

**Committee:** Healthier Communities and Older People  
Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Date:** 19 April 2012

Agenda item: **12**

Wards: All

**Subject:** Planning the Panel's 2012/13 work programme

Lead officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services

Lead member: Councillor Suzanne Evans, Chair of the Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Forward Plan reference number: n/a

Contact officer: Julia Regan; Julia.regan@merton.gov.uk; 020 8545 3864

---

**Recommendations:**

- A. That the Panel reviews its 2011/12 work programme, identifying what worked well, what worked less well and what the Panel would like to do differently next year;
  - B. That the Panel suggests items for inclusion in the 2012/13 work programme – both agenda items and potential task group review topics;
  - C. That the Panel agree agenda items for its meeting on 4 July 2012.
- 

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To enable the Panel to plan its work programme for the forthcoming municipal year and, in particular, to agree agenda items for the first meeting of the municipal year.

**2. DETAILS**

Identifying issues for the 2012/13 work programme

- 2.1 The scrutiny officers are currently gathering suggestions for issues to scrutinise, either as Panel agenda items or task group reviews. Suggestions are being sought from members of the public, councillors and partner organisations including the police, NHS Sutton and Merton and Merton Voluntary Service Council. Other issues of public concern will be identified through the Annual Residents Survey. The council's departmental management teams have been consulted in order to identify forthcoming issues on which the Panel could contribute to the policymaking process.
- 2.2 The Panel is therefore invited to suggest items for inclusion in the 2012/13 work programme – both agenda items and potential task group review topics.

- 2.3 All the suggestions received will be discussed at the Panel's topic workshop on 29 May 2012. As in previous years, participants will be asked to prioritise the suggestions using criteria so that the issues chosen relate to:
- the Council's strategic priorities;
  - services that are underperforming;
  - issues of public interest or concern;
  - issues where scrutiny could make a difference.

#### Planning the first meeting of the 2012/13 municipal year

- 2.4 A note of the workshop discussion and draft work programme will be reported to the first meeting of the Panel in the new municipal year. The Panel will be requested to discuss this draft and agree any changes that it wishes to make.
- 2.5 In previous years the Panel has received presentations from the relevant Directors and Cabinet Members at this meeting. This provides an opportunity to consider their priorities and challenges for the year ahead, alongside the scrutiny work programme discussion. The Panel is asked to consider whether it wishes to have a similar presentation this year.
- 2.6 The Panel is also asked to identify any other items that it wishes to include on the agenda for its 4 July meeting.

### **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel can select topics for scrutiny review and for other scrutiny work as it sees fit, taking into account views and suggestions from officers, partner organisations and the public.

### **4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

Scrutiny topic suggestions are being sought from members of the public, councillors, council officers and partner organisations including the police, NHS Sutton and Merton and Merton Voluntary Service Council.

### **5. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None for the purposes of this report.

### **6. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are none specific to this report.

### **7. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engaging with local partners in scrutiny reviews. Furthermore, the outcomes of reviews are intended to benefit all sections of the local community.

**8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 None relating to this report.

**9. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None relating to this report.

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

10.1 None

**11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 None