

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**18 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**REPORT OF EXECUTIVE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**CABINET INFORMATION ITEM**

**Leader of the Council – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Bob Cook**

**SBC OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – END-OF-TERM REPORT 2019-2023**

**SUMMARY**

A Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Overview and Scrutiny – End-of-Term Report has been produced for the recently concluded four-year Council term (covering the period 2019-2023) and is attached for Cabinet’s information.

**RECOMMENDED THAT THE REPORT BE NOTED**

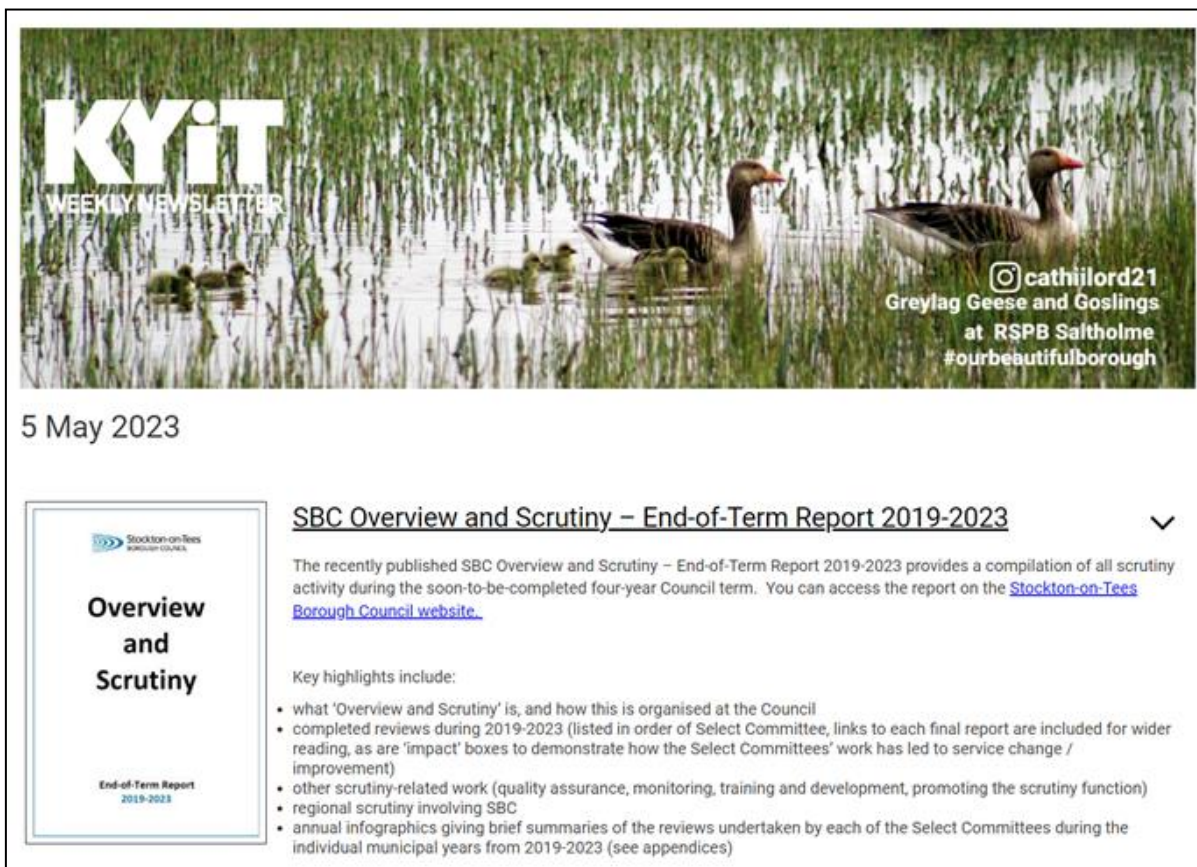
The latest statutory overview and scrutiny guidance highlights the need to maintain a strong organisational culture, including regular engagement between the executive and scrutiny, and communication of scrutiny’s role and purpose to the wider Local Authority. It is therefore recommended that the contents of this report be noted.

**DETAIL**

1. An Overview and Scrutiny – End-of-Term Report was produced for the period 2019-2023 and is attached at **Appendix 1**. The report highlights the work of the Council’s scrutiny function during the last four years and contains infographics which summarise each year’s work programme in detail (these infographics act as each year’s Annual Report). Importantly, it also includes examples of how the outcomes from Select Committee reviews have impacted upon future service provision.
2. The End-of-Term Report was considered by each Select Committee prior to the recent Local Government Elections, as well as the Council’s Executive Scrutiny Committee.
3. It is important to note that review recommendations were made at a certain point in time, and naturally as the report covers a four-year period, a number of the issues covered have since developed further.
4. Aside from those relating to recently completed reviews, the majority of scrutiny recommendations from this period have been subject to monitoring by Select Committees and have been signed-off as complete.
5. Production of the End-of-Term Report and consideration by Cabinet and Council (20 September 2023) supports the aims of the statutory guidance. Consideration of the report by Council also fulfils the requirements of the SBC Constitution.

## CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

6. As previously noted, all five of the Council's Select Committees and the Executive Scrutiny Committee have considered the Overview and Scrutiny – End-of-Term Report 2019-2023 during March 2023. The report was also circulated to all SBC staff for information via the Keeping You in Touch (KYiT) weekly newsletter on 5 May 2023.



**KYiT**  
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

5 May 2023

**Overview and Scrutiny**  
End-of-Term Report  
2019-2023

**SBC Overview and Scrutiny – End-of-Term Report 2019-2023**

The recently published SBC Overview and Scrutiny – End-of-Term Report 2019-2023 provides a compilation of all scrutiny activity during the soon-to-be-completed four-year Council term. You can access the report on the [Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council website](#).

Key highlights include:

- what 'Overview and Scrutiny' is, and how this is organised at the Council
- completed reviews during 2019-2023 (listed in order of Select Committee, links to each final report are included for wider reading, as are 'impact' boxes to demonstrate how the Select Committees' work has led to service change / improvement)
- other scrutiny-related work (quality assurance, monitoring, training and development, promoting the scrutiny function)
- regional scrutiny involving SBC
- annual infographics giving brief summaries of the reviews undertaken by each of the Select Committees during the individual municipal years from 2019-2023 (see appendices)

7. In addition, the report has been shared with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) as an example of local overview and scrutiny activity. CfGS has recently contacted the Scrutiny Team with a view to using this as a case study for other Local Authorities.

## NEXT STEPS

8. The Overview and Scrutiny – End-of-Term Report 2019-2023 will be submitted for consideration at the Council meeting in September 2023.

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