

## **Committee:** Overview and Scrutiny Commission

**Date:** 14 November 2018

## **Subject:** Involving the youth parliament in scrutiny

Lead officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services

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

Contact officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services,  
[julia.regan@merton.gov.uk](mailto:julia.regan@merton.gov.uk), 0208 545 3864

---

### **Recommendations:**

That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission:

- A. discuss and comment on the joint Youth Parliament and Merton Council scrutiny exercise (see Appendix A)
  - B. agree to forward the report and recommendations for consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on 10 December 2018
  - C. agree to receive a further report with proposals to involve the Youth Parliament more in scrutiny panel and task group work in future.
- 

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. The Commission is asked to discuss and comment on the scrutiny exercise that was carried out with Youth Parliament members during local democracy week – report of the meeting is set out in Appendix A.
- 1.2. The Commission is asked to agree to take the recommendations of the scrutiny meeting forward to Cabinet and to consider how it may wish to involve members of the Youth Parliament in future scrutiny activities.

## **2 DETAILS**

- 2.1. The Chair of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel, asked the Head of Democracy Services to work with the Children Schools and Families Department so an event could be run during Local Democracy Week that would give young people some experience of and insight into our scrutiny processes.
- 2.2. This innovative and enjoyable event was held on Monday 15 October 2018. Five members of the Youth Parliament joined seven scrutiny councillors from all political groups on the council to take part in a focussed scrutiny exercise to discuss “what is Merton doing to help young people feel safe?”
- 2.3. The theme of the meeting was chosen by the Youth Parliament to provide them with an opportunity to present and discuss the results of a consultation the Young Advisers had carried out with 742 young people aged 11-20.
- 2.4. Sergeant Mark Roberts, the Police lead on youth engagement, and Temitayo Oketunji, Victims Champion in Safer Merton, attended to outline their roles and to answer questions.

- 2.5. A full report of the meeting is set out in Appendix A.
- 2.6. The Commission is asked to endorse the recommendations set out in the report and to agree to receive a further report with proposals for the future involvement of youth parliament members in scrutiny.

### **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

Commission members may choose to make an alternative response to the report.

### **4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 4.1. Not applicable.

### **5 TIMETABLE**

- 5.1. Not applicable.

### **6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. There are no property or resource implications at this time.

### **7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

None for the purpose of this report.

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

Appendix A – report of the joint Youth Parliament and Merton Council scrutiny exercise “keeping young people safe in Merton”, 15 October 2018

### **12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 12.1. None



This page is intentionally left blank