



# Doncaster Council

To The Chair & Members of Full Council

19<sup>th</sup> November, 2020

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Annual Report highlights the progress of Doncaster Council's Overview and Scrutiny function during the period April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, includes a summary of the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC), and its four Standing Panels and identifies priorities for Overview and Scrutiny for 2020/21.

### EXEMPT REPORT

2. The report is not exempt.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Full Council is asked to receive and note the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20.

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact on all of the council's key objectives through its role as a critical friend providing appropriate challenge, reviewing performance and developing policy. This is achieved through making recommendations, monitoring performance arrangements and reviewing issues outside the remit of the Council that have an impact on the residents of the borough. This Annual Report highlights the progress, impacts and achievements of the Overview and Scrutiny function during 2019/20 and identifies priorities for 2020/21. The accountability of Overview and Scrutiny is improved by reporting its activities to Council.

### BACKGROUND

5. Overview and Scrutiny provides an important role for non-Executive Councillors to provide checks and balances within the decision making process as it enables them to:-

- **Monitor the quality of service delivery** – by receiving performance and finance information and examining service outcomes.
  - **Review policy and contribute to its development** – by reviewing existing policies or investigating issues of concern and putting forward proposals for improvement.
  - **Consider issues of wider public concern** – by considering issues that impact on residents of the area but that may not necessarily be activities carried out by the Council, for example emergency services, the NHS and external companies and partners.
  - **Provide a critical friend and challenge role** – by providing Elected Members the opportunity to examine and question decisions taken by the Executive (Mayor and Cabinet) and to make recommendations.
6. During 2019/20, Overview and Scrutiny in Doncaster operated through an overarching Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC), and four Standing Panels, namely:
- Regeneration and Housing Panel;
  - Community and Environment Panel;
  - Health and Adult Social Care Panel; and
  - Children and Young People Panel.
7. They have considered a wide range of issues and this information is detailed in the attached report and also identifies priorities for 2020/21. In accordance with the Constitution this is required to be reported annually to Full Council.

### **OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

8. There are no alternative options; the Constitution requires Overview and Scrutiny to provide an Annual Report to Full Council.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION**

9. The Annual Report enhances the accountability of Overview and Scrutiny by allowing Council to review the work undertaken during the previous year. The Council's Constitution requires OSMC to take an annual report to Full Council.

### **IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES**

10. The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report will contribute to raising the profile of an effective Overview and Scrutiny function, which will, in turn contribute to achieving greater democratic renewal and increasing involvement in the decision-making process. It is essential that Overview and Scrutiny regularly review the extent to which its work has impacted on the delivery of services. In this way Overview and Scrutiny has the potential to impact on all of the Council's key priorities.

	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Implications</b>
	<p><b>Doncaster Working:</b> Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better access to good fulfilling work</li> <li>• Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish</li> <li>• Inward Investment</li> </ul>	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact upon all of the Council's key objectives by holding decision makers to account, reviewing performance and policy development through robust recommendations, monitoring performance of the Council and external partners, services and reviewing issues outside the remit of the Council that have an impact on the residents of the Borough.</p>
	<p><b>Doncaster Living:</b> Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster</li> <li>• More people can live in a good quality, affordable home</li> <li>• Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport</li> <li>• Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean</li> <li>• Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Doncaster Learning:</b> Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school</li> <li>• Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better</li> <li>• Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work</li> </ul>	

	<p><b>Doncaster Caring:</b> Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have the best start in life</li> <li>• Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust</li> <li>• Older people can live well and independently in their own homes</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Connected Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modern, efficient and flexible workforce</li> <li>• Modern, accessible customer interactions</li> <li>• Operating within our resources and delivering value for money</li> <li>• A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents</li> <li>• Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths</li> <li>• Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance</li> </ul>	

## **RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

11. There are no risks and assumptions relevant to this report.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (NC 9/11/20)**

12. Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 23 (a) states that OSMC will take and Annual Report to the Full Council and the Executive, giving such details of their work and proposed work as the Committee believes would assist the Full Council or the Executive.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (PH 30/10/20)**

13. There are no specific financial implications associated with this report.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES (KM 30/10/2020)**

14. There are no specific HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

## **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS (AM 30/10/20)**

15. There are no specific technology implications in relation to this report.

## **HEALTH IMPLICATIONS (RS Date 30/10/2020)**

16. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee can perform a key role in the council's adoption of a health in all policies approach. All areas of the Overview and Scrutiny work plan can impact on health and it is important that the health implications of each item are considered separately given that 20% of what contributes to health is from clinical care, 30% from healthy behaviours, 40% from socio-economic factors and 10% from the built environment. This annual report demonstrates how OSMC has contributed to improving health and reducing health inequalities.

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS (CR 06/10/20)**

17. This report is a factual account of some of the key work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny during 2019/20. There are no significant equality implications associated with this report. Within its programme of work Overview and Scrutiny gives due consideration to the extent to which the Council has complied with its public equality duty and given due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different communities.

## **CONSULTATION**

18. Overview and Scrutiny is in regular consultation with stakeholders (including Members, the public, officers and external bodies and partner organisations such as the NHS, in respect of its activities.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

19. Agendas and minutes of Overview and Scrutiny meetings 2019/20 have been used to assist the Annual Report.

## **REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS**

Christine Rothwell  
Senior Governance Officer  
01302 735682  
christine.rothwell@doncaster.gov.uk

Caroline Martin  
Senior Governance Officer  
01302 734941  
caroline.martin@doncaster.gov.uk

Andrew Sercombe,  
Governance Manager

01302 734354,  
andrew.sercombe@doncaster.gov.uk

**Scott Fawcus**  
**Assistant Director Legal & Democratic Services**