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# Annual Scrutiny Report 2024/25

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|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Committee considering report:</b> | Council                   |
| <b>Date of Committee:</b>            | 17 July 2025              |
| <b>Scrutiny Commission Chairman:</b> | Councillor Carolyn Culver |
| <b>Report Author:</b>                | Gordon Oliver             |

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## 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 Council to be informed of the Annual Scrutiny Report for 2024/25.

## 3 Implications and Impact Assessment

| Implication             | Commentary   |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Financial:</b>       | There are no financial implications associated with this report  |
| <b>Human Resource:</b>  | There are no HR implications associated with this report.  |
| <b>Legal:</b>           | <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> |
| <b>Risk Management:</b> | None   |
| <b>Property:</b>        | None   |

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|--|---|----------------|-----------------|--|
| <b>Policy:</b>   | The report demonstrates that scrutiny has been undertaken in accordance with national guidance. |                |                 |  |
|  | <b>Positive</b>   | <b>Neutral</b> | <b>Negative</b> | <b>Commentary</b>  |
| <b>Equalities Impact:</b>  |   |                |                 |  |
| <b>A</b> Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?               |   | X              |                 |  |
| <b>B</b> Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users? |   | X              |                 |  |
| <b>Environmental Impact:</b>   |   | X              |                 |  |
| <b>Health Impact:</b>  | 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. |
| <b>ICT Impact:</b>   |   | X              |                 |  |
| <b>Digital Services Impact:</b>  |   | X              |                 |  |

|                                     |  |   |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| <b>Council Strategy Priorities:</b> | 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.  |
| <b>Core Business:</b>               | 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. |
| <b>Data Impact:</b>                 |  | X |  |  |
| <b>Consultation and Engagement:</b> | <p>Councillor Carolyn Culver (Scrutiny Commission Chairman)</p> <p>Councillor Martha Vickers (Health Scrutiny Committee Chairman)</p> <p>Vicky Phoenix, Principal Policy Officer (Health Scrutiny)</p> |   |  |  |

## 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.
- 4.4 The report concludes with a summary of decisions that were called-in prior to implementation and the resolution in each case.
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## Proposals

4.5 For Council to be informed of the annual Scrutiny Report for 2024/25.

## 5 Other options considered

None – the report is for information only.

## 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 Commission Annual Report 2024/25

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### Background Papers:

[Overview and scrutiny: statutory guidance for councils, combined authorities and combined county authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)  
[Local authority health scrutiny - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

### Subject to Call-In:

Yes: ☐ No: ☒

|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council                              | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees, Task Groups within preceding six months | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Item is Urgent Key Decision   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Report is for information only  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**Wards affected:** N/A

### Officer details:

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