

NAME OF COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	26 September 2013
REPORT TITLE	Overview and Scrutiny – Annual Report
Report of	Member Services Manager
WARDS AFFECTED	All

Summary of report: To report to Members on the workings of Overview and Scrutiny during the 2012/13 Municipal Year.

Financial implications: There are no financial implications to this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Council RESOLVES to note the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny during 2012/13 Municipal Year and has the opportunity to comment on the current work programmes of the three Scrutiny Panels.

Officer contact: Kathryn Trant, Member Services Manager 01803 861185
kathryn.trant@southhams.gov.uk

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At the Annual Council meeting of 19 May 2011, a report was presented of the Constitution Working Group which made a number of recommendations in relation to revised Terms of Reference for the Overview and Scrutiny function (minute 08/11 refers). Part 2, Article 5 and Part 3 of the Constitution, set out the Terms of Reference, the general role and the specific functions of the Panels.
- 1.2 Council Procedure Rule 6.5 states that –
- Each Scrutiny Panel must report annually to full Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

1.3 Set out at Appendix A is an outline of the issues considered by each of the Scrutiny Panels during the 2012/13 Municipal Year.

2. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Summary of work undertaken 2012/13

2.1 The Community Life and Housing Scrutiny Panel considered a large number of items at its formal meetings throughout the year and gave particular focus to the New Homes Bonus, the implications on the Council of the Government's new welfare reforms and the impact on the service provided to communities by the cuts to Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service.

2.2 The public forum facility provided the opportunity for some members of the Public to raise concerns they had about the SPD on Masterplans and Development Briefs and the Panel called in the Executive's decision on this item and recommended a review be undertaken.

2.3 By way of Task and Finish Groups, the Panel initiated and prioritised a number of reviews to consider:

- The development of the Local Council Tax Scheme
- How Councils could support Town and Parish Councils to take on Devolved Services
- Identifying sites for Gypsies and Travellers
- Developing processes to support the Council's engagement with young people

2.4 The Economy and Environment Scrutiny Panel undertook a number of key reviews including:

- A major review on the complex topic of the future options for the Recycling and Waste Service to improve performance
- Developing Interim Guidance for Solar PV and Wind Turbine applications
- Considering how the Council could support local towns to create vibrant and sustainable town centres and increase local spend (which initiated the very successful 'Revitalising Our High Streets' event)
- Consideration of the status of the Council's biodiversity duty and the risks of non-compliance of high priority statutory requirements

2.5 In terms of formal items, the Panel gave specific focus to the significant changes that were taking place in marine conservation as a result of new legislation and the implications of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The Panel also maintained a watching brief throughout the year on the progress of the implementation of Dog Control Orders.

2.6 The public forum facility provided the opportunity for some members of the public to comment on the development of the interim guidance on Solar PV and Wind Turbine applications.

- 2.7 Both the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Panel and the Community Life and Housing Scrutiny Panel have reviewed the Action Plans that support the delivery of the Council's Corporate Priorities. Both Panels have highlighted the need for more streamlining to ensure the action plans remain realistic and achievable and the need for the inclusion of SMART targets to enable the measuring of outcomes.
- 2.8 The Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Panel, in addition to the regular monitoring of Performance Indicators and Review of the Service Level Agreements of the CAB and CVS, has been involved in the setting up and working of new Standards procedures to deal with complaints alleging breaches of the Member Code of Conduct. A report on General Dispensations and Revised Procedures to deal with complaints are two examples of the additional work that this Panel has undertaken.
- 2.9 The Panel also specifically requested a report on the use of agency staff and has requested that an annual update on this be provided.

3. FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Work Programme 2013/14

- 3.1 Each Panel has already held its first two meetings for 2013/14 and has established a work programme for the year 2013/14, and these can be found at Appendix B to this report. Whilst the programmes form the basis of their work, this list is not exhaustive as each Panel has the ability to absorb further agenda items as and when they arise.
- 3.2 The Programming Panel (which comprises of the Chairman or Vice Chairman of each Panel, the Vice Chairman of Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Panel and the Chairman of Executive) meet on occasion to discuss the workloads of the four bodies to ensure efficiency of the overview and scrutiny process.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Statutory Powers – Local Government Act 2000

5. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 The risk management implications are shown at the end of this report in the strategic risks template.

Corporate priorities engaged:	All
Statutory powers:	Local Government Act 2000
Considerations of equality and human rights:	Not affected by this report

Biodiversity considerations:	Not affected by this report
Sustainability considerations:	Not affected by this report
Crime and disorder implications:	Not affected by this report
Background papers:	Council papers for 19 May 2011; 21 July 2011, 9 February 2012, Council Constitution
Appendices attached:	Appendix A: Issues considered by Overview and Scrutiny 2012/13 Appendix B: Items for future consideration

STRATEGIC RISKS TEMPLATE

No	Risk Title	Risk/Opportunity Description	Inherent risk status				Mitigating & Management actions	Ownership
			Impact of negative outcome	Chance of negative outcome	Risk score and direction of travel			
1	Reputation	- It is a constitutional requirement to provide an annual report on the Overview and Scrutiny function.	1	1	1	↔	Regular monitoring can ensure that the function is providing outcomes and adding value to the Council.	Member Services Manager

Direction of travel symbols ↓ ↑ ↔