

Agenda Item 7

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMISSION	DATE 11 September 2024
TITLE Member Survey 2023/24	WARDS All
CHIEF OFFICER Scrutiny Manager	CABINET/LEAD MEMBER Cllr Edward Foley, Chair of the Commission
DECISION CLASSIFICATION Non exempt report	IS THE FINAL DECISION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REPORT TO BE MADE AT THIS MEETING? Yes

1. **Recommendations:**

- A. That the Commission consider the findings from the Member Survey conducted in 2024 and included within Appendix A.

2. **Purpose of Report and Executive Summary**

- 2.1 Each year the scrutiny team carries out a survey to collect the views of Merton councillors and co-opted scrutiny members about how scrutiny is working - where things work well, where things do not work quite so well, and how they can be improved.

3. **Links to the Merton Priorities (Borough of Sport/Civic Pride/Sustainable Futures)**

- 3.1 This report relates to the Council's Strategic priorities as 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.

4. **Introduction and Background**

- 4.1 The results of the Member Survey are set out in Appendix A and Appendix B.

5. **Available Options & Preferred Option**

- 5.1 Whilst there is no statutory requirement to undertake an annual member survey, the findings enable members' satisfaction with the scrutiny process at Merton to be measured against previous years and to develop actions to improve the scrutiny process.

6. **Preferred Option**

- 6.1 None.

7. **Reasons for Recommendations**

- 7.1 To ensure the smooth running of meetings of Council bodies.

8. **Consultation Results**

8.1 The member survey is conducted for a minimum of three weeks each year

9. **Next Steps & Timetable: Communication and Implementation of the Decision**

9.1 Send the report to Council on 18 September 2024.

10. **Report Appendices**

10.1 The following documents are to be published with and form part of the report:

- Appendix A: Member Survey analysis and findings
- Appendix B: Verbatim comments from Members

11. **Background Papers**

None

12. **Cross-Cutting Issues and Implications and Sign-Off**

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Legal including Human Rights Act	Notwithstanding, there is no statutory requirement to undertake an annual member survey, the report provides the reasons as to why the survey is carried out and how it feeds into the scrutiny process and the democratic process. There are no specific legal implications arising out of this report.	Fabiola Hickson Head of Law, Procurement and Information Governance 05/09/2024
Finance and other resources	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, there could be costs associated with the implementation of any recommendations for improvement from the survey findings where applicable.	Gina James Service Financial Adviser 05/09/2024
Equalities	The decisions recommended through this report have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act 2010. There is no apparent equality impact on end users.	Rosie Mckeever Scrutiny Manager 03/06/24
Climate change	Whilst all meetings will have some environmental impact in terms of energy used within the buildings and transport to and from the meeting, meetings are predominantly paperless to reduce environmental impact, with all meeting documents available electronically and paper copies only provided where required for accessibility reasons.	Rosie Mckeever Scrutiny Manager 03/06/24

	The Council encourages sustainable travel – the vast majority of meetings will be held at the Civic Centre which is close to public transport links.	
Executive Director	Clearance/Approval of Report	N/A
Cabinet Member/s	Clearance/Approval of Report	N/A
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