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# Merton Council Overview and Scrutiny Commission



Page Number

Date: 11 September 2019

Time: 7.15 pm

Venue: Committee rooms C, D & E - Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden

SM4 5DX

#### **AGENDA**

1 Apologies for absence 2 Declarations of pecuniary interest 3 Minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2019 1 - 6 7 - 14 4 Minutes of the meeting held on 14 August 2019 5 Crime and policing in Merton 15 - 286 Safer Merton Update 29 - 50 Centre for Public Scrutiny review of overview and scrutiny in 7 51 - 64 Merton 8 Results of the residents survey 2019 65 - 749 Financial monitoring task group - note of meeting held on 17 75 - 78 July 2019 10 Work programme 79 - 88

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 telephone 020 8545 3864 or e-mail <a href="mailto:scrutiny@merton.gov.uk">scrutiny@merton.gov.uk</a>. Alternatively, visit <a href="mailto:sww.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny">www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny</a>

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# **Public Information**

# Attendance at meetings

The public are welcome to attend meetings of the Council. Seating in the public gallery is limited and offered on a first come first served basis.

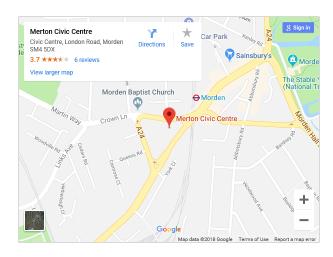
### Audio/Visual recording of meetings

The Council will film meetings held in the Council Chamber for publication on the website. If you would like to film or record any meeting of the Council held in public, please read the Council's policy here or contact democratic.services@merton.gov.uk for more information.

### Mobile telephones

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#### **Access information for the Civic Centre**



- Nearest Tube: Morden (Northern Line)
- Nearest train: Morden South, South Merton (First Capital Connect)
- Tramlink: Morden Road or Phipps Bridge (via Morden Hall Park)
- Bus routes: 80, 93, 118, 154, 157, 163, 164, 201, 293, 413, 470, K5

Further information can be found here

#### Meeting access/special requirements

The Civic Centre is accessible to people with special access requirements. There are accessible toilets, lifts to meeting rooms, disabled parking bays and an induction loop system for people with hearing difficulties. For further information, please contact <a href="mailto:democratic.services@merton.gov.uk">democratic.services@merton.gov.uk</a>

### Fire alarm

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# Electronic agendas, reports and minutes

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Agendas can also be viewed online in the Borough's libraries and on the Mod.gov paperless app for iPads, Android and Windows devices.

### Overview and Scrutiny Commission membership

#### Councillors:

Peter Southgate (Chair) Peter McCabe (Vice-Chair)

John Dehaney

Sally Kenny

Paul Kohler

Owen Pritchard

Nick McLean

**Edward Gretton** 

Joan Henry

Natasha Irons

#### Substitute Members:

David Williams MBE JP

**Thomas Barlow** 

**Edward Foley** 

Ben Butler

David Chung

Simon McGrath

# **Co-opted Representatives**

Helen Forbes, Parent Governor

Representative - Secondary and Special

Sector

Emma Lemon, Parent Governor

Representative - Primary Sector

Colin Powell, Church of England diocese

#### 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 mater 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 3864 or by e-mail on scrutiny@merton.gov.uk. Alternatively, visit www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny