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# Scrutiny Annual Report 2023-24

Decision to be taken by:  
Full Council

Decision to be taken on/Date of meeting:  
Full Council – 5 September 2024  
Overview Select Committee – 31 July 2024

Lead Director:  
Kamal Adatia  
City Barrister and Head of Standards

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## **Useful information**

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Georgia Humby, Senior Governance Officer
- Author contact details: Georgia.Humby@leicester.gov.uk
- Report version number: 1

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1. This report provides a summary of the Scrutiny Annual Report 2023-24.
- 1.2. The Chair of the Overview Select Committee has developed a report that details the activity performed by the City Council's scrutiny bodies during 2023/24. The report also references ongoing and proposed scrutiny activity.

### **2. Recommended actions/decision**

- 2.1 Full Council is asked to note the report and endorse the work of scrutiny during 2023-24.
- 2.2 The Overview Select Committee is asked to review the report and provide any comments/recommendations ahead of consideration by Full Council.

### **3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement**

- 3.1 The report details a summary of work and outcomes from scrutiny across OSC and the six scrutiny commissions during 2023-24.
- 3.2 Although it is a decision of Full Council to approve the scrutiny annual report, given that it covers the work and operation of scrutiny, it is appropriate for it to be subject to consideration by the Overview Select Commission ahead of its submission to Full Council.

### **4. Background and options with supporting evidence**

- 4.1 The main report begins with an introduction by Councillor Ted Cassidy, Chair of the Overview and Select Committee.
- 4.2 It then provides general detail of the scrutiny structure, format and operation during the previous year.
- 4.3 The report includes a separate section for each of the seven scrutiny bodies during 2023-24, setting out the key achievements and highlights for each committee/commission and also refers to some of the ongoing and proposed work.
- 4.4 The report is designed to serve as a summary of activity. Full detail of the activity of each scrutiny body can be found via <https://bit.ly/3P7AOEh>

## **5. Detailed report**

The full 'Scrutiny Annual Report 2023-2024' is included on the subsequent pages.

## **6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications**

### 6.1 Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Kirsty Cowell, Head of Finance

### 6.2 Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. Overview Select Committees are required by virtue of section 9F Local Government Act 2000. The Council's Terms of Reference for OSC includes a requirement to produce an Annual Report to Council

Kamal Adataia, City Barrister & Head of Standards)

### 6.3 Equalities implications

Our Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), requires us to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic as defined by the Equality Act 2010 (sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, disability, race, religion or belief, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, age) and those who do not.

In keeping with our PSED, we are required to pay due regard to any negative impacts on people with protected characteristics arising from our decisions (and this would include decisions on how we deliver our services) and put in place mitigating actions to reduce or remove those negative impacts.

Overview and Scrutiny (Scrutiny) plays an important part in the democratic decision making process. This annual report provides a summary of the work undertaken and outcomes achieved by Leicester City Council's Scrutiny Bodies during the 2023-24 municipal year. It also provides a general overview of how scrutiny operates. Scrutiny committees hold the Executive to account for the decisions it has taken or intends to take, and acts as a critical friend, helping to ensure the Council delivers its services efficiently and effectively.

Scrutiny is an essential part of ensuring that local government remains transparent, accountable, and open— resulting in improved public policies, services and outcomes for people from across all protected characteristics.

Equalities Officer, Surinder Singh, Ext 37 4148

### 6.4 Climate Emergency implications

As set out in the Scrutiny Annual Report, work around the delivery of the council's response to the climate emergency and ambition to reach net zero carbon emissions is scrutinised by the Economic Development, Transport and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Commission. As detailed in the report, in 2023/24 this included the council's Climate Ready Leicester Plan 2023-28, which sets out our planned action across this area. However, it should be noted

that there may be climate implications associated with reports taken to all scrutiny committees, and members are provided with climate emergency implications on all reports for this reason.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 2284

6.5 Other implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

N/A

**7. Background information and other papers:**

None

**8. Summary of appendices:**

Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24

**9. Is this a private report (If so, please indicate the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?**

No

**10. Is this a “key decision”? If so, why?**

No