

Harborough District Council



Report to Council Meeting of 18 September 2023

Title:	Update from the following Committees since the last Council meeting in July: Audit and Standards (26 July 2023) Planning Committee (12 September 2023) Scrutiny Commission (task and finish update)
Status:	Public
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Lead Councillor:	Chairman of the Constitutional Review Committee, Cllr Knowles
Appendices:	n/a

Summary

- i. This report summarises the activities of the various Committee meetings held since the last meeting of Council.

Recommendations

1. That Council note the report.

Reasons for Recommendations

- ii. The Council Procedure Rules contained within the Council's constitution provide that Council will, at an ordinary meeting of the Council, receive a report from each committee and receive questions and answers on that report.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report updates Council on the activities of committees which have met since the last meeting of Council, namely the Audit and Standards Committee and the Planning Committee. It also provides an update on the activity of the Scrutiny Commission task and finish group.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Council's constitution provides at Council Procedure Rule 2 that meetings of Council will "*receive reports from the Council's Committees and receive questions and answers on those reports*".

3. Details

- 3.1. Members will recall that Annual Council resolved to maintain existing Committees. At the last meeting of Council, members were provided with individual update reports for each committee. Given the volume of business of some committees, some of the reports were repetitive and lacked information. Feedback from members indicated that whilst it was useful to have reports from committees, there was no need to report no activity, and no need to include "alternative options" in those reports given the reports were received for information only.
- 3.2. Since the last meeting of Council, there has been limited democratic activity as a consequence of the summer recess. Accordingly, this report comprises only the update from the Audit and Standards Committee, being the only committee to have met in the intervening period. The Planning Committee is scheduled to meet between publication of the agenda for this meeting and the date of the meeting, therefore a verbal update on Planning Committee activity will be provided by the Chair of the Planning Committee at the Council meeting.
- 3.3. The Audit and Standards Committee met on 26 July 2023 and appointed Cllr Gair as the chairman of the committee and Cllr Nunn as the vice-chair. It considered the following:
 - 3.3.1. Internal Auditor Annual Report 22/23;
 - 3.3.2. Internal Audit Progress and Performance Update Report 23/24;
 - 3.3.3. External Audit Annual Report 21/22,
 - 3.3.4. Annual Governance Statement and Annual Finance Report 21/22.and agreed the recommendations set out in the report.
- 3.4. The Planning Committee is scheduled to meet on 12 September 2023 to consider ten applications. A verbal update on the outcome for each application will be provided at the meeting of Council.
- 3.5. In addition to the above, the Scrutiny Review Task and Finish Group met to consider what, if any, recommendations could be made to Council as to the future arrangements to deliver the overview and scrutiny function for Harborough District Council. The group discussed possible options and agreed that information on options would be circulated to all members in advance of the scrutiny training scheduled to take place with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny on 14 September 2023. The group expects all members to consider this information and discuss it within their political groups. The Task and Finish Group will then meet to finalise the proposals for the overview and scrutiny function.

4. Implications of Decisions

Corporate Priorities

- 4.1. The Council is committed to delivering its corporate priorities as set out in its corporate plan. Providing the information contained within this report gives assurance that the Council continues to work to deliver these priorities.

Consultation

- 4.2. This report reflects the activity of the committees, which all members were entitled to attend. No further consultation is required.

Financial

- 4.3. This report provides an update on the work of the committees and has no financial consequences for the budget set by the Council.

Legal

- 4.4. This report provides an update on the work of the committees and ensures the committees comply with the requirement to report their activity to Council as set out in the Council Procedure Rules.

Environment Implications

- 4.5. This update report does not impact upon the Council's commitment to achieving net zero carbon.

Risk Management

- 4.6. The contents of this report do not pose any risk implications for the Council as it provides and update on the work of a committee.

Equalities Impact

- 4.7. The Council has a statutory duty to consider and demonstrate equalities impact in all of its activities. However, the report does not directly impact upon the public sector equality duty given it reports the activities of a committee.

Data Protection

- 4.8. This report contains no private information.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1. Council is invited to note the democratic activity since the last meeting of Council as set out in this report.

6. Background papers

- 6.1. None

