

**REPORT TO:** SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 13 JULY 2021

**TITLE:** ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2020/21

**LEAD OFFICER:** SIMON HILL, HEAD OF GOVERNANCE  
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**RECOMMENDED that:**

**A** It is recommended to Full Council that it notes the report.

**BACKGROUND**

1. Following the review of the Council's overview and scrutiny functions the Scrutiny Committee's terms of reference were amended to require Full Council to receive an annual report from the Committee detailing the work it had carried out in the previous year.

**ISSUES/PROPOSALS**

2. Despite the pandemic, the Committee was able to carry out two substantial reviews. The first of which was the review of the Council House Building Programme, the recommendations of which were approved by Cabinet in March. These recommendations were wide ranging and include the adoption of the Housing Strategy which is currently being considered by the Cabinet Policy Development Working Group.
3. The Committee has also carried out a review into accommodation for adults with a moderate/severe learning disability. The final report for this is being considered at this Committee meeting
4. The Committee was also able to finalise its review of the Council's overview and scrutiny functions and has carried out a question and answer session with Essex Police about a number of issues. This session highlighted the need to review domestic abuse and sexual harassment as part of the work plan for 2021/22.
5. The Call In Sub Committee also considered a call in for the Development of Options for a Harlow Metro System on 7 January 2021. The Sub Committee resolved that the decision would be released for implementation.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Environment and Planning (Includes Sustainability)**

None specific.

**Author: Andrew Bramidge, Head of Environment and Planning**

### **Finance (Includes ICT, and Property and Facilities)**

None specific.

**Author: Simon Freeman, Head of Finance and Property and Deputy to the Chief Executive**

### **Housing**

None specific.

**Author: Andrew Murray, Head of Housing**

### **Community Wellbeing**

None specific.

**Author: Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing**

### **Governance (Includes HR)**

As contained in the report.

**Author: Simon Hill, Head of Governance**

## **Appendices**

None.

## **Background Papers**

None.

## **Glossary of terms/abbreviations used**

None.