

Merton Council

Sustainable Communities

Overview and Scrutiny

Panel



Date: 16 September 2014
Time: 7.15 pm
Venue: Committee rooms D & E - Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX

AGENDA

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**This is a public meeting – members of the public are very welcome to attend.
The meeting room will be open to members of the public from 7.00 p.m.**

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Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel Membership

Councillors:

Russell Makin (Chair)
Stan Anderson
Ross Garrod
Janice Howard
Abigail Jones
John Sargeant
Imran Uddin
David Dean

Substitute Members:

Tobin Byers
David Chung
Edward Foley
Daniel Holden
Abdul Latif

Note on declarations of interest

Members are advised to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared they should withdraw from the meeting room during the whole of the consideration of that matter and must not participate in any vote on that matter. If members consider they should not participate because of a non-pecuniary interest which may give rise to a perception of bias, they should declare this, withdraw and not participate in consideration of the item. For further advice please speak with the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance.

What is Overview and Scrutiny?

Overview and Scrutiny describes the way Merton's scrutiny councillors hold the Council's Executive (the Cabinet) to account to make sure that they take the right decisions for the Borough. Scrutiny panels also carry out reviews of Council services or issues to identify ways the Council can improve or develop new policy to meet the needs of local people. From May 2008, the Overview & Scrutiny Commission and Panels have been restructured and the Panels renamed to reflect the Local Area Agreement strategic themes.

Scrutiny's work falls into four broad areas:

- ⇒ **Call-in:** If three (non-executive) councillors feel that a decision made by the Cabinet is inappropriate they can 'call the decision in' after it has been made to prevent the decision taking immediate effect. They can then interview the Cabinet Member or Council Officers and make recommendations to the decision-maker suggesting improvements.
- ⇒ **Policy Reviews:** The panels carry out detailed, evidence-based assessments of Council services or issues that affect the lives of local people. At the end of the review the panels issue a report setting out their findings and recommendations for improvement and present it to Cabinet and other partner agencies. During the reviews, panels will gather information, evidence and opinions from Council officers, external bodies and organisations and members of the public to help them understand the key issues relating to the review topic.
- ⇒ **One-Off Reviews:** Panels often want to have a quick, one-off review of a topic and will ask Council officers to come and speak to them about a particular service or issue before making recommendations to the Cabinet.
- ⇒ **Scrutiny of Council Documents:** Panels also examine key Council documents, such as the budget, the Business Plan and the Best Value Performance Plan.

Scrutiny panels need the help of local people, partners and community groups to make sure that Merton delivers effective services. If you think there is something that scrutiny should look at, or have views on current reviews being carried out by scrutiny, let us know.

For more information, please contact the Scrutiny Team on 020 8545 4035 or by e-mail on scrutiny@merton.gov.uk. Alternatively, visit www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny

All minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the committee/panel. To find out the date of the next meeting please check the calendar of events at your local library or online at www.merton.gov.uk/committee.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 24 JUNE 2014

(19.15 - 20.45)

PRESENT Councillors Councillor Russell Makin (in the Chair),
Councillor Stan Anderson, Councillor Ross Garrod,
Councillor Janice Howard, Councillor John Sargeant and
Councillor Stephen Crowe

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Judy Saunders, Cabinet Member for Parking and
Environmental Cleanliness, Chris Lee, Director of Environment
and Regeneration, Simon Williams, Director of Community and
Housing, Rebecca Redman, Scrutiny Officer

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 1)

None.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies were received from Councillor David Dean, Councillor Abigail Jones, Councillor Imran Uddin and Councillor Nick Draper.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 MARCH 2014 (Agenda Item 3)

Panel agreed the Minutes as a true record of the meeting.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (Agenda Item 4)

None.

5 DEPARTMENTAL PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT 4 YEARS (Agenda Item 5)

The Panel received a presentation from Simon Williams on the work of his department, Community and Housing, in relation to the remit of this Panel. The presentation covered the following service areas (including purpose, customers and Key Performance Indicators):

- Housing Needs and Strategy;
- Library and Heritage Service; and
- Merton Adult Education

Simon Williams explained that Merton was no longer a stock owning authority. Merton residents often have to go to the private rented sector as they do not meet housing needs criteria. This can have a negative impact on those who have housing needs due to inflated rental prices. Other issues concern disrepair in both the private and social sector where landlords and housing associations are not ensuring properties are up to standard.

The council is working with Circle Merton Priory Homes on their regeneration programme to ensure improvements to housing stock and proposals for new developments.

Councillor John Sargeant asked if there were any trends in the issues with housing supply and standard of properties. Simon Williams explained that the ability to meet housing need is getting more difficult. There is also an impact due to the impact of welfare reform and the changes to benefits received, particularly housing benefit.

Councillor Stan Anderson asked what the council was able to do to address these issues. Simon Williams explained that, with regard to houses in multiple occupation, the council has powers to regulate and ensure that properties are not going into disrepair. The council push for the quality standard for private rented housing but need to consider what is the best use of resources in how they tackle this. In some cases, resources are best spent on addressing housing need.

Councillor Stan Anderson asked what the council was able to do about empty homes. Simon Williams explained that there are incentives in place to bring unoccupied properties into use. Council tax benefits can often encourage owners of vacant properties to use them. There are some powers in place to address this but there are also links with the Environment and Regeneration Dept. with regard to regeneration in tackling this issue.

Chris Lee added that, if the property remains empty, then there are CPO powers to take the property back but that these are not often exercised.

Councillor Ross Garrod asked about the availability of housing and how the council was helping first time buyers get on the ladder.

Simon Williams explained that helping people secure housing was based on those who are identified as being in most need. The council are looking at supply based on land/site availability to support people on to the property ladder. Increasing density is one option but this isn't always popular. This is a strategic issue and there are links between housing and the Future Merton team within Environment and Regeneration to look at opportunities for regeneration and development in the borough. The council is working in partnership to look at developing the provision of affordable housing. The council also needs to encourage people to look at all solutions, such as shared equity with registered providers.

Councillor Janice Howard raised the YCube at the YMCA in Wimbledon which costs £30,000 per unit and how this could be rolled out further. Chris Lee explained that there was a pilot scheme in Mitcham for this and, as they are guaranteed for 60 years, properties can be relocated. There is planning consent for Mitcham and the council would like to see this initiative rolled out further where possible. This is being looked at as part of the CMPH regeneration proposals and the council are helping them to look at sites that might be used to kick start this.

Councillor David Chung expressed concerns about residents and the need to consider location/transport etc. Chris Lee explained that all planning applications consider transport matters. The council is aiming to move towards more car free developments where there is less demand for that space.

Simon Williams outlined the work of the libraries service and the efficiencies that have been made, as well as the innovative work Merton has undertaken which has resulted in awards for best practice, particularly in the use of self service and the use of volunteers.

Simon Williams informed the Panel that consultation had been undertaken regarding the Donald Hope and West Barnes sites on possible developments and extension of the provision of the library service.

Simon Williams also told the Panel that e-books were being rolled out further and life time membership for children was also in place. The council also has a Heritage Strategy which looks at working with the sector to make sure there is a good offer in Merton.

The Panel heard that the adult education service is primarily funded through central government. Most courses aim to support people to gain entry level employment. There is some funding from the council but this is minimal and that it is unlikely that there is scope for further savings. The council are now looking at more commercial opportunities through the local private sector to increase funding and at possible delivery models.

Councillor Stephen Crowe asked what the council had established about how demand for MAE services may develop over the next few years. Simon Williams explained that the service is funded quite significantly by the Skills Funding Agency. This relates primarily to employability courses and community learning. This fund will decrease in the future. There may be an increase in demand for those who can't afford tuition fees for university which could create opportunities for extending provision.

Councillor Janice Howard asked what alternative teaching solutions had been explored, for example, e-based learning. Simon Williams explained that this was already in place with Moodle. A virtual learning environment has also been piloted and a proof of concept has been undertaken. MAE is now looking at the possibility of taking this forward.

The Panel heard from Chris Lee on the departmental priorities for Environment and Regeneration which were in the following service areas:

- Economic Growth;
- A clean, green, sustainable borough;
- Efficient and reliable services that meet customers needs;
- Sustainable transport and fair parking policies; and
- Leisure and culture

Chris Lee explained that the council was committed to growth in jobs and housing. The Future Merton team works in this area to drive growth and investment in the borough. Merton is densely populated but there are opportunities for housing growth. The council are working closely with Circle Merton Priory Homes to ensure their regeneration plans fit with the councils planning policies and development programme, consistent with the needs of the borough. The council is actively looking at how to generate more housing supply. Council land can also be used as a catalyst for development.

The Panel heard that cleaner streets and waste collection is a big indicator of resident satisfaction. The council is actively working to increase recycling, reduce waste to landfill and to reduce carbon emissions. An energy from waste facility is due to open in 2017/18 to generate power, heat and energy. The council is also part of the South West London Waste Partnership.

Councillor Ross Garrod commented that he was pleased to hear that the council were toughening up on people dropping litter. He also asked why recycling levels were stagnating and how we could encourage more recycling.

Chris Lee informed the Panel that this was a pan London issue and that recycling rates remain at 39%. One reason for this could be recycling fatigue amongst the public. The volume of waste to landfill is actually increasing which is costly to the council at £108 per tonne. There are higher rates of recycling when there are receptacles for all types of waste.

Chris Lee highlighted that for every percentage point that recycling is increased; the council saves c£700k. A Mega Recycle scheme which involves educating people about recycling is underway in Merton and is funded by the DCLG. For some residents the issue is all about getting into the mind set of thinking about recycling and about education and making it easy for residents to do so.

Councillor Stan Anderson asked if we pay the costs of going to court when those who litter and are fined do not pay. Chris Lee confirmed that this was the case, however, should the council be successful then the court costs are recovered along with the fine.

Councillor Tobin Byers enquired about shared services and the possibility of a shared planning service with other boroughs. Chris Lee explained that this is something the council is looking into but that there has not been a lot of interest from neighbouring boroughs to do so. However, Merton recently started talks with Wandsworth and a feasibility study will be undertaken to look at the options for working together.

Councillor John Sargeant commented that the borough has a very good reputation with regard to the planning service and that the Panel had recently expressed their concerns about any changes having a negative impact on the reputation of the council and the planning team.

Chris Lee informed the Panel that the council would spend £10 million over the next 4 years on tarmac and footways. In addition, several million would be spent on cycling infrastructure and traffic schemes. There is a focused ward/neighbourhood scheme underway mapping plans, against the investment that will be received for other schemes, on parking provision. Chris Lee added that the results of the research commissioned into 20mph zones would be available in autumn and this could be brought back to the Panel.

David Chung added that residents don't often see the good work that the council does with regard to waste collection and fly tipping and that it should share plans and proposals with the public to correct the perception people have of the issues in the borough. Chris Lee agreed that more could be done to publicise what the council do but often residents don't want to hear about it, they just want to be confident that it is being dealt with. Councillor Judy Saunders added that a useful campaign would be to publicise how much things cost the council to address, to raise awareness amongst residents.

Councillor John Sargeant asked what progress had been made on rolling out 20 minutes of free parking which was a commitment in the budget. Chris Lee confirmed that this is being rolled out, in a phased approach, at shopping parades across the borough. A report can be brought to the Panel to outline this programme.

Councillor Stephen Crowe enquired about Morden Park Pool and when this development will happen. Chris Lee confirmed that this is expected to be delivered and open by the end of 2017.

RESOLVED: Panel noted the report.

6 AGREEING THE WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15 (Agenda Item 6)

Councillor Russell Makin outlined the process that had been taken to arrive at the draft work programme and asked Panel for any additions/amendments.

Councillor John Sargeant noted that the September agenda was particularly full. Rebecca Redman proposed that the Panel consider holding a special meeting of the Panel to meet with CMPH to discuss the housing items listed.

RESOLVED:

- Panel agreed their 2014/15 work programme;
- Panel agreed to hold a special meeting in late September/early October to meet with CMPH

Committee: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 16 September 2014

Wards: all

Subject: Executive Response and Action Plan -Climate Change and Green Deal Task Group

Lead officer: Director for Environment and Regeneration, Chris Lee

Lead member: Councillor Andrew Judge, Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration,

Contact officer: Damian Hemmings, Climate Change Officer (Future Merton) – damian.hemmings@merton.gov.uk

Recommendations:

- A. That Members consider the Executive Response and accompanying action plan detailing how the agreed recommendations of the Climate Change and Green Deal Task will be implemented.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to set out the Executive Response and Action Plan to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel to demonstrate how the agreed recommendations of the Climate Change and Green Deal Task Group will be implemented, and the associated responsible officers and timescales

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. At their meeting on 30 June 2014, Cabinet considered the final report and recommendations resulting from the task group review of Climate Change and the Green Deal. Cabinet thanked councillors, Sustainable Merton and officers for their hard work on the Climate Change and Green Deal task group and welcomed the report.
- 2.2. In the light of the recommendations from the Task Group, the greatest progress towards achieving the recommendations collectively has been the adoption of Merton's Climate Change Strategy and associated action plan at full council on 09 July 2014.
- 2.3. As part of their scrutiny task group review meetings in late 2013 and early 2014, the Climate Change and Green Deal Task Group scrutinised a draft of Merton's Climate Change Strategy and action plan and made several recommendations which were incorporated into the final plan before its adoption.

Progress on Task Group's agreed recommendations

- 2.4. Since the Task Group reported to Cabinet in June 2014, and Merton's Climate Change Strategy was adopted in July 2014, officers have been tasked with delivering the agreed recommendations.
- 2.5. Appendix A to this report sets out the Task Group's recommendations and progress on each, including how any agreed recommendations that have yet to be delivered will be implemented. It should be noted that some of the recommendations must take place sequentially and have been reordered to reflect their sequential progress.
- 2.6. In the two months since the Task Group reported their 11 recommendations to Cabinet:
- One recommendation has been completed (Recommendation 3: adoption of Merton's Climate Change Strategy, at full council on 09 July 2014)
 - Progress has been made on nine out of the eleven recommendations (see Appendix A)
 - Only one recommendation has not made progress (recommendation 10 – developing a marketing and awareness campaign for residents, staff and businesses on energy efficiency measures) and that is because any campaign is dependent on the council establishing an offer to residents, businesses and staff beforehand.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. None for the purpose of this report.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. In carrying out its review, the task group engaged a range of stakeholders, council officers and Cabinet Members. In addition, two members of local sustainability charitable organisation Sustainable Merton acted as co-opted members of the scrutiny panel..
- 4.2. Internal engagement is undertaken via the council's Climate Change Steering Group, chaired by the Director of Environment and Regeneration. The quarterly meetings are organised thematically in accordance with the sustainability themes outlined in the Climate Change Strategy (2014-2017).
- 4.3. Wider engagement with community stakeholders and partners is undertaken through Merton's Environmental Sub-Group of the Merton Partnership, coordinated by Sustainable Merton.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. The action plan for the Climate Change Strategy 2014-17 and the Action Plan resulting from the agreed recommendations from the task group review (Appendix A) both set out timescales for delivery.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. Delivery of these recommendations can either be met within existing budgets or will be the subject of a bid for support through the council's usual financial procedures.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1. None for the purposes of this report.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. None for the purposes of this report.

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- Appendix A: Action Plan and progress to date on the agreed recommendations resulting from the Task Group review of Climate Change and the Green Deal.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report of the Climate Change and Green Deal Task Group (June 2014);
Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 30 June 2014

Appendix A: Executive response to the 11 recommendations of Merton’s Climate Change and Green Deal Scrutiny Task Group (final report 30 June 2014)

It should be noted that many of the Task Group’s eleven recommendations must take place sequentially. The Task Group’s recommendations have been reordered to reflect this.

Recommendations	Stakeholder	Action / Progress	Timeline	Status
<p>Recommendation 9 – That Future Merton obtain specialist legal advice on the Council’s scope and legal limitations in generating, distributing and selling energy and advise on the development of an ESCO (paragraph 8.40)</p>	Cabinet	<p>Future Merton has been in discussions with LBM Legal. Legal have confirmed that external specialist advice will need to be procured.</p> <p>A funding bid to support this work will be submitted to the Merton 2015 board.</p>	<p>Mar 2014 (on-going)</p> <p>Sept 2014</p>	A
<p>Recommendation 7 – That Cabinet commission a feasibility study to look at establishing an Energy Services Company (ESCO) for Merton, with a view to producing a business case for the ESCO which should include a risk assessment of the proposals. A further detailed investigation into the potential for a Merton ESCO should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility investigations into the potential for district heating at Morden Town Centre and Colliers Wood / South Wimbledon • Further scoping of energy efficiency retrofit potential in Merton • Identification of where existing regeneration proposals/programmes may take forward energy efficiency improvements, alone or in partnership without the need for an ESCO to be in place. (paragraph 8.40) 	Cabinet	<p><i>Progress subject to outcome of Recommendation 9 (above).</i></p> <p>Funding secured via Department of Energy and Climate Change’s (DECC) Heat Network Delivery Unit (HNDU) to explore physical/technical feasibility of heat networks in Merton.</p> <p>Invitation to tender for consultancy advice on physical/technical feasibility to be issued.</p> <p>Future Merton are actively engaging with Merton Priory Homes on their estate regeneration programme. The CC team are advising MPH and their appointed consultants (HTA) on sustainability and the energy strategy for all three estates.</p>	<p>2014</p> <p>Oct 2014</p> <p>Jul 2014 (on-going)</p>	G

<p>*Note that this recommendation being implemented will be subject to the outcomes of recommendation 9.</p>				
<p>Recommendation 8 – That Cabinet receives a report on progress on rolling out the expansion of the Merton solar PV portfolio, and on the scope for making further investment, subject to the results of a scoping exercise and a viable business case. This business case should include an appraisal of whether this should be undertaken via an ESCO or not (paragraph 8.40).</p>	Cabinet	<p><i>Progress on ESCO subject to outcome of Recommendation 9 (above).</i></p> <p>Scoping of solar PV installed potential has been undertaken across approximately 65% of Merton's operational building stock.</p> <p>Capital bid for period 2015-17 has been submitted for the optimisation of solar PV systems installed under planning requirements for school expansion sites.</p> <p>Future Merton are writing a business case for undertaking the next (5th) phase of solar PV installation. Subject to approval, a competitive tender dialogue will be undertaken to undertake an installer for the next phase of installations and continued scoping of the remaining councils operational stock.</p>	<p>May 2014</p> <p>Aug 2014</p> <p>Oct 2014</p>	G
<p>Recommendation 1 - That Cabinet, further to maximising the potential of its own sites, work with other public and private sector landowners, such as Registered Providers, private homeowners, businesses and community organisations installing solar PV (photovoltaics) on their buildings where this is supported by a business case (paragraph 4.17).</p> <p>*Note that this recommendation being implemented is dependent upon</p>	Cabinet	<p><i>Progress on ESCO subject to outcome of Recommendations 8 & 9 (above).</i></p> <p>Early stage discussions with registered providers in Merton (MPH; Moat; Wandle) regarding opportunities for utilisation of solar photovoltaics.</p> <p>A funding bid to support and engage with communities to deliver 'crowd-funded' solar PV systems has been drafted and will be submitted to the Merton 2015 board.</p>	<p>Aug 2014 (on-going)</p> <p>Sept 2014</p>	G

recommendations 8 and 9 being achieved.				
<p>Recommendation 2 - That Cabinet explore how solar PV could be made available to residents to access at cheaper rates/costs and how the council may promote or support this scheme to enable communities to purchase their own renewable technology. This may be achieved through external capital investment or the ESCO (paragraph 4.17).</p> <p>*Note that this recommendation being implemented is dependent upon recommendations 8 and 9 being achieved.</p>	Cabinet	<p>Progress on ESCO subject to outcome of Recommendations 8 & 9 (above).</p> <p>A funding bid to support and engage with communities to deliver 'crowd-funded' solar PV systems has been drafted and will be submitted to the Merton 2015 board.</p>	Sept 2014	G
<p>Recommendation 3 - That the council adopt Merton's Climate Change Strategy 2014-2017, which has been reviewed by the Task group and revised to take account of its recommendations (paragraph 5.6).</p>	Cabinet	CC Strategy 2014-2017 adopted at full council	9 Jul 2014	Complete
<p>Recommendation 4 - That Cabinet agree to build consideration of the adoption/installation of energy efficiency measures in appropriate council contracts being established or renewed by procurement, where feasible (paragraph 5.6).</p>	Cabinet / Partners	LBM Procurement currently in the process of drafting a revised PQQ. Currently being reviewed by the Legal Team prior to use.	Sept 2014	A
<p>Recommendation 5 - That representatives from each council Directorate participate in the Climate Change Steering Group, as appropriate, to consider cross cutting issues and projects relating to tackling climate change to ensure a strategic focus and leadership on climate change priorities (paragraph 5.6)</p>	Cabinet	Climate Change Steering Group meetings are structured thematically in line with the key topics detailed in the CC Strategy. Representatives from relevant directorates are invited to attend accordingly. Next meeting to be held on 9 September 2014.	On-going	G

<p>Recommendation 6 - That Cabinet commission a proposal on the feasibility of whether Merton might roll out a local Green Deal that addresses some of the issues associated with the national Green Deal scheme, as reported by residents, which has resulted in low take up (paragraph 6.16).</p> <p>*Note that this recommendation being implemented is dependent upon recommendation 8 being delivered.</p>	Cabinet	<p><i>Progress on ESCO subject to outcome of Recommendations 8 (above).</i></p> <p>Engaging with Moat Housing Association and consultancy support provided by the GLA's RENEW programme to explore opportunities for accessing Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding to support energy efficiency improvements in social and freehold properties in Pollards Hill.</p> <p>Since the final report of the Task Group review, Government have amended the incentives for measures under the Green Deal leading to increased take-up. Future Merton to review progress on take-up and changing legislative landscape of the Green Deal.</p> <p>Exploring opportunities for funding energy efficiency retrofit funded through Allowable Solutions mechanisms.</p> <p>Funding bid to the London Enterprise Panel (LEP) to enable energy efficiency retrofit in commercial properties targeting local businesses</p>	<p>Apr 2014 (on-going)</p> <p>2015</p> <p>2016</p> <p>Sept 2015</p>	A
<p>Recommendation 10 - That the council develop a marketing and engagement strategy to ensure the widest promotion and awareness raising of energy efficiency measures and improvements that staff, residents and local businesses can access (paragraph 9.6)</p> <p>*Note that this recommendation being implemented is partially dependent upon recommendation 8 being delivered.</p>	Cabinet	To be developed.	2016	R

<p>Recommendation 11 – To be added to comment on relationship with MPH/Circle Housing. This will be finalised further to consideration of the response from MPH/Circle to the task group’s recommendations which will be tabled at the SC Panel meeting on 26th March).</p>	<p>Cabinet / Circle Housing</p>	<p><i>Progress subject to confirmation of recommendation</i></p> <p>Active engagement with MPH via housing regeneration programme (see progress on Recommendation 7)</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>G</p>
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Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2014/15



This table sets out the Sustainable Communities Panel Work Programme for 2014/15; the items listed were agreed by the Panel at its meeting on 24th June 2014. This Work Programme will be considered at every meeting of the Panel to enable it to respond to issues of concern and incorporate reviews or to comment upon pre-decision items ahead of their consideration by Cabinet/Council.

The work programme table shows items on a meeting-by-meeting basis, identifying the issue under review, the nature of the scrutiny (pre decision, policy development, issue specific, performance monitoring, partnership related) and the intended outcomes.

The Sustainable Communities Panel has specific responsibilities regarding Budget and Business Plan Scrutiny and Performance Monitoring for which Lead Members are appointed:

The Task Group Review for the 2014/15 work programme is to be determined.

Scrutiny Support

For further information on the work programme of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel please contact: -
Rebecca Redman, Scrutiny Officer)
Tel: 020 8545 4035; Email: rebecca.redman@merton.gov.uk

For more information about overview and scrutiny at LB Merton, please visit www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny

Meeting date –16th September 2014

Scrutiny Category	Item/issue	How	Lead member/lead officer	Intended outcomes
Panel have been invited to consider this item at the Commission meeting on 25th November 2014 under their review of the councils approach to financial resilience.	Update on the Welfare Reform Act (including focus on implications for residents and food poverty)	Briefing Report	David Keppler	To provide an update on the welfare reform act, changes in legislation, how the council has responded and implications for Merton (including a focus on food poverty)
Pre decision scrutiny	Inward Investment Strategy	Report	Chris Lee/James McGinlay	To comment on the councils draft inward investment strategy and make any recommendations to Cabinet.
Scrutiny Review	Economic Development Strategy	Report	Chris Lee/James McGinlay	To receive a progress update on delivery of the councils economic development strategy.
Scrutiny Review	Climate Change and Green Deal Task Group	Executive Response and Action Plan	Chris Lee	To provide a response and associated action plan from the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration on how the task groups recommendations will be taken forward.
Response	Attendance at Youth Parliament meeting 15 th September 2014	Presentation	Panel Members	Panel members to attend the next scheduled meeting of the Youth Parliament on 15 th September to provide a response on their topic suggestions and the panels work programme and opportunities to get involved.

Performance Monitoring	Performance Reporting(including focus on waste management and street scene)	Verbal Report	Cllr	To highlight to the Panel any items for concern where under performance is evident and to make any recommendations or request information as necessary
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Meeting date – 29th September 2014
Special meeting of the Panel – Circle Merton Priory Homes

Scrutiny Category	Item/issue	How	Lead member/lead officer	Intended outcomes
Performance Monitoring	Monitoring of stock transfer to Merton Priory Homes (including street cleaning strategy/estate maintenance)	Report/Presentation	Steve Langley	To receive an update from MPH on delivery of the commitments within the housing stock transfer agreement.
Scrutiny Review	Update on Regeneration Proposals – CHMP	Report	Steve Langley	To provide members with a briefing on the outcomes of councils consideration of the regeneration proposals from CHMP and to identify any opportunities for further scrutiny by the Panel.

Meeting date –11th November 2014

Scrutiny Category	Item/issue	How	Lead member/lead officer	Intended outcomes
Pre decision scrutiny	Budget/Business Plan	Report	Chris Lee/Simon Williams/Caroline Holland	To comment on the councils budget proposals at phase 1.
Pre decision scrutiny	20 Mph zones/road safety	Report	Chris Lee	To comment on the findings of the research undertaken by the E&R department on 20mph zones and make any recommendations on associated proposals for 20mph zones/limits in the borough.
Scrutiny Review	Housing Supply	Briefing Report	Steve Langley/Chris Lee	To provide an overview of the demand for housing in the borough and the councils response/proposals, with a view to determining where further scrutiny may be undertaken.
Performance Monitoring	Adult Skills and Employability Task Group	Report	James McGinlay/ Yvonne Tomlin Cllr Holmes (Member Champion)	To performance monitor delivery of the action plan resulting from the task groups review of adult skills and employability.
Information item	Community Toilet Scheme	Briefing note via email	Chris Lee	To provide members with information on the community toilet scheme and performance to date to determine if any further scrutiny is to be undertaken in this area.

Performance Monitoring	Performance Reporting(including focus on waste management and street scene)	Verbal Report	Cllr	To highlight to the Panel any items for concern where under performance is evident and to make any recommendations or request information as necessary
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Meeting date – 8th January 2015

Scrutiny Category	Item/issue	How	Lead member/lead officer	Intended outcomes
Pre decision scrutiny	Budget and business plan scrutiny	Report	Chris Lee/Simon Williams/Caroline Holland	To comment on the budget and business plan proposals at phase 2 and make any recommendations to the Commission to consider and coordinate a response to Cabinet.
Scrutiny Review	Libraries/Arts/Green Spaces	Presentation by Cabinet Member	Cllr Nick Draper	To provide an overview on developments within the portfolio of Community and Culture by the Cabinet Member.
Performance Monitoring	Performance Reporting (including focus on waste management and street scene)	Verbal Report	Cllr	To highlight to the Panel any items for concern where under performance is evident and to make any recommendations or request information as necessary

Work Programme 2014/15	Draft work programme	Schedule	Rebecca Redman	To identify any items for inclusion in the work programme or any necessary amendments to the schedule
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Meeting date –25th February 2015

Scrutiny Category	Item/issue	How	Lead member/lead officer	Intended outcomes
Performance monitoring	Town Centre Parking and Parking at Neighbourhood Shopping Parades – Action Plans	Report	Paul Walshe	To enable members to undertake performance monitoring of delivery of the councils action plans on parking in town centres and at neighbourhood shopping parades.
Performance Monitoring	Town Centre Regeneration	Presentation	James McGinlay	To provide a progress update on delivery of the councils town centre regeneration programme.
Pre decision scrutiny	Cycling Provision	Report	Chris Lee	To make comments on the department’s proposals for improvements to cycling provision in the borough linked to the earlier mini Holland bid.
Performance Monitoring	Performance Reporting(including focus on waste management and street scene)	Verbal Report	Cllr	To highlight to the Panel any items for concern where under performance is evident and to make any recommendations or request information as necessary

Meeting date –18th March 2015

Scrutiny Category	Item/issue	How	Lead member/ lead officer	Intended outcomes
Scrutiny Review	Street Lighting	Report	Chris Lee	To provide a briefing to members on the councils approach to street lighting and possible technology that could be used, including the position of the councils street lighting contract.
Scrutiny Review	Parking and congestion outside schools	Report	Paul Walshe	To provide a briefing on measures and enforcement outside schools to enable the Panel to make any recommendations for improvement.
Scrutiny Review	Outlets in town centres (e.g., Betting Shops, Hairdressers, Fast Food) (licensing)	Report	Chris Lee	To consider the rights that the council has to discourage an increase in these types of outlets in town centres where not of benefit to residents or a negative impact is anticipated.
Performance Monitoring	Performance Reporting(including focus on waste management and street scene)	Verbal Report	Cllr	To highlight to the Panel any items for concern where under performance is evident and to make any recommendations or request information as necessary
Scrutiny Review	Topic Suggestions 2014/15	Report	Rebecca Redman	To seek topic suggestions from the Panel to inform discussions about the Panels 2014/15 work programme.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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