have been involved in during 2021-2022.
- 3.2 The report highlights Scrutiny work that has been undertaken during Scrutiny meetings such as receiving updates, gathering information and engaging in Scrutiny reviews.
- 3.3 The full Annual report can be found at Appendix 1 to this report.

4 Policy Framework

- 4.1 The Council has four corporate priorities which are:

- Sustainable
- Health, safe and secure;
- Connected; and
- Creative

- 4.2 This report meets the Sustainable corporate priority.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have the opportunity to comment on this report.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial and Resources

- 6.1.1 Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the Council's stated priorities, as set out in its Council Plan 2019-23 as agreed at Council on 7 November 2019.
- 6.1.2 There are no proposals in this report that would reduce or increase resources.

6.2 Legal

- 6.2.1 Article 6 of the Council's Constitution states that Scrutiny may report annually to full Council on their work.

6.3 Human Resources

- 6.3.1 There are no direct Human Resource implications associated with this report. The Council does not have a dedicated Scrutiny officer and Scrutiny work is carried out by the Member Services officers against other priorities in the Member Services team.

6.4 Statutory Considerations

| Consideration: | Details of any implications and proposed measures to address: |
|--|--|
| Equality and Diversity | None arising from this report. Equalities implications are considered as part of each Scrutiny review undertaken by the Council before making any recommendations. |
| Health, Social Environmental and Economic Impact | None arising from this report. |
| Crime and Disorder | None arising from this report. |
| Children and Safeguarding | None arising from this report. |

6.5 Risk Management

| Risk | Consequence | Controls Required |
|---|--|--|
| Reputational risk – Scrutiny has an important role in enhancing public transparency in democratic decision making, it is important that Scrutiny seeks to engage with the public. | Failure to carry out Scrutiny reviews and consult with the public may have a detrimental impact on the Council's reputation. | Scrutiny carries out an annual public consultation exercise to gain suggestions about possible scrutiny reviews and also seeks public opinions when undertaking reviews. |
| Legal – the Council has a legal duty to appoint at least one Scrutiny Committee. | Failure to appoint at least one Scrutiny Committee may result in legal challenge. | The Council has two Scrutiny Committees.. |

7 Other Options Considered

7.1 No other options have been considered.

8 Reasons for the Decision/Recommendation

8.1 In order to enable the Overview and Scrutiny function to make an annual report on its activities to Council.

Tracking Information

| Governance Check | Date Considered |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Deputy Chief Executive | 5 May 2022 |
| Monitoring Officer | 5 May 2022 |

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Scrutiny Annual Report 2021-2022

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