

Merton Council

Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel (special meeting)



Date: Thursday 31 May 2012
Time: 7.15 p.m.
Venue: Committee Rooms D and E
Merton Civic Centre, London Road,
Morden SM4 5DX

AGENDA

Page Number

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Declarations of interest (See Note 1)
Councillors and co-opted members must declare if they have a personal or prejudicial interest in any of the items on this agenda at the start of the meeting, or as soon as the interest becomes apparent to them. | - |
| 2. | Apologies for absence | - |
| 3. | Transition of Public Health to the London Borough of Merton
- appendix to follow | 3 |

**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.**

For more information about the work of this and other overview and scrutiny panels, please contact, Stella Akintan, Scrutiny Officer, on 020 8545 3390 or e-mail stella.akintan@merton.gov.uk. Alternatively, visit www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny

Press enquiries: press@merton.gov.uk or telephone 020 8545 3483 or 4093

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www.merton.gov.uk/council/committee.htm?view=emailer

Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel Membership

Full Members:

Councillor Suzanne Evans (Chairman)
Councillor Peter McCabe (Vice Chair)
Councillor Margaret Brierly
Councillor Brenda Fraser
Councillor Maurice Groves
Councillor Logie Lohendran
Councillor Dennis Pearce
Councillor Greg Udeh

Substitute Members:

Councillor Laxmi Attawar
Councillor Janice Howard
Councillor Linda Taylor
Councillor Sam Thomas
Co-opted Representatives
Myrtle Agutter
Laura Johnson
Sheila Knight
Barbara Price
Saleem Sheikh

Note1: Declarations of interest

Councillors and co-opted members who have a personal or prejudicial interest in relation to any item on this agenda are asked to complete a declaration form and hand it to the Democratic Services Officer. Forms, together with a summary of guidance on making declarations of interest, will be available around the meeting table. If further clarification is needed members are advised to refer to "The Code of Conduct – Guide for members May 2007" issued by Standards for England, which will be available at the meeting if needed.

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 3390 or by e-mail on scrutiny@merton.gov.uk. Alternatively, visit www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny.