

Merton Council Overview and Scrutiny Commission



Date: 5 July 2023
Time: 7.15 pm
Venue: Merton Civic Centre

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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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:

Edward Foley (Chair)
Mike Brunt (Vice-Chair)
Agatha Mary Akyigyina OBE
Laxmi Attawar
Billy Hayes
Usaama Kaweesa
Paul Kohler
Nick McLean
Stuart Neaverson
John Oliver
Tony Reiss

Substitute Members:

Sheri-Ann Bhim
Caroline Charles
Stephen Mercer
Thomas Barlow
Anthony Fairclough

Co-opted Representatives

Mansoor Ahmad, Parent Governor
Representative - Secondary and Special
Sectors
Becky Cruise, Parent Governor
Representative
Dr Oona Stannard, Catholic Diocese
Roz Cordner, 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 matter and must not participate in any vote on that matter. For further advice please speak with the Managing Director, South London Legal Partnership.

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

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Agenda Item 3

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.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION

15 MARCH 2023

(7.15 pm - 8.45 pm)

PRESENT: Councillor Edward Foley (in the Chair), Councillor Michael Brunt, Councillor Billy Hayes, Councillor Usaama Kaweesa, Councillor Edith Macauley, Councillor John Oliver, Councillor Thomas Barlow, Councillor Caroline Charles, Councillor Gill Manly, Councillor Tony Reiss, Mansoor Ahmad, Becky Cruise, Dr Stannard and Roz Cordner

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Ross Garrod, Councillor Eleanor Stringer

Hannah Doody (Chief Executive), Calvin McLean (Interim Assistant Director Public Protection), Louise Round (Interim Executive Director of Innovation and Change) and Katy Saunders (Safer Merton Business Support)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr Stuart Neaverson (with Cllr Edith Macauley as substitute).
- Cllr Paul Kohler (with Cllr John Oliver as substitute).
- Cllr Nick McLean (with Cllr Thomas Barlow as substitute).
- Cllr Agatha Akyigyina (with Cllr Caroline Charles as substitute).

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting.

4 COUNCIL PLAN (Agenda Item 4)

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Ross Garrod, introduced the Council Plan. The plan outlines ambitious plans for the new Administration, focused on the major initiatives and priorities and how we will measure ourselves.

The three key themes are nurturing civic pride, building a sustainable future, and creating a borough of sport.

Delivering the ambition in this plan will require collaborative working not only with our residents and businesses but also with a range of partners at a local and regional level. At the end of the plan, there is a proposed set of key performance indicators by which we can monitor our progress and we can continue to build in targets against those indicators over the course of the next year.

In response to Members of the Commissions questions, the

Several different measurements will be required to monitor progress as some objectives will be milestones while others will remain as ongoing activity.

The document has been designed to be straightforward and easy to read for residents and could become too complex if we were to add all the milestones in under each activity.

The comments around the usefulness of a glossary were also noted.

5 BCU COMMANDER - CRIME AND POLICING IN MERTON (Agenda Item 5)

The Chair welcomed the new Borough Commander, Detective Chief Superintendent, Clair Kelland, to the meeting. The Borough Commander introduced Superintendent Luke Mooney, who will have sole responsibility for Merton Borough, and provided Commission Members with an update on the Commissioner's Turnaround Plan.

Our focus will be on strengthening our neighbourhood policing.

In terms of local issues that impact our communities, there will be a renewed focus on precision policing. We now have new data and technology that will allow us to take an intelligence led approach and on a day-to-day basis identify both those high harm prolific offenders but also those offenders that commit community crimes.

Externally we will focus on how we can better listen to our communities, public protection, safeguarding and how we respond to violence against women and girls.

The Borough Commander will be setting up an Ethics board internally to look at misconduct data, including both internal and external complaints from the public, and see whether we can identify any thematic issues so that we can be proactive in responding to that behaviour of officers.

In response to supplementary questions from Commission Members, the Borough Commander expanded as below:

Merton is the fourth safest Borough in the MPS. The last three months have seen a reduction again in knife crime and this is likely due to additional resources being put in place, following robbery issues in the area, and that visible police presence has driven down crime.

There is a strengthening public protection program within the MPS and one of the Commissioner's priorities is reducing violence against women and girls.

Operation Vigilant is now going to be deployed in the southwest – this is a proactive policing operation where plain clothes officers observe perpetrators behaviour in hotspots to develop an intelligence base. The basis of it is that officers intervene before an offense takes place and that led to a 24% reduction of all offenses within those hot spot areas.

Crime figures - there has been a 5% increase in total notifiable offenses emerging in the last 12 months, although we've seen a slight dip again in the last three months, so things are very much moving in the right direction.

The Borough Commander is keen to continue attending the Independent Advisory Group meetings.

Burglary figures have gone down with a reduction of 1.4%. There were 783 burglaries in Merton in the last year which is 1.4% less than the previous year. SD rates for the Southwest are at about 4% so definitely a lot of work to do in that area. A bespoke burglary team has been created, with its own Inspector and Sergeant, so that we can focus on burglaries in the borough and reduce that number as well as increase our detection rate.

As part of the ethics board work, we will be developing a process to review the footage from body worn videos looking at the grounds for the search and also the quality of that interaction.

Crime Stoppers launched a campaign last autumn called Fearless which is a good method for encouraging young people to report crimes anonymously. Safer Merton have made an application for funding to continue this campaign.

We have a dedicated gang's team within our local investigation strand and following an eight-month covert proactive operation, that team ensured some very senior gang members received custodial sentences.

The Chair thanked the Borough Commander for her attendance.

6 PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO) (Agenda Item 6)

The Interim Assistant Director of Public Protection introduced the item.

A Public Space Protection Order allows a local authority to make an order to prohibit certain behaviours.

Consultation showed that 79% of residents are in support of a borough wide PSPO to deal with alcohol-related antisocial behaviour

The original five ward PSPO approved by Cabinet back in September led to roughly 244 interventions but very little enforcement, which demonstrates the approach that

we've taken. The reason for going borough wide is so that we can have a consistent approach across the borough and deal appropriately with any displacement issues.

In response to questions, the Interim Assistant Director of Public Protection added further clarifications.

It's a priority for us as an administration to take this type of antisocial behaviour seriously.

Recognising that some of our most prolific street drinkers are vulnerable/have complex psychological/addiction issues, we have started working with Public Health and other departments looking at assertive outreach and support. There is a post that's being recruited to currently which will be funded between the drug and alcohol misuse service, public health, and the homelessness team who will have responsibility for this large piece of work.

The signs are intended to clearly signal that we want we this to be a responsible drinking borough. Comments from a Commission Member on the need to redesign the sign were noted by officers.

7 WORK PROGRAMME / TOPIC SUGGESTIONS (Agenda Item 7)

Commission Members reviewed this year's work programme and agreed the potential carry overs for next year.

The Chair reminded Members to send in any topic suggestions by the end of March.

Overview & Scrutiny Commission

Date: 5 July 2023

Subject: PSPO Signage update

Lead officer: Katy Saunders, Community Safety Team Manager

Lead member: Cllr Eleanor Stringer, Cabinet Member for Civic Pride

Contact officer: Katy Saunders, Community Safety Team Manager

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dear OSC Members,

Safer Merton attended OSC in March 2023 with regards to making a borough wide alcohol related PSPO, which was approved by Cabinet. The legal Order is currently being made and will commence on 25th July 2023. It should be noted there will be a 6-week appeal period following commencement. A communications plan for residents, partners and Members is being developed.

Thank you for your feedback at OSC with regards to redesigning the PSPO signage. Attached are the final versions of the signs as approved by Cllr Stringer. We worked with Comms and Legal to produce the signs, which make clear the Order is not a ban on drinking alcohol, but an encouragement of responsible drinking, whilst ensuring the Council covers the legal requirements of the Order. There are two versions of the sign, one for wards covered by the existing PSPO which discharge the old Order, and one for wards where the PSPO is new.

The signs will be erected on lampposts in A4 correx across the borough by 25th July 2023. Once the appeal period is over and the Council's corporate rebrand has been completed, we will work to produce larger metal signage where appropriate.

We will be providing an update on the PSPO as part of our next report to OSC in September.

Over the summer we will also be holding briefings for Members and partners to assist in understanding the PSPO and its remits.

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

- Sign 1 (borough wide) and Sign 2 (existing 5 wards)

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Please drink responsibly



In the London Borough of Merton the consumption of alcohol so as to cause nuisance or annoyance to any other person is prohibited. It is a criminal offence to continue to drink alcohol in breach of that prohibition when asked not to do so by a police officer or other person authorised by the Council, or to fail to surrender any alcohol or container for alcohol to such persons when requested to do so.

Maximum fine: £500

It is also a criminal offence to fail to give the police or authorised person your name and address or if you give a false or inaccurate name and address. **Maximum fine: £1,000**

Failure to comply may lead to arrest and prosecution.

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Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
London Borough of Merton (Alcohol Consumption in Public Places) Order 2023
The 2023 Order discharges and replaces the London Borough of Merton
(Alcohol Consumption in Public Places) Order 2020, as extended,
with effect from 19th June 2023

Please drink responsibly



In the London Borough of Merton the consumption of alcohol so as to cause nuisance or annoyance to any other person is prohibited. It is a criminal offence to continue to drink alcohol in breach of that prohibition when asked not to do so by a police officer or other person authorised by the Council, or to fail to surrender any alcohol or container for alcohol to such persons when requested to do so.

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Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Date: 05 July 2023

Subject: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

Lead officer: Rosie Mckeever, Scrutiny Officer

Lead member: Councillor Ed Foley, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Contact officer: Rosie Mckeever, Scrutiny Officer, 0208 545 4035

Recommendations:

That, subject to any changes agreed by the Commission at its meeting on 5 July 2023, the Commission approves the Annual Report to be presented to Council on 13 September 2023.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The Commission is invited to comment on the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission is required to produce an annual report outlining the work of the overview and scrutiny function over the course of the municipal year. The Commission has used the report as an opportunity to draw attention to some of the outcomes achieved during the year.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission would be in breach of the constitution if it did not produce an annual report and present it to Council.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. The Chairs of each of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels have been consulted on the draft text relating to the work undertaken by that Panel.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. The agreed Annual Report will be presented to Council on 13 September 2023.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are none specific to this report.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission is constitutionally bound to produce an annual report for the overview and scrutiny function and to present the report to the full Council. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission would be in breach of the constitution if it did not do this.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. There are none specific to this report.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. There are none specific to this report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. There are none specific to this report.

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

- Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

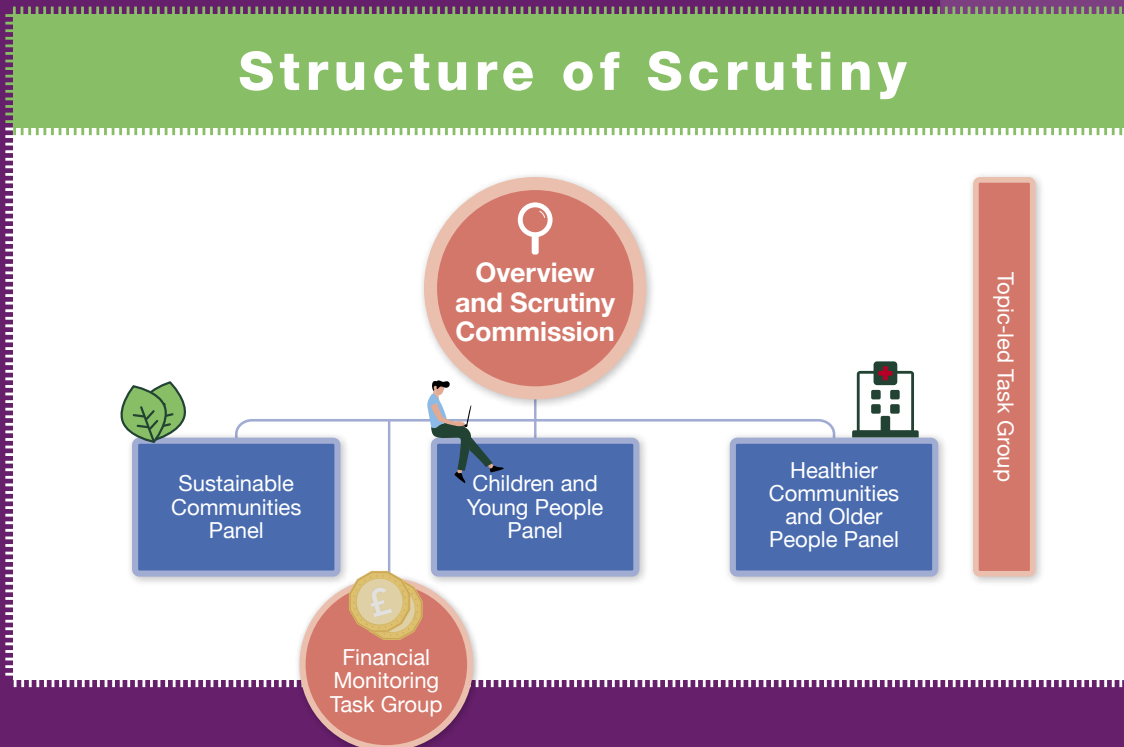
12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1. None

Scrutiny in Merton

The scrutiny function acts on behalf of the community to improve services and decision-making inside and outside of the council. It does this through in-depth reviews, evidence-gathering sessions on a topic or questions to service providers, Cabinet members or partners.

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Foreword

Scrutiny is at the heart of the decision-making process in Merton and is a forum for councillors to discuss complex local issues. This past year, the **Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel** has helped shape the future of the borough's waste collection services. The **Overview and Scrutiny Commission** assembled a working group to review options for the future of CHAS 2013 Ltd. The **Healthier Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel** has overseen a review of day care opportunities, to ensure a variety of activities are available for vulnerable residents. The **Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel** held a special session to understand their role as corporate parents and to review current service provision for looked after children.



Councillor Edward Foley, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, said: *"It has been a busy year for scrutiny. New councillors have become acquainted with their role in holding decision makers to account. We have welcomed residents to scrutiny meetings, visited services and held budget scrutiny training sessions. Thanks to commitment from councillors, we have run more task groups this year than ever before. I have met with Chairs and Vice Chairs to map out continuous improvement for the function."*

Scrutiny in action

Merton's Violence Against Women and Girls strategy (VAWG) was presented to the **Overview and Scrutiny Commission**, along with plans to obtain white ribbon accreditation, in order to demonstrate the Council's commitment to engaging with



men and boys to end violence against women and girls. Commission members supported this work by placing a strong focus on the safety of women and girls in their agendas this municipal year. The Borough Commander and Safer Merton officers were in regular attendance at meetings. Merton Council has since achieved White Ribbon accredited status, and will make changes to communications, HR policies, employee development, training, and overall organisational culture.

The Chair of the **Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel** led on a plan to enhance the participation of young people within scrutiny. As a result, a young inspector has been appointed to the Commission and each of the Panels for a one-year pilot scheme. The Young Inspectors will draw on the experiences of young people across the borough and enable their voices to be heard. **XXXXXXX XXXXXX LM** Young Inspector ➔

said: *“Being a Young Inspector on the scrutiny panel has been an innovative experience as this has allowed me to ensure young people’s views are heard within these settings and by decision-makers. As a Young Inspector sitting on the Healthier Communities and Older People Panel, I have been able to hear about the initiatives being delivered for our older residents and challenge our decision-makers to ensure these services are also reaching younger residents”*

Following a presentation on the fly-tipping strategy, members of the **Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel** made a cross party recommendation that Cabinet look at ways to involve the community to develop plans on the collection of waste. May 2023 saw the first two pilots of ‘Garth Road on the Road’, a pop-up tip for residents who live in Pollards Hill, and another in the St Helier and Ravensbury area, to dispose of their excess household rubbish, recycling, green waste, and bulky items.

Improving the uptake of breast screening is a major concern for the **Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel**. NHS colleagues were asked to provide simple messages on the importance of screening which councillors can then share with the community. Panel members

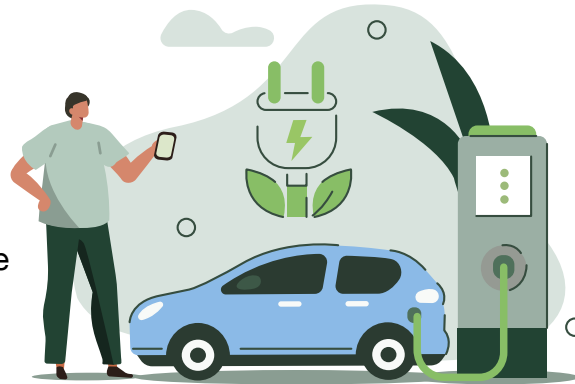


Improving services at St Helier hospital has been a focus this year. Councillors visited services in August 2022 and the Chief Executive of Epsom and St Helier attended the Panel in September 2022

continue to advocate for an accessible breast screening clinic within the borough. This will support vulnerable people and make it easier for residents to get to.

In September 2022 the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel agreed to undertake a scrutiny review of **Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging in Merton**. The EV Task Group considered the current progress of the EV charger rollout and the anticipated future demands and helped to shape the Council’s upcoming Electric Vehicle Strategy. The strategy will set out Merton’s vision and policy, and estimate the infrastructure needed in the coming years and consider how this work could be implemented. Delivery will include spreading a range of charging types

and speeds as evenly as possible throughout the borough, how to manage street cluttering and possible solutions to cable channels on pavements. At the time of publishing this annual report, the group's recommendations were scheduled for Cabinet but not yet approved.



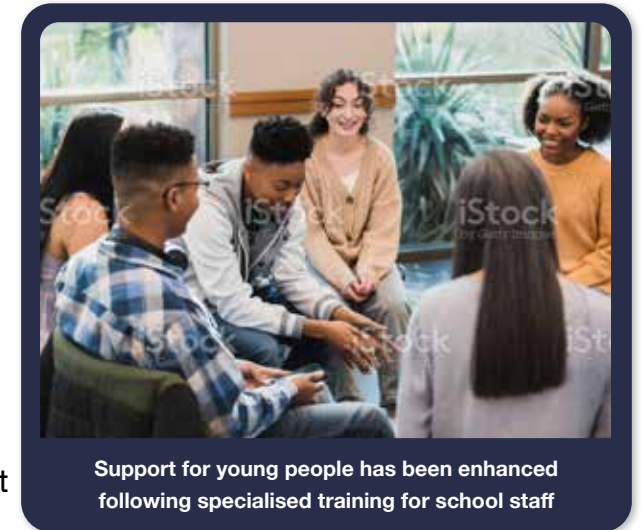
A review on **Youth Funding** is looking at the role of Young People's Foundations as a vehicle to attract funding sources. Task Group members have met with council officers, the voluntary sector, and examined work taking place in other local authorities. They are due to report their findings later this year.

A review on **Employment Opportunities for People with Autism** is looking at the role of the council as a community leader in providing employment for neuro diverse people. The review will report later this year.

This year, two additional councillor-led task groups were conducted with reduced officer support. This has increased activity within the function and provided more opportunities to put forward recommendations on issues of public concern.

A review looking at **community toilets** has received over 900 responses to a public survey. Recommendations are currently being drawn up. The review on **Reducing Eating Disorders and Self Harm amongst Young People** has completed. Recommendations focussed on training for professionals and promoting support services. Councillors have been pleased outcomes from previous reviews.

The majority of the recommendations from a **Children's Mental Health Task Group** have been implemented including specialised training for school governors, expansion of mental health first aid training to schools, collaborative work between youth parliament and young inspectors to improve communication material. A pilot social prescribing scheme for children and young people is in place.



Support for young people has been enhanced following specialised training for school staff

The recommendations from a **High Street Task Group** led to a council funding pot of £50,000 to procure culture led projects across the borough.

Other topics scrutinised

Children's
mental health

Long
Covid

Suicide
prevention

Flooding

Discussions
with Borough
Commander

Child healthy
weight
programme

Tackling
climate
change

Housing
support

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Scrutiny in numbers

Meetings and members

- ⊕ 24 panel meetings
- ⊕ 40 members
- ⊕ 4 co-optees
- ⊕ 76 items considered
- ⊕ 2,475 views on YouTube

Plus

- ⊕ 3 task group reviews
- ⊕ 2 call-ins
- ⊕ 11 scrutiny referrals/recommendations to Cabinet

Ways to get involved:

There are a number of ways you can get involved in the work of scrutiny at the council by:

- ➔ suggesting an issue or topic for scrutiny to look at merton.gov.uk/council-and-local-democracy/decision-making/overview-and-scrutiny/get-involved or by writing, emailing or phoning the Scrutiny Team on **020 8545 4035**
- ➔ attending a meeting open to the public
- ➔ requesting to give information and views in writing or speaking at a meeting
- ➔ contacting your local councillor on how to get involved

You can also view our scrutiny pages on our website, which include meeting dates, agendas and panel membership, via merton.gov.uk/scrutiny or by contacting the Scrutiny Team on scrutiny@merton.gov.uk



Overview and Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2023/24



This table sets out the draft Overview and Scrutiny Commission's Work Programme for 2023/24 following discussions at the topic workshop on 7 June 2023.

The work programme will be considered at every meeting of the Commission to enable it to respond to issues of concern or to request new pre-decision items ahead of their consideration by Cabinet/Council.

Chair: Cllr Ed Foley

Vice-chair: Cllr Mike Brunt

Scrutiny Support

For further information on the work programme of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission please contact: -

Rosie McKeever, Scrutiny Officer

Tel: 020 8545 4035; Email: rosie.mckeever@merton.gov.uk

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

Meeting date: 5 July 2023 (*Deadline for papers: 5pm, 26 June 2023*)

Item/issue	How	Lead member and/or lead officer	Intended outcomes
Executive Director introductions	Verbal update with Q&A	Dan Jones (ED Environment, Civic Pride and Climate) Polly Cziok (ED Innovation & Change) Asad Mushtaq (ED Finance & Digital)	To understand current priorities in relation to Panel work programme
Scrutiny Annual Report	Report	Cllr Ed Foley, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Commission	
Scrutiny Member Survey	Report	Cllr Ed Foley, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Commission	
Identify questions for the Borough Commander	Discussion	Cllr Ed Foley, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Commission	Plan line of questioning for 6 September meeting
Overview and Scrutiny Commission work programme 23/24	Report	Cllr Ed Foley Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Commission	Discuss and approve work programme and re-establishment of the FMTG

Meeting date: 6 September 2022 (*Deadline for papers: 5pm, 28 August 2022*)

Item/issue	How	Lead member and/or lead officer	Intended outcomes
Questions to the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive - priorities and challenges for 2022/23	Verbal update with Q&A	Cllr Ross Garrod, Leader of the Council; Hannah Doody, Chief Executive	To understand current priorities in relation to Panel work programme
BCU Commander – crime and policing in Merton	Report and in-depth discussion	BCU Commander	To hold BCU Commander to account on crime and disorder. (Include Community Policing)
Safer Merton - Antisocial Behaviour	Report	Community Safety Team, Katy Saunders, Megan Hatton	Report to focus on ASB and Knife Crime (Include graffiti and vandalism)
Work programme 2023/24	Written report	Rosie McKeever, Scrutiny Officer	To agree the work programme.

Meeting date: 8 November 2023 (*Deadline for papers: 5pm, 30 October 2023*)

Item/issue	How	Lead member and/or lead officer	Intended outcomes
Business Plan - budget update	Report	Asad Mushtaq, Executive Director of Finance & Digital	
Cabinet Member priorities	Report	Cllr Eleanor Stringer, Cabinet Member for Civic Pride	
Delivery of the Civic Pride fund		Cllr Eleanor Stringer, Cabinet Member for Civic Pride	
Customer Service and the Council Website		Polly Cziok, Executive Director of Innovation and Change	
Work programme 2023/24	Written report	Rosie McKeever, Scrutiny Officer	To agree the work programme

Meeting date: 24 January 2024 (*Deadline for papers: 5pm, 15 January 2024*)

Item/issue	How	Lead member and/or lead officer	Intended outcomes
Business Plan Update – budget scrutiny	Report – common pack for Panels and Commission	Asad Mushtaq, Executive Director of Finance & Digital	To report to Cabinet on budget scrutiny
Scrutiny of the Business Plan; comments and recommendations from the overview and scrutiny panels	Report	Asad Mushtaq, Executive Director of Finance & Digital	To send comments and recommendations from the overview and scrutiny panels to Cabinet
Identify questions for the Borough Commander	Discussion	Cllr Ed Foley Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Commission	Plan line of questioning for meeting on 26 February
Work programme 2023/24	Written report	Rosie McKeever, Scrutiny Officer	To agree the work programme.

Meeting date: 26 February 2024 (*Deadline for papers: 5pm, 16 February 2024*)

Item/issue	How	Lead member and/or lead officer	Intended outcomes
BCU Commander – crime and policing in Merton	Report	BCU Commander	To hold BCU Commander to account on crime and disorder. (Include Community Policing)
Safer Merton - VAWG Strategy / Safety of women & girls	Report	Safer Merton	Include lighting
Night-time Strategy	Report	Sarah Xavier	What can the council do to develop an overarching strategy to bring various safety measures together to keep residents safe and support the economy.
Work programme 2023/24	Written report	Rosie McKeever, Scrutiny Officer	To agree the work programme

Meeting date: 13 March 2024 (*Deadline for papers: 5pm, 4 March 2024*)

Item/issue	How	Lead member and/or lead officer	Intended outcomes
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion strategy	Report		
People and Culture Plan	Report	Peter Little, Head of Organisational Development	Update on Workforce Strategy (renamed as People & Culture)
Decision Making: Review the current structure of the scrutiny panels and restructure to re-align with new directors.	Report	Scrutiny Team	Include Young Inspectors.
Planning the Commission's 2024/25 work programme	Report	Cllr Ed Foley Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Commission	To review 2023/24 and suggest ideas for 2024/25

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