

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL	<b>Scrutiny Board</b> 22 March 2022
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<b>Report title</b>	Annual Scrutiny Review 2020-2021	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Paula Brookfield Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities and Equalities	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards	
<b>Accountable Director</b>	David Pattison, Chief Monitoring Officer	
<b>Originating service</b>	Governance	
<b>Accountable employee(s)</b>	Julia Cleary	Scrutiny and Systems Manager
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<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Regeneration Leadership Team	7 December 2021
	City Housing and Environment Leadership Team	7 December 2021
	Public Health Leadership Team	8 December 2021
	Children's and Education Joint Leadership Team	9 December 2021
	Governance Leadership Team	9 December 2021
	Adult Social Care Leadership Team	9 December 2021
	Cabinet Member Briefing Governance And Equalities	15 December 2021
	Strategic Executive Board	16 December 2021
	Leader Briefing	20 December 2021

**Recommendation for decision:**

Scrutiny Board is recommended to:

1. Endorse the Annual Scrutiny Review 2020-2021
2. Recommend the Annual Scrutiny Review 2020-2021 be received at Full Council on 6 April 2022.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 2.1 The Annual Review highlights some of the key achievements of the Scrutiny function over the 2020-2021 municipal year including details of the progress and outcomes from a selection of Panel meetings.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.2 Main areas for consideration this year included:

- Focus on Digital – Connected City Theme
- Adding value through the pandemic – Partnership working in Health scrutiny
- Place and Community – Critical friend challenge and feedback
- Protecting out most vulnerable children and young people – cross panel working, and member led enquiry
- Relighting our City – Regeneration and holding the Executive to account
- Challenges and future direction for scrutiny

## **3.0 Scrutiny**

- 3.1 Scrutiny is a vital component of good governance and the work carried out by Councillors through scrutiny this year has been invaluable in influencing policy. This has been through representing the concerns and interests of the public and by providing challenge to the Cabinet. Scrutiny also undertakes reviews of partners working with the Council through detailed and critical analysis of their annual plans and reports. The Board and all the Panels undertook thorough scrutiny of the budget savings proposals.
- 3.2 Wolverhampton operates a model similar to that used by most unitary councils across England. The Scrutiny Board provides the overall co-ordination of the work programme with the six Panels focussing on key areas of priority.

## **5.0 Financial implications**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report as Councillors are requested to endorse the Annual Scrutiny Review 2020-2021 and recommend that it be received by Full Council on 6 April 2022. Any financial implications emerging as work is undertaken in pursuit of Scrutiny recommendations will continue to be incorporated in reports to the Scrutiny Board and Panels. Ongoing scrutiny function developments will be implemented utilising current budgeted Scrutiny Team resources. [GE/14032022/K]

## **6.0 Legal implications**

- 6.1 This report provides an overview of the scrutiny which has taken place during 2020-2021 and future plans for the on-going improvement and development of the service. For legal implications, specific to each project please refer to the reports taken to Scrutiny Board and Panels during the year. [AS/14032022/A]

## **7.0 Equalities implications**

- 7.1 In scrutinising issues, the members of the Board, Panel or group are required to consider the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different groups of people in order to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.
- 7.2 For equalities implications relating to each issue considered, please refer to the reports taken to Scrutiny Board and panels during the year.

## **8.0 Environmental implications**

- 8.1 There are no environmental implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **9.0 Human resources implications**

- 9.1 There are no human resources implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **10.0 Corporate landlord implications**

- 10.1 There are no corporate landlord implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **11.0 Health and Wellbeing Implications**

- 11.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Any health and wellbeing implications associated with scrutiny processes through the year are or will be incorporated in reports taken to the Scrutiny Board and Panels. []

## **12.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 12.1 Copies of all agendas and minutes for scrutiny panel meetings can be found [here](#).