

Overview and Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2020/21



This table sets out the Overview and Scrutiny Commission's Work Programme for 2020/21 that was agreed by the Commission at its meeting on 24 June 2020.

This slimmed down work programme has been designed so that it can be regularly reviewed and adjusted during the pandemic. It 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.

The work programme table shows items on a meeting by meeting basis, identifying the issue under review, the nature of the scrutiny (pre decision, policy development, issue specific, performance monitoring, partnership related) and the intended outcomes.

The last page provides information on items on the Council's Forward Plan that relate to the portfolio of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission so that these can be added to the work programme should the Commission wish to.

Scrutiny Support

For further information on the work programme of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission please contact: -
Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services, 0208 545 3864, Julia.regan@merton.gov.uk

Meeting date – 15 July 2020

Scrutiny category	Item/Issue	How	Lead Member/ Lead Officer	Intended Outcomes
Holding the executive to account	Merton's Public Space Protection Order	Report	Kiran Vagarwal, Community Safety Manager	Pre-decision scrutiny prior to consideration by Cabinet
Scrutiny of crime and disorder	Identify questions for the BCU Commander	Discussion	Cllr Peter Southgate, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Commission Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services	Plan lines of questioning for meeting on 9 September
Performance management	Scrutiny improvement plan	Report	Cllr Peter Southgate, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Commission Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services	Discuss and approve action plan for improvement of scrutiny function
	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report	Report	Cllr Peter Southgate, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Commission Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services	To approve and forward to Council

Meeting date – 9 September 2020

Scrutiny category	Item/Issue	How	Lead Member/ Lead Officer	Intended Outcomes
Scrutiny of crime and disorder	BCU Commander – crime and policing in Merton	Report and in-depth discussion	BCU Commander	To hold BCU Commander to account on crime and disorder
	Safer Merton Update	Report	Kiran Vagarwal, Community Safety Manager	Progress report to focus on community resilience and domestic violence
Holding the executive to account	Covid 19 Update – to include information on communications	Report or verbal update	Matt Burrows, Interim Head of Customer Experience & Communications	To discuss and comment on the council's communication on Covid 19 to residents, businesses and voluntary sector
	Covid 19 Transport Plan	Report	Cllr Martin Whelton, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing and Transport Chris Lee, Director of Environment and Regeneration	To scrutinise the transport plan once the outcome of the TfL funding bid is known

Meeting date – 11 November 2020

Scrutiny category	Item/Issue	How	Lead Member/ Lead Officer	Intended Outcomes
Holding the executive to account	Voluntary sector capacity	Report and discussion Invite CE of MVSC to speak at meeting	John Dimmer, Head of Policy, Strategy and Partnerships	To provide information on the financial impact of the pandemic on voluntary sector organisations
	Covid 19 update – to include information on impact on budget	Report	Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services	To understand impact of pandemic and to set context for budget scrutiny
Budget scrutiny	Business Plan 2021/25 - information pertaining to round one of budget scrutiny	Report	Cllr Mark Allison Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services	To send comments to Cabinet budget meeting 7 December

Meeting date – 20 January 20201

Scrutiny category	Item/Issue	How	Lead Officer	Member/Lead	Intended Outcomes
Budget scrutiny	Business Plan Update 2021/25	Report – common pack for Panels and Commission	Cllr Mark Allison, Cabinet Member for Finance Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services		To report to Cabinet on budget scrutiny round 2
	Scrutiny of the Business Plan 2021-2025: comments and recommendations from the overview and scrutiny panels	Report	Cllr Peter Southgate Scrutiny Officer lead tbc		To report to Cabinet on budget scrutiny round 2
Holding the executive to account	Covid 19 update – only take this if there is urgent business				
Scrutiny of crime and disorder	Identify questions for the Borough Commander	Discussion	Cllr Peter Southgate Scrutiny Officer lead tbc		Plan line of questioning for meeting on 17 March

Meeting date – 17 March 2021

Scrutiny category	Item/Issue	How	Lead Member/Lead Officer	Intended Outcomes
Scrutiny of crime and disorder	BCU Commander – crime and policing in Merton	Report and in-depth discussion	BCU Commander	To hold BCU Commander to account on crime and disorder
	Safer Merton Update	Report	Kiran Vagarwal, Community Safety Manager	Progress report to focus on ASB and serious violence
Holding the executive to account	Customer contact strategy	Report	Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services	To include information on the customer contact strategy and customer experience of accessing services through the council’s website.

Meeting date – 28 April 2021

Scrutiny category	Item/Issue	How	Lead Officer	Member/Lead	Intended Outcomes
Holding the executive to account	Universal Credit	Report Invite the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Trussell Trust to speak at the meeting.	David Keppler, Head of Revenues and Benefits		To achieve a deeper understanding of the impact of Universal Credit on Merton residents.
	Equality and Community Cohesion Strategy 2017-20	Report	Evereth Willis, Equality and Community Cohesion Officer		To comment on progress made with action plan. Pre-decision scrutiny of the next plan, using learning from scrutinising Covid 19 and other items
	Demographic profile of councillors and senior council managers	Report	Liz Hammond, Interim Head of HR		Update to monitor changes since report last received in January 2020
Performance management	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report	Report	Cllr Peter Southgate Julia Regan		To approve and forward to Council
	Member Survey Results (if available)	Report	Cllr Peter Southgate Scrutiny Officer lead tbc		To discuss results and agree action plan
	Planning the Commission's 2021/22 work programme	Report	Cllr Peter Southgate Scrutiny Officer lead tbc		To review 2019/20 and agree priorities for 2020/21

Forward plan items relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Merton's Public Space Protection Order Report

A report to outline the evidence and consultation results to inform Cabinet and to assist them in their task to consider the renewal and proposed amendment to the Public Space Protection Order on the borough.

Decision due: 7 Sep 2020 by Cabinet

Extension of CCTV maintenance contract

Authorisation is requested for the modification of the CCTV maintenance contract, which is due to expire on 5 November 2020, to extend it for a further 12 months. The purpose of the extension is to allow the CCTV team sufficient time to scope and procure a new contract that will cover both maintenance and a significant programme of upgrades for which capital funding in 2021/22 and 2022/23 has been allocated.

Decision due: 15 Jun 2020 by Director of Corporate Services (with some exempt information)

Award of Multi-Function Device Tender

This is to agree the award of the new Multi Function Device (MFD) tender. Report expected to contain some exempt information.

Decision due: 23 March 2020 by Cabinet - deferred

Adoption of the Co-Operative Party Charter on Modern Day Slavery

To adopt the Charter as called for by Council in November 2018

Decision due: 27 Jan 2020 by Cabinet - deferred