

Overview and Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2024/25



This table sets out the draft Overview and Scrutiny Commission's Work Programme for 2024/25 following discussions at the topic workshop on 10 July 2024.

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 Edward Foley

Vice-chair: Cllr Dan Johnston

Scrutiny Support

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

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

Meeting date: 11 September 2024 (***Deadline for papers:*** 5pm, 2 September 2024)

Item/issue	How	Lead member and/or lead officer	Intended outcomes
Questions to the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive- priorities and challenges for the year ahead	Verbal update	Cllr Ross Garrod, Leader of the Council; Hannah Doody, Chief Executive	To understand current priorities in relation to Panel work programme
Change Team	Report	Keith Burns, Ruth Knox	Introduction to the Change Team, an overview of what they do and what their planned work is for the year.
Scrutiny Annual Report	Report	Cllr Edward Foley, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Commission	Approve the annual report for Full Council
Scrutiny Member Survey	Report	Cllr Edward Foley, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Commission	Approve the member survey for Full Council
Identify questions for the Borough Commander	Discussion	Commission Members	Plan line of questioning for next meeting
Work programme 24/25	Report	Scrutiny Team	Discuss and approve work programme

Meeting date: 27 November 2024 (*Deadline for papers: 5pm, 18 November 2024*)

Item/issue	How	Lead member and/or lead officer	Intended outcomes
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 - VAWG/Safety of Women and Girls update	Report	Community Safety Team, Katy Saunders, Megan Hatton	Report to focus on VAWG/Safety of Women and Girls update
Business Plan - budget update	Report	Asad Mushtaq, Executive Director of Finance & Digital; Cabinet Member for Finance	Business Plan - budget update
Council Communications, Consultation and Engagement			Advertising and PR, promoting events, new logo, digital campaigns, Include results of latest resident survey this summer. By Autumn we will have data on balance within digital and physical. Demographic balance. Schedule for November or January.

Work programme 24/25	Report	Scrutiny Team	Discuss and approve work programme
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Meeting date: 30 January 2025 (*Deadline for papers: 5pm, 21 January 2025*)

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; Cabinet Member for Finance	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
Emergency Planning	Report		How prepared are we, as a Council, to respond to emergencies in the borough and what are the lessons learned from previous incidents?
Equality, Diversity & Inclusion strategy	Report	Susan Botros, Interim Equalities & Community Cohesion Lead	
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 24/25	Report	Scrutiny Team	Discuss and approve work programme

Meeting date: 5 March 2025 (**Deadline for papers:** 5pm, 24 February 2025)

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)
<p>Safer Merton Night-time strategy - Progress on the development of the strategy.</p> <p>Community Policing - Encouraging community policing. What can the local authority (and the local community) do to support and develop the concept of community policing to build trust.</p> <p>PSPO</p>	Report	Safer Merton	
Work programme 24/25	Report	Scrutiny Team	Discuss and approve work programme

Meeting date: 30 April 2025 (*Deadline for papers: 5pm, 21 April 2025*)

Item/issue	How	Lead member and/or lead officer	Intended outcomes
Delivery of the Civic Pride fund		Cllr Eleanor Stringer, Cabinet Member for Civic Pride, Keith Burns	Community aspects.
Merton Council as a good employer	Report	Polly Cziok	A review of recruitment and retention by the council, taking in views of Council employees (Include Zero Hour contracts)
Planning the Commission's 2025/26 work programme	Report	Cllr Edward Foley, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Commission	To review 2024/25 and suggest ideas for 2025/26

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