



OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL

SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT (MAY 2019 – NOVEMBER 2020)

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

For Council to note the activity of the four Select Committees and the improvements in practice realised during the period shown in the accompanying report (Annex A).

BACKGROUND:

1. The Council's overview and scrutiny function was reorganised in May 2019 following a decision taken at this body's Annual General Meeting. The Council set up four Select Committees, an informal Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen's Group to undertake scrutiny and create two Vice-Chairmen posts for each Select Committee to increase capacity.
2. A greater emphasis was placed on involving scrutiny in decision making early and on the use of a task & finish methodology, where appropriate, to undertake more in-depth scrutiny. The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government also published its *Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities* in May 2019 which informed local practice at Surrey County Council as well.
3. Owing to the adoption of this new scrutiny model and the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on committee meetings, Select Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen recommended that the annual report consider a slightly longer time period than the usual 12 months hence the May to November timeframe reported this year.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

For Council to note the contents of the Scrutiny Annual Report.

Lead/Contact Officers: Ross Pike, Scrutiny Business Manager, Democratic Services

Annexes:

Annex A - Scrutiny Annual Report: May 2019 – November 2020

Sources/background papers:

Select Committee and Cabinet agenda and minutes for the period June 2019 to November 2020

Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government also published its *Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities*, (May 2019) available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/800048/Statutory_Guidance_on_Overview_and_Scrutiny_in_Local_and_Combined_Authorities.pdf
