



Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2009/10

London Borough of Merton

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Foreword

As the old council draws to a close and we look forward to the beginning of a new council here in Merton, it seems an appropriate moment to take stock of what has been achieved in scrutiny over the past four years and to make plans for the future.

In his recent review of the scrutiny function Professor Steve Leach found

“LB Merton continues to represent an example of an authority where overview and scrutiny can be seen as ‘good practice’ and as a model for other less progressive councils”

and judged that

“the strengths of the function outweigh its remaining weaknesses”

While this is broadly reassuring I hope we will address the weaknesses identified by Professor Leach in the next council. Scrutiny reviews would benefit from a more rigorous process for topic selection, and we plan to trial a workshop approach. The Commission will take responsibility for scrutinising the budget in its early stages, involving the panels as proposals are firmed up. Communications between Cabinet members and scrutiny chairs would benefit from regular, scheduled meetings. Agenda management can be improved to focus on items where scrutiny can add the most value.

These are refinements rather than fundamental changes. Scrutiny has achieved much in the past four years, as the report demonstrates. The politically balanced structure that we have now has served us well, and I hope this will continue in the new council. There is much work to be done in a financially challenging climate, and scrutiny will be expected to undertake more with limited resources. Nevertheless, I am confident for the future of scrutiny in Merton because we have an excellent officer team led by Julia Regan, our Scrutiny Manager. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Julia and the team for all the hard work they have put in over the last four years, and I value their ongoing support for scrutiny in the new council.



Councillor Peter Southgate
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission 2006-2010

What is overview and scrutiny?

Overview and Scrutiny was introduced by the Local Government Act 2000. Merton operates a Leader and Cabinet model, where the Cabinet makes the executive decisions of the authority on behalf of local residents.

Overview and Scrutiny's main roles are:

- holding the Cabinet to account
- improving and developing council policies
- examining decisions before they are implemented
- engaging with members of the public
- monitoring performance of the council and its partners

Scrutiny can look into services provided by other agencies and other matters of importance to the people of the borough. Scrutiny has legal powers to monitor and hold to account local health services (Health and Social Care Act 2001) and to scrutinise crime reduction and community safety issues (Police and Justice Act 2006).

Principles

Overview and Scrutiny at Merton is:

- open to the public
- informed by methodically gathered evidence
- based on careful deliberation and discussion
- conducted in an appropriate manner

How Overview and Scrutiny works in Merton

Merton Council has an Overview and Scrutiny Commission, which acts as a coordinating body supporting four Overview and Scrutiny Panels with individual areas of responsibility:

- Children and Young People
- Corporate Capacity
- Healthier Communities and Older People
- Sustainable Communities

Commission and Panel meetings take place throughout the year and members of the public are welcome to attend. Dates, agendas and minutes for these meetings can be found on the council website:

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/committee.htm> .

More information about Scrutiny at Merton can be found at

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny.htm> or by phoning the scrutiny team on 020 8545 3864 or emailing scrutiny@merton.gov.uk.

Highlights 2006-2010

Over the past four years scrutiny task group reviews have instigated many improvements to services for local people. These include:

planning applications

The review led to the clarification of the rights and responsibilities of members of the public and councillors, improved physical and electronic communication including the display of site notices and ensured that the full 21 days is now given for consultation on planning applications.

listening to young people

The review resulted in additional expenditure on youth services, which has been used to increase the number of sessions and to refurbish four youth centres. Consultation and involvement of children and young people has been strengthened through a formal commitment on this as well as through the establishment in 2007 of a new Merton Young People's Parliament. Young people have been involved in planning youth service provision and designing website information on "things to do and places to go".

prevention of ill health

This cross-cutting review highlighted how preventative measures can promote well-being, reduce pressures on local health and community care services and contribute to narrowing the health inequalities gap. Merton Council and the local NHS responded to the review findings by taking the recommendations forward through a Healthier Communities Strategy to improve the health of Merton residents.

community forums

The creation of five Community Forums in May 2008 was the direct result of a scrutiny review recommendation. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission has continued to monitor and encourage increasing public attendance through better publicity and having discussion items of interest to local residents.

quality of care in residential nursing homes

The recommendations arising from this review were intended to improve the level of care and to ensure that regular monitoring checks take place. NHS Sutton and Merton have responded with plans to create a "virtual team" so that all the professionals who visit care homes will pool their knowledge and any problems can be identified at an early stage. The scrutiny panel plan to continue to monitor progress with this work.

IVF treatment

NHS Sutton and Merton consulted the health scrutiny panel over its plans to reduce access to IVF treatment by changing the age at which women would be eligible from 23-39 to 25-34. The scrutiny panel opposed this, believing it would have an adverse impact on older women. A compromise position was agreed whereby the treatment would be offered to women aged 30-36.

post office closures

In May 2007, as part of a national change programme, Post Office Ltd proposed the closure of 169 branches in London, including six in Merton.

The Overview and Scrutiny Commission carried out extensive consultation and held two public meetings to consider the implications of the proposals. The findings were submitted formally to Post Office Ltd and resulted in an announcement by them in May 2008 that the proposal to close Kingston Road Post Office would not proceed. Commission Members welcomed this decision, whilst continuing to oppose the remaining closures in Merton.

Scrutiny panels and the Commission also took an active part in policy development during 2006-10, helping to shape a number of strategies including:

- Sixth form provision in Merton secondary schools
- Primary school places strategy
- Climate Change Strategy
- Economic Development Strategy
- Voluntary sector grant funding

Overview and Scrutiny Commission

The Overview and Scrutiny Commission is responsible for the scrutiny of cross cutting and strategic issues as well as issues relating to crime and disorder. It also acts as a coordinating body in supporting the four Overview and Scrutiny Panels and has a responsibility for developing and keeping scrutiny under review.

Scrutiny reviews

Impact of the recession

The task group was set up in order to investigate the impact of the recession on local residents and businesses. A number of the task group's recommendations are therefore aimed at helping residents to identify sources of advice and support. Other recommendations are aimed at helping residents to re-skill through adult education, training or voluntary work.

The task group recognised the valuable role that the voluntary sector has in providing early support to residents, that in many cases will prevent the need for the council and its partners to provide more extensive intervention at a later stage.

The task group has recommended that voluntary organisations continue to work together to share expertise and co-ordinate services. It has also urged the council to be mindful of the impact that any further reduction in grant funding might have on voluntary organisations and their clients.

Review of the scrutiny function

The task group was set up in order to assess the progress made in improving scrutiny during the 2006-10 council administration and to identify any further issues to be addressed to ensure the function is fit for purpose for 2010 onwards.

In carrying out this scrutiny review, task group members have drawn on their own experience of scrutiny as well talking to officers and taking into account the independent evaluation carried out by Professor Steve Leach during October and November 2009.

The report highlights the strengths of the scrutiny function at Merton, considered by Professor Leach to be among the best in the country. Weaker areas are discussed and many of the report's recommendations are aimed at addressing these - including improved agenda management, a more strategic approach to selecting topics for scrutiny, a streamlined process for budget scrutiny and clearer communication with the council's Cabinet.

Past reviews

The Commission has continued to monitor the implementation of past reviews:

- Fear of crime – the Commission has noted progress made to date in the implementation of its recommendations and will continue to monitor until it is satisfied that the action plan has completely addressed the issues raised.
- Neighbourhood governance – the Commission was to hear that Community Forum attendance has continued to increase and has made a number of suggestions for further improvements to publicity and agenda setting. The Commission takes into account issues raised at Forum meetings when drawing up the scrutiny work programme each year.
- Enforcement – pleased that, following a slow start in implementing the review panel's recommendations, pressure from the Commission has resulted in some progress this year. The Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure Services has now taken responsibility for the adoption and implementation of an overarching enforcement policy.

Strategic issues and pre-decision scrutiny

At the start of the year the Commission received a presentation from the council's Leader and Chief Executive, setting out their priorities for the year ahead, discussing the council's financial position and its approach to addressing the budget gap. These discussions enabled the Commission to draw up a work programme that would contribute to issues of strategic importance to the council and its residents.

Travellers in Mitcham

Following concerns raised by local residents, the Commission received its first "councillor call for action" request from a local ward councillor asking it to investigate how the police and the council responded to a Travellers' encampment on Mitcham Common.

The Commission responded by agreeing to hold a special meeting on the issue. At the meeting, the Commission heard in turn from local residents, Mitcham Common Conservators, police and council officers.

Much of the discussion, and the recommendations, related to communication with residents – one of Commission's' principal concerns was the way in which the council had communicated with local people while the encampment was in place. The Commission also made specific recommendations to strengthen the protocol for multi-agency working, which it subsequently reviewed in April 2010.

Other work

- Input to drafting of the Merton Partnership Engagement Strategy and the council's Corporate Equality Scheme
- Review of the council's Third Sector Strategy
- Commented on the pilot Integrated Offender Management programme
- Discussion of Merton Partnership's Annual Report as part of the Commission's statutory performance monitoring role in relation to Local Area Agreement targets.

Scrutiny of the Budget

The Commission examined the Cabinet's budget proposals in November at an early stage in the budget setting process and again in February when the budget proposals had been firmed up. This approach has enabled each of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairs to raise points pertinent to their Panels as well as scrutinising budget proposals in the round.

The Commission also spent some time examining the council's balances and reserves strategy and, due to the current economic uncertainty, is planning to look at this again during 2010/11.

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

This Panel has responsibility for the scrutiny of issues relating to children and young people. This includes education, children's social care, child protection and youth services.

Scrutiny reviews

Special educational needs

The Panel carried out a short task group review of special educational needs. The task group questioned the Special Educational Needs and Inclusion Manager, the Head of Education and the Head of Commissioning Strategy and Performance.

A short report was produced setting out information gathered on the statementing processes, statutory duties, communication with parents and the role of school-based Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators.

Past reviews

The implementation of recommendations from the 2008/9 task group review of the promotion of formal childcare in Merton has been monitored by the Panel. This review has resulted in the development of a "parent champion" role whereby parents can get involved in shaping services. Parent champions will be recruited in May 2010. A free "taster scheme" is also being developed which will be targeted to particular geographical areas where take-up is low.

Strategic issues and pre-decision scrutiny

This year the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel has reduced the number of issues considered at its meetings so that each can be examined in more depth. These included:

- the application for Trust status by Bishopford Community School – the Panel agreed to support the application, having taken into account the benefits of Trust status, the statutory process, proposed partners and timescales.
- the Free Play Strategy and the Play Pathfinder work. The Panel endorsed the aims and planned outcomes and were pleased to hear of the extensive consultation that had taken place with both children and parents. This work has subsequently been discussed at the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel's parks and open spaces scrutiny task group, who have made some recommendations aimed at helping to identify additional opportunities for providing play spaces in the borough.

- extended services in Merton schools, allowing the use of school premises for community activities beyond the usual school opening hours. The Panel welcomed this work but expressed concern that funding is not secured beyond March 2011. The Panel was advised that discussions are underway regarding the sustainability of the services in the future.
- an update on the council's plans to join the national Building Schools for the Future Programme.

Performance monitoring

The Panel receives a performance monitoring report at each of its meetings. Panel members have repeatedly raised concerns about underperformance in children's social care relating to visits completed within target time. Further information has been requested in order that the position will be clearly explained in future reports to the Panel.

The Panel also receives an annual report to provide greater detail on performance measures relating to education, including test and examination results, school attendance and exclusions.

Scrutiny of the budget

The Panel considered the budget proposals initially in November 2009 and then again at the formal budget scrutiny meeting in February 2010. The Panel identified a number of areas of concern and requested further information on some of the proposals (which was subsequently received).

The Panel requested that the impact of some of the proposed savings items be monitored. The Panel also asked that the proposed increased expenditure on children's social care be closely monitored due to the uncertainty around the future volume of work in this area and the consequent impact that this may have on the budget.

Corporate Capacity Overview and Scrutiny Panel

This Panel has responsibility for the scrutiny of issues relating to the council's "corporate capacity". This includes financial monitoring, communications, legal, human resources, IT, customer service and the performance monitoring framework.

Scrutiny reviews

Scrutiny of the Transformation Programme

The Corporate Capacity Overview and Scrutiny Panel has chosen to focus its work programme this year on the scrutiny of the council's Transformation Programme. The Panel has questioned officers in detail in order to understand what information underpins the programme, what assumptions have been made and what risk factors are attached to delivery of the potential savings.

Regular updates have been brought to the Panel so that its views could be taken into account as the project progressed. The Panel has scrutinised the rolling out of "Lean" efficiency reviews and steps taken to improve the council's performance on procurement.

The Panel has closely monitored the operation of the workforce reductions programme that has reduced the number of staff in order to address a budget gap for forthcoming years. The Panel has monitored progress on this in terms of the numbers and demographic profile of affected staff.

Past reviews

The Panel received a follow up report on its review of Democratic Engagement and Electoral Services. Although pleased that many of its recommendations had been agreed by Cabinet and that implementation of these was mostly underway, it requested a more accurate description of the status of its recommendations. A second follow up report will be received during 2010/11 so that the Panel can continue to track progress made.

Strategic issues and pre-decision scrutiny

Information provision for councillors

The swine flu pandemic prompted the Panel to raise concerns about the timeliness and content of provision of information to councillors. The Panel made a number of recommendations to the council's Corporate Management Team aimed at improving this in future as well as advising on the content of induction information for new councillors and requesting renewed publication of a booklet for councillors giving contact details for senior officers and departments.

Staff travel plan

The Panel has contributed to the development of the council's staff travel plan by commenting on an early draft, in particular by requesting that disabled parking be a priority use of the Civic Centre car park and that senior staff be charged for parking there.

HR shared services

The Panel has also asked questions about progress and implications of the move to provide a shared human resources service jointly with Sutton Council, reducing costs to Merton Council by £250,000. The Panel received information on the costs and charging arrangements as well as the contractual position of existing staff.

Performance and budget monitoring

At each of its meetings the Panel has examined performance monitoring information. Arising from this, the Panel has examined additional data on the employment of agency staff in Merton as well as comparative information from other boroughs. It has also raised concerns about the level of spend on consultants and referred the matter to a meeting of full Council.

The Panel receives regular financial monitoring reports that present members with the opportunity to highlight significant variations to the proposed budget and ask questions of officers and cabinet members about their plans to address this.

In scrutinising the proposed budget for 2010/11 the Panel asked questions relating to the impact that savings proposed in Revenues and Benefits might have on vulnerable customers and requested follow up on this and on spending on the Transformation Programme next year.

Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

This Panel has responsibility for the scrutiny of issues relating to health and adult social care. This includes including promoting good health and healthy lifestyles, mental health and reducing health inequalities.

Scrutiny reviews

Community transport service

The Panel carried out a review of the council's community transport service. This included visits to local day centres to meet service users - over 150 service users were engaged with during these visits and other users submitted survey forms to give views on the transport service they received.

The review recommendations aim to improve communication with service users and carers, and to promote more flexibility in the use of existing resources. They focus on building on what works well, and improving communication between the various local transport service providers.

The key areas recommended for change are:-

- flexibility in the client pick up and drop off times
- better day to day communication between service provider and user
- proper training for all drivers and escorts
- potential for day trips to take up slack times
- liaison with NHS non-urgent patient transport cover for peak times to fully utilise transport resources

Quality of care in residential nursing homes

The Panel has received an update on the implementation of recommendations arising from this review. NHS Sutton and Merton have responded with plans to create a "virtual team" so that all the professionals who visit care homes will pool their knowledge and any problems with the quality of care can be identified at an early stage. The Panel plan to continue to monitor progress with this work.

Other review groups

The Panel has reconstituted two review groups for 2009/10, one focussing on mental health issues, the other on transformation work relating to the whole of adult social care services.

The Mental Health Review Group has looked at the following issues:-

- closure of Jubilee Day Hospital and implications for older people's mental health services.
- temporary re-location of older people's in-patient unit to Tolworth Hospital due to a legionella outbreak.
- alcohol services.
- mental health in-patient services and future location of Merton in-patient beds.
- Mental Health Joint Commissioning Strategy.

The Adult Social Care Review Group focused on the re-organisation of services in phases one and two of the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme. It has also discussed the personalisation agenda, including self directed support, the resource allocation system, self assessment and support planning, and establishment of the Merton Adult Access Team.

Strategic issues and pre-decision scrutiny

The Panel has scrutinised a wide range of services and issues, including:

- NHS Sutton & Merton Community Services : Identification of the services provided and highlighting key issues for scrutiny in 2009/10.
- consideration of the progress with development of a dementia strategy
- agreement of a formal response to the Department of Health Green Paper on the future funding of social care
- progress with implementation of safeguarding procedures
- progress with improving the Diabetic Retinopathy screening service, following earlier problems.
- formal response to consultation on changes to the eligibility criteria for IVF treatment
- continence service – in response to concerns raised by service users
- examination of change in Occupational Therapy policy on supplying some items of equipment.
- ongoing scrutiny of local NHS trusts on their performance in dealing with hospital acquired infection and treatment of patients with learning disabilities.
- services and support received by carers.

Joint Health Scrutiny

As in previous years, there has continued to be a need for some health scrutiny to be undertaken jointly with other neighbouring authorities and Merton councillors have been involved in three joint committees:-

- The Merton, Sutton, Surrey Joint Health Scrutiny Committee continued to meet to scrutinise proposals for service changes, including development

of Epsom & St Helier NHS Trust services and introduction of several local care centres in Merton and Sutton.

- The Joint Committee for Tier 4 Services for people with personality disorders has been involved in consideration of the consultation process following closure of the Henderson Hospital in Sutton in 2008.
- The Pan London Joint Health Scrutiny Committee met throughout 2009 to consider proposals for stroke and trauma services across London as part of the wider Healthcare for London Programme.

Performance and budget monitoring

The Panel focussed its attention on three performance indicators:

- take up of telecare equipment
- social care clients receiving self directed support
- carers receiving a needs assessment or review

The Panel scrutinised the budget and business plan for 2010/11 and raised various issues including:-

- Business Plan – the need to include measurement of client satisfaction in performance targets and to make targets more meaningful and to reflect issues of local importance.
- Budget – expressed concern about budget savings which might impact on effectiveness of the reablement service and the loss of several posts in the Access and Assessment Team restructure.

Call-in

The Panel received one call-in:

Award of contract for the pilot and remodelling of the provision of a residential short breaks service for adults with learning disabilities at 138 All Saints Road

The Panel heard from two carers and then questioned the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health and the Director of Community and Housing about the evaluation process and about concerns that the reduced funding could result in fewer people accessing the service. The Director assured the Panel that pilot project will be under constant formal review.

The Panel voted in favour of supporting the Director's decision to award the contract and recommended that officers continue to work with carers and users to ensure needs are met and the contract be continually reviewed. The Panel also agreed to ask the Council's Cabinet to re-consider the level of funding available for the contract.

Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

This Panel has responsibility for the scrutiny of issues relating to housing, environmental sustainability, culture, enterprise and skills, libraries and transport.

Scrutiny reviews

Parks and open spaces

The task group heard many positive comments about local parks and open spaces and found that they are extremely important to the quality of life of our residents. It has therefore made a number of recommendations aimed at helping the council to make best use of existing resources and to seek new sources of revenue and capital finance.

Specific recommendations have been made to trial metal structured barbecue frames in Wimbledon Park this summer, to provide additional Green Gyms should appropriate funding become available and to nominate a member of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel to act as a biodiversity champion.

Other recommendations are intended to strengthen the planning process, particularly in relation to identifying and developing play facilities within the borough.

Past reviews

The Highways Maintenance Review was set up to consider the impact of highways maintenance work by utilities and partners and to see whether it could be better co-ordinated to avoid disruption. Some progress has been made in implementing the review recommendations on the co-ordination of work and use of powers to deal with delays in completing works to highways.

The Panel continued to receive progress reports on the procurement project for Merton's waste treatment and disposal arrangements, as part of the South London Waste Partnership.

Strategic issues and pre-decision scrutiny

The Panel examined an early draft of the Economic Development Strategy and made comments that were taken into account in the final document. Panel also made extensive comments on the draft Local Development Framework, asking Cabinet to take these into account and to consult the Panel again at future stages in the development of the LDF and associated documents.

The panel endorsed the housing register and nominations policy. It welcomed progress made on the use of private sector rented accommodation for social housing and agreed that the council should continue to seek to increase the number of larger sized homes available for social rent within the borough.

The Panel recommended that a community toilet scheme be investigated, including night-time toilet provision and consideration of how local businesses could adapt premises to make toilets accessible to people with disabilities. The Panel plan to monitor progress on this project.

Panel was updated on the latest position with regard to waste development procurement (Phase B) - the next stage of procurement for Merton's waste treatment and disposal arrangements, as part of the South London Waste Partnership.

The Panel also looked into housing voids performance, housing allocations policy, rents and service charges and the housing stock transfer proposal. An interim update was given to Panel (13th January) on the draft economic strategy with an excellent briefing from Rod Lyons.

Public Transport Liaison Committee

The Panel hosted two meetings of the Public Transport Liaison Committee – one in June 2009 and the second in March 2010 – at which transport providers made presentations and answered questions from residents. Discussion focussed on:

- the Northern line upgrade
- passenger safety
- anti-social behaviour on public transport
- taking bicycles on public transport
- mobility and access issues

A further meeting is planned for 26 October 2010.

Performance monitoring and budget scrutiny

The Panel discussed improvements made this year in performance on housing voids' letting time and noted the officers' commitment to further improvement.

The Panel received a report explaining under-performance on waste collection and street cleaning indicators. It also discussed indicators illustrating the impact of the economic recession on local businesses.

The Panel considered the budget proposals initially in November 2009 and then again at the formal budget scrutiny meeting in February 2010. The Panel requested and received further information on the parking control budget.

Call-in

The Panel has received two call-ins this year:

Highway maintenance and improvement contract

The Panel upheld the Cabinet's decision to proceed with granting the existing contractor a two year extension to continue to operate the Highway Maintenance and Improvement Term Contract from August 2010.

The Panel's discussion's included reference to the need for councillors to be made aware of the timescales involved in relation to the possible re-tendering of contracts and to be given more advanced notice of the need to make such decisions.

Improvement scheme – Aberconway Road junction with Abbotsbury Road

The Panel upheld the Cabinet Member's decision not to proceed with proposed improvements to the pedestrian crossing at the junction of Aberconway Road and Abbotsbury Road.

The Panel requested that a wider ranging improvement scheme for the whole of Aberconway Road be considered by the council's Street Management Advisory Committee in the near future.

Get involved

The involvement of local residents, community organisations and partners is an important part of the scrutiny process and councillors are committed to responding to the views and concerns of residents.

Getting involved in scrutiny is one of the best ways to influence decision making at the council, as councillors will hear your experiences first hand. There are a number of ways you can get involved in the work of scrutiny at the council:

Suggesting an issue for scrutiny

The council's website contains an online form which can be used to make suggestions on issues and topics for future scrutiny:

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/scrutiny/scrutiny-getinvolved.htm>

Suggestions may also be made in writing, by email or by phone to the Scrutiny Team – contact details overleaf.

All suggestions received will be discussed by the relevant scrutiny panel and the person who made the suggestion will be contacted to let them know what has happened to it.

Attending meetings

All scrutiny meetings are open to the public except where confidential information has to be discussed. A list of meeting dates and agenda items can be found on the council's website. <http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/committee.htm>

If you would like to attend a meeting simply come along to the meeting venue or, if you want more information, contact the Scrutiny Team – details overleaf.

Providing information and views

Members of the public can send in written views or speak on issues that are under discussion at the Overview and Scrutiny Commission or one of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

Information on current task group reviews and any deadlines for submission on information can be found on <http://www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny> or by contacting the Scrutiny Team – details overleaf.

Contact the Scrutiny Team

The Scrutiny Team provides independent and professional support and advice to the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and the four standing Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

You can contact the Scrutiny Team using one of the following methods: -

In writing:

Scrutiny Team
Chief Executive's Department
Merton Civic Centre
London Road
Morden
Surrey SM4 5DX

By email/telephone:

Julia Regan – Scrutiny Manager

Julia.regan@merton.gov.uk
020 8545 3864

Hilary Gullen – Scrutiny Officer

Hilary.gullen@merton.gov.uk
020 8545 4035

Stella Akintan –Scrutiny Officer (starts 12 July 2010)

020 8545 3390

Team email address:

scrutiny@merton.gov.uk

The Scrutiny Team receives administrative and professional support and advice on constitutional issues from the council's Democratic Services Team.

For further information about Overview and Scrutiny at Merton please access our web pages using the following address www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny