

To The Chair & Members of Full Council

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Annual Report highlights the progress of Doncaster Council's Overview and Scrutiny function during 2014/15, 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 2015/16.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This report is not exempt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Members are asked to receive and consider the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/2015.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact upon all of the council's key objectives through its role as a critical friend and providing appropriate challenge, reviewing performance and developing policy. This is achieved through making robust recommendations, monitoring performance of council and external partner's services 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 2014/15 and the accountability of Overview and Scrutiny is improved by allowing Council to question and comment on this work during the previous year.

BACKGROUND

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

- **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 related to activities carried out by the Council, for example emergency services, the NHS and external companies and partners.
6. During 2014/15, Overview and Scrutiny in Doncaster operated through an overarching Management Committee; the 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, as is required to be reported annually to Full Council.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8. 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 question and comment on the work undertaken during the previous year. The Council's Constitution requires OSMC to take an annual report to Full Council and the Executive.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY PRIORITIES

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 reviews the extent to which its work has impacted on the improved delivery of services as the work of Overview and Scrutiny has the potential to impact on all of the Council's key priorities.

	Priority	Implications
1.	<p>We will support a strong economy where businesses can locate, grow and employ local people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact upon all of the council's key objectives by providing a role as a critical friend and challenging decision makers, reviewing performance and developing policy through robust recommendations, monitoring performance of 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>
2.	<p>We will help people to live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
3.	<p>We will make Doncaster a better place to live, with cleaner, more sustainable communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
4.	<p>We will support all families to thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	
5.	<p>We will deliver modern value for money services.</p>	
6.	<p>We will provide strong leadership and governance, working in partnership.</p>	

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

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

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

12. Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 23 (a) states that OSMC will take an 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

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

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

14. This report is a factual account of some of the key work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny during 2014/15. 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

15. 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.
16. Members of OSMC and the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Standing Panels have contributed to the contents of the Annual Report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

17. Agendas and minutes of Overview and Scrutiny meetings 2014/15 have been used to assist the Annual Report.

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