

Report to Council

29 October 2024

Subject:	Scrutiny Annual Report 2023-2024
Director:	Mike Jones Assistant Director -Legal and Assurance and Monitoring Officer
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1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Council receives the Scrutiny Annual Report 2023–2024 as set out in the Appendix.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 In accordance with Article 6.03 (d) of the Council’s Constitution, Scrutiny is required to report annually to the Council on its work.

2 How does this deliver objectives of the Council Plan?

Growing Up in Sandwell	Effective scrutiny and governance arrangements actively supports the delivery of all objectives and outcomes of the Council Plan.
Living in Sandwell	
Thriving Economy in Sandwell	
Healthy in Sandwell	
One Council One Team	

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The attached annual report outlines work undertaken by Sandwell Council's scrutiny function in 2023-2024 and highlights a number of activities and outcomes that contributed towards the objectives of the Council Plan.
- 4.2 Scrutiny Boards delivered the work programme using a variety of methodologies outlined in the report. Evidence was provided by a range of witnesses from the Council and partner organisations, and there was engagement with service users and providers.

5 Implications

Resources:	There are no strategic resource implication arising directly from this report. Scrutiny boards are obliged to take into consideration the financial implications of the matters they consider.
Legal and Governance:	<p>Scrutiny boards discharge the functions conferred by section 12 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the subsequent legislation.</p> <p>The report has been produced in accordance with Article 6.03 (d) of the Council's Constitution, which states that the Scrutiny function will report annually to the first meeting of the Council in the Municipal Year after the Annual Meeting.</p>
Risk:	There are no risk implications arising from this report.
Equality:	Scrutiny boards recognise the importance of the equality, diversity and inclusion agenda and will support the council to embed a positive EDI agenda, which includes supporting the role and work of the Equalities Commission.
Health and Wellbeing:	Scrutiny specifically focuses on health and wellbeing and will continue to examine this area to ensure the council meets its performance targets whilst examining how continuous improvement and innovative approaches can be progressed.
Social Value:	Scrutiny will play a significant role in providing assurance to the Council, members, partners, stakeholders and residents that the council remained committed to delivering and promoting social value where possible.

Climate Change:	The proposals will not have a detrimental impact on climate change. However, Scrutiny will play an important role to ensure the Council drives and delivers upon its climate change objectives and targets.
Corporate Parenting:	Scrutiny plays an important role in ensuring that vulnerable children and young people have the right support and access to opportunities.

6 Appendices

Scrutiny Annual Report 2023-2024

7. Background Papers

None