

Annual Scrutiny Report 2024/25

Committee considering report:	Scrutiny Commission
Date of Committee:	1 July 2025
Scrutiny Commission Chairman:	Councillor Carolyn Culver
Report Author:	Gordon Oliver
Forward Plan Ref:	C4705

1 Purpose of the Report

The Annual Scrutiny report for 2024/25 provides a summary of the work of the Scrutiny Commission, and Health Scrutiny Committee, as well as the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2 Recommendation(s)

For the Scrutiny Commission to agree the Annual Scrutiny Report for 2024/25 for presentation to Council.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	There are no financial implications associated with this report
Human Resource:	There are no HR implications associated with this report.
Legal:	<p>The report shows how the Council has discharged its legal obligations with regards to scrutiny, including those relating to health scrutiny and scrutiny of crime and disorder functions.</p> <p>Although there is no legal requirement to prepare an annual report, it is considered to be good practice to present the report to Council and publish it on the website in order to raise the profile of scrutiny locally.</p>
Risk Management:	None

Property:	None			
Policy:	The report demonstrates that scrutiny has been undertaken in accordance with national guidance.			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		
Environmental Impact:		X		
Health Impact:	X			The report demonstrates that the Council has undertaken scrutiny of matters that affect the health and wellbeing of local residents and has made recommendations for how services can be improved.
ICT Impact:		X		
Digital Services Impact:		X		

Council Strategy Priorities:	X			The report demonstrates that the Council has had regard to the Council Strategy and the priorities of the Executive when developing its work programme.
Core Business:	X			The report demonstrates that the Council has had regard to the Council Strategy and the priorities of the Executive when developing its work programme. This includes areas where under-performance has been identified.
Data Impact:		X		
Consultation and Engagement:	Cllr Carolyn Culver (Chairman of Scrutiny Commission) and Cllr Martha Vickers (Chairman of Health Scrutiny Committee) Vicky Phoenix, Principal Policy Officer (Health Scrutiny)			

4 Supporting Information

Background

4.1 The Annual Scrutiny report 2024/25 provides a summary of the work of the Scrutiny Commission, and Health Scrutiny Committee, as well as the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4.2 The report provides:

- an overview of scrutiny's role;
- details of how scrutiny is carried out in West Berkshire, and jointly with neighbouring local authorities;
- an insight into how the scrutiny work programme was developed; and
- a summary of scrutiny activity for each meeting.

4.3 Items of particular interest are described in further detail.

Proposals

4.4 It is proposed that the Scrutiny Commission agrees the Annual Scrutiny Report for 2024/25 for presentation to Council.

5 Other options considered

The Scrutiny Commission could choose not to agree the Annual Scrutiny Report, or request changes to be made prior to the report being referred to Council.

6 Conclusion

The Annual Report provides a summary of scrutiny activity over the previous municipal year. A copy of the report will also be made available on the Council's website.

7 Appendices

Appendix A – Scrutiny Annual Report 2024/25

Background Papers:

[Overview and scrutiny: statutory guidance for councils, combined authorities and combined county authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overview-and-scrutiny-statutory-guidance-for-councils-combined-authorities-and-combined-county-authorities)

[Local authority health scrutiny - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authority-health-scrutiny)

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: ☐ No: ☒

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval ☒

Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council ☐

Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position ☐

Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees, Task Groups within preceding six months ☐

Item is Urgent Key Decision ☐

Report is to note only ☐

Wards affected: N/A

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Appendix A