

Committee: Healthier Communities and Older People
Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 17 March 2015

Agenda item:

Wards: All

Subject: Planning the Panel's 2015/16 work programme

Lead officer: Stella Akintan, Scrutiny Officer

Lead member: Councillor Peter McCabe, Chair of the Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Contact officer: Stella Akintan; Stella.akintan@merton.gov.uk; 020 8545 3390

Recommendations:

- A. That the Panel reviews its 2014/15 work programme, identifying what worked well, what worked less well and what the Panel would like to do differently next year;
 - B. That the Panel suggests items for inclusion in the 2015/16 work programme – both agenda items and potential task group review topics;
 - C. That the Panel advises on agenda items for its meeting on 02 July 2015.
-

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To enable the Panel 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

Identifying issues for the 2015/16 work programme

- 2.1 The scrutiny officers are currently gathering suggestions for issues to scrutinise, either as Panel 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. Other issues of public concern will be identified through the Annual Residents Survey. The council's departmental management teams have been consulted in order to identify forthcoming issues on which the Panel could contribute to the policymaking process.
- 2.2 The Panel is therefore invited to suggest items for inclusion in the 2015/16 work programme – both agenda items and potential task group review topics.
- 2.3 All the suggestions received will be discussed at the Panel's topics agenda item at the first meeting of the Panel on 02 July 2015. As in previous years, participants will be asked to prioritise the suggestions using criteria so that the issues chosen relate to:

- the Council's strategic priorities;
- services that are underperforming;
- issues of public interest or concern;
- issues where scrutiny could make a difference.

Planning the first meeting of the 2015/16 municipal year

- 2.4 In previous years the Panel has received presentations from the Chief Executives of the acute trusts at this meeting. This provides an opportunity to consider their priorities and challenges for the year ahead, alongside the scrutiny work programme discussion. The Panel is asked to advise on whether it would be helpful to have similar presentations this year.
- 2.5 The Panel is also asked to advise on any other items that it would be helpful to include on the agenda for its 02 July meeting.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 The Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel 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

- 5.1 None for the purposes of this report.

6. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are none specific to this report.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 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

- 8.1 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 Primary Care Trust.

- 8.2 In Merton the responsible committee is the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.
- 8.3 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

- 9.1 None relating to this report.

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

- 10.1 None

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 None

This page is intentionally left blank