

Report to: **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **16 November 2021**

Title: **Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report**

Wards Affected: **All Wards**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken:
(e.g. referral on of recommendation or implementation of substantive decision) **The next Council meeting on 30 November 2021**

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RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee RECOMMEND to the Council that the Annual Report for 2020/21 (as outlined at Appendix A) be approved.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 It is a constitutional requirement for the Overview and Scrutiny function to report annually to full Council on its workings and make evidence based recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods (if appropriate);
- 1.2 As a consequence, the draft Annual Report arising from the 2020/21 Municipal Year is presented at Appendix A.

2. Background

- 2.1 The last financial year has been one of significant change for the Council and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has played a key role during this year in taking stock of the key issues, successes and challenges that have been met by the Council and how these have been addressed.

3. Options available and consideration of risk

- 3.1 Not only is it a constitutional requirement for the Overview and Scrutiny function to produce an Annual Report, but it is also recognised as being good practice to do so.
- 3.2 Whilst an alternative to the report could be a verbal report from the Chairman of the Committee, it is considered more appropriate to have a formal written document accessible to the public and published on the Council website.

4. Proposed Way Forward

- 4.1 It is proposed that the contents of the Report be approved.
- 4.2 Members' views on the presentation and content of the report would be helpful to inform and shape future Annual Reports.

5. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	The production of an Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report is a requirement of the Council Constitution.
Financial implications to include reference to Value for Money	N	There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.
Risk	N	There are no risk implications directly arising from this report.
Supporting Corporate Strategy	Y	The Annual Report has been set out in accordance with each of the themes that underpin the Council's Corporate Strategy: 'A Plan for West Devon'.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity	N	There are no equality and diversity implications directly arising from this report.
Safeguarding	N	There are no safeguarding implications directly arising from this report.
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder	N	There are no community safety or crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	N	There are no health, safety or wellbeing implications directly arising from this report.
Other implications	Y	The publication of this Annual Report may help understanding and raise the profile of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function.

Supporting Information

Appendices:

A: The Draft Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report

Background Papers:

- The Council Constitution; and
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee agendas and minutes arising from the 2020/21 Municipal Year.