

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Date: 17 March 2021

Subject: Planning the Commission's 2021/22 work programme

Lead officer: Rosie Mckeever, Scrutiny Officer

Lead member: Councillor Peter Southgate, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission

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Recommendations:

- A. That the Commission reviews its 2020/21 work programme (set out in the appendix), identifying what worked well, what worked less well and what the Commission would like to do differently next year;
- B. That the Commission suggests items for inclusion in the 2021/22 work programme – both agenda items and potential task group review topics;
- C. That the Commission re-establishes the financial monitoring task group and makes recommendations regarding its work programme;
- D. That the Commission advises on agenda items for its meeting on 14 July 2021.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To enable the Commission to plan its work programme for the forthcoming municipal year and, in particular, to agree agenda items for the first meeting of the municipal year

2 DETAILS

The scrutiny officers are currently gathering suggestions for issues to scrutinise, either as Commission agenda items or task group reviews. Suggestions are being sought from members of the public, councillors and partner organisations including the Police, NHS and Merton Voluntary Service Council. The council's departmental management teams have been consulted in order to identify forthcoming issues on which the Commission could contribute to the policymaking process.

The Commission is therefore invited to suggest items for inclusion in the 2019/20 work programme – both agenda items and potential task group review topics.

All the suggestions received will be discussed at the Commission's topic workshop in June.

A note of the workshop discussion and draft work programme will be reported to the first meeting of the Commission in the new municipal year. The Commission will be requested to discuss this draft and agree any changes that it wishes to make.

In previous years the Commission has established a financial monitoring task group to lead on the scrutiny of financial monitoring information on behalf of the Commission, with the following terms of reference:

The task group has met four times a year to enable the financial monitoring information to be examined on a quarterly basis. The meetings are held in private.

If the Commission agrees to re-establish the task group for 2021/22, Members can be appointed at its meeting on 14 July 2021.

The Commission is asked to advise on any other items that it would be helpful to include on the agenda for its 14 July meeting.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The Overview and Scrutiny Commission can select topics for scrutiny review and for other scrutiny work as it sees fit, taking into account views and suggestions from officers, partner organisations and the public

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

Scrutiny topic suggestions are being sought from members of the public, councillors, council officers and partner organisations including the police, NHS and Merton Voluntary Service Council.

5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

None for the purposes of this report.

6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

There are none specific to this report.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engaging with local partners in scrutiny reviews. Furthermore, the outcomes of reviews are intended to benefit all sections of the local community.

8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

The Police and Justice Act 2006 requires every Council to have a scrutiny committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken by the Council and the other responsible authorities in the exercise of their crime and disorder functions. The other responsible authorities are the police, the police authority (Metropolitan Police Authority), the fire and rescue authority and the NHS (Merton Clinical Commissioning Group and local NHS Trusts).

In Merton the responsible committee is the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.

Under the 2006 Act, the responsible committee is required to “meet to review or scrutinise decisions made, or action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions, no less than once every twelve months”. In doing so, it may

require the attendance of officers from the Council, the police and co-operating authorities.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None relating to this report

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

- Appendix 1 – 2020/21 work programme

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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