



Report of the Chief Officer, Democratic and Central Services

Council

Date: 11th July 2012

Subject: Scrutiny at Leeds City Council – Annual Report 2011/12

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. Article 6 of the Council's Constitution requires that the Council's Scrutiny Officer reports to Council annually about how the authority has carried out its overview and scrutiny functions. The 2011/12 annual report is appended.

Recommendation

2. Council is asked to receive and note the annual report.

1.0 Purpose of this report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Council the scrutiny annual report for 2011/12.

2.0 Background information

2.1 Article 6 of the Council's Constitution requires that the Council's Scrutiny Officer reports to Council annually about how the authority has carried out its overview and scrutiny functions.

3.0 Main issues

3.1 The annual report, as well as celebrating Scrutiny's achievements, reflects on the experience of past scrutiny activity and the progress made against last year's key action areas for development. It is vital that we continue to identify steps to improve the way that Scrutiny operates in Leeds. To this end, a number of actions for improvement have been identified and are set out within the annual report.

4.0 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 The scrutiny annual report for 2011/12 was produced by the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development in consultation with the Chief Officer for Democratic and Central Services; the relevant Scrutiny Chairs and the Executive Board Member for Neighbourhoods, Planning and Support Services.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration.

4.2.1 The annual report for 2011/12 acknowledges that the Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules now state that, where appropriate, all terms of reference for work undertaken by Scrutiny Boards will include 'to review how and to what effect consideration has been given to the impact of a service or policy on all equality areas, as set out in the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme'.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The terms of reference of the Scrutiny Boards promote a more strategic and outward looking Scrutiny function that focuses on the City Priorities. This is reflected within the annual report. In moving forward, Council has also asked Scrutiny to act as a 'critical friend' to their respective Partnerships and undertake an assessment of how well the Partnerships are working, with particular focus on how well they have increased the pace of change and also more generally how they are tackling poverty and addressing inequality within Leeds.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 This report has no specific resource implications.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 This report has no specific legal implications.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no risk management implications relevant to this report.

5.0 Conclusions

5.1 Article 6 of the Council's Constitution requires that the Council's Scrutiny Officer reports to Council annually about how the authority has carried out its overview and scrutiny functions. The 2011/12 annual report, as well as celebrating Scrutiny's achievements, reflects on the experience of past scrutiny activity and the progress made against last year's key action areas for development. This report is appended for Council's information.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Council is asked to receive and note the annual report.

7.0 Background papers¹

- Council Constitution
- City Priority Plan 2011 – 2015

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.