

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Date: 7 July 2016

Wards: All

Subject: Merton Partnership Annual Report 2016-17

Lead officer: Ged Curran, Chief Executive

Lead member: Councillor Stephen Alambritis, Leader of Merton Council and Chair of Merton Partnership

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Recommendations:

- A. That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission discuss and comment on the progress of the Merton Partnership in 2015-16, as set out in the draft Annual Report at Appendix I to be presented to the Merton Partnership Executive Board at its meeting on 26 July 2016
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 One of the key recommendations from the LBM Internal Audit of the Merton Partnership, agreed by the Merton Partnership Executive Board in September 2014 was that the “Merton Partnership should produce an Annual Report, as indicated in the Governance Handbook, for review by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and subsequently publish it.” Additionally, this report should outline performance over the previous year.
- 1.2 The draft annual report of the Merton Partnership for 2015-16 is attached at Appendix I for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission. This includes a general update on the progress of the four thematic partnerships against the community plan themes over 2015-16, as well as a detailed annual performance update.
- 1.3 The attached report is draft and subject to amendments. Once the report has been considered by the Commission, a final draft version will be taken to the Merton Partnership Executive Board on 26 July 2016 for discussion and agreement. The final report will then be published on the Merton Partnership website www.mertonpartnership.org

2. BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 The Merton Local Strategic Partnership (known as the Merton Partnership) was established in January 2002 as the overarching strategic partnership for the borough. Its aim is to work together with all partners on issues that are key to local people – including residents, workers and visitors – as reflected in the Community Plan.
- 1.1.2 The Partnership’s primary objectives are to deliver the Community Plan and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, along with other plans and strategies adopted by the Merton Partnership, for example the Community Cohesion Strategy and the Volunteering Strategy.

- 1.1.3 The Merton Partnership agreed the latest refresh of the Community Plan in May 2013. The new Community Plan shows what the Merton Partnership has achieved since the previous plan was updated in 2009, as well as the vision and priorities for the borough going forward.
- 1.1.4 The Community Plan themes can be viewed in the 2013 Community Plan document: <http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityplan.htm>
- 1.1.5 The Partnership agreed to a review of its governance arrangements to ensure that it is fit for purpose to deliver the refreshed Community Plan. In addition to other structural and operational changes, the membership of the partnership has also been updated to remove any duplication.

1.2 **Structure of the Merton Partnership**

- 1.2.1 The Merton Partnership consists of senior representatives from the public, private, voluntary and community sectors. Members are recruited on the basis of their capacity to represent their organisations and not their individual interests.
- 1.2.2 Membership of the Merton Partnership and its Executive Board is regularly reviewed. Invitations for additional representatives to join these bodies are by prior agreement between the existing Members.
- 1.2.3 The Partnership has an 'Executive Board' model, and consists of a number of key groups:
- Merton Partnership (annual themed conference);
 - Executive Board;
 - Thematic Partnerships; and
 - ad hoc working groups.
- 1.2.4 INVOLVE is a network of the community and voluntary sector and is the Community Engagement Network for Merton. A total of 15 INVOLVE elected representatives sit on the various bodies within the Merton Partnership structure. The representatives are committed to attending the meetings of their particular Board / Group, both to raise and to report back on issues relevant to the voluntary and community sector.
- 1.2.5 There are four thematic partnerships. These bodies are tasked with coordinating delivery of the priorities of the Merton Partnership, as identified in the Community Plan. The main areas of work and responsible thematic partnerships are set out below:

Theme	Responsible body and work areas
Sustainable communities	Sustainable Communities and Transport Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable housing ▪ Environment (including street scene) ▪ Transport ▪ The economy (including adult learning and skills)
Safer and stronger communities	Safer and Stronger Strategy Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preventing and reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and substance misuse ▪ Community cohesion and active citizenship ▪ Public safety (including fire safety and civic contingencies)
Healthier Communities	Health and Wellbeing Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improving health outcomes ▪ Reducing health inequalities ▪ Independent living ▪ Supported living
Children and Young People	Children's Trust <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education ▪ Children's social care ▪ Youth services

2.1 The high level conclusion of the latest 2014 internal audit of the Merton Partnership audit was that the Merton Partnership's "new governance arrangements, including a revised structure, are clear and effective in providing a sound basis for co-ordinating the activities of the different partners and reporting them against the priorities of the Partnership."

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1 The audit of the Merton Partnership recommended that a report is produced annually. Failure to do so would mean that the performance of the partnership is not reported.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1 Thematic Leads have been consulted on this report.

5. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no legal or statutory implications arising from this report.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None for the purposes of this report.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None for the purposes of this report.

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

10.1 Appendix I – Merton Partnership Annual Report 2015-16.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 None.