

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

**Date: 13 November 2019**

Wards: All

**Subject: Scrutiny of the Business Plan 2020-2024: comments and recommendations from the overview and scrutiny panels**

Lead officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services

Lead member: Councillor Peter Southgate, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny

Contact officer: Julia Regan; Julia.regan@merton.gov.uk; 020 8545 3864

### **Recommendations:**

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1. That in determining its response to Cabinet on the business plan 2020-24, the Overview and Scrutiny Commission considers and takes into account the comments and recommendations made by overview and scrutiny panels
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## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This report sets out the comments and recommendations of each of the overview and scrutiny panels following consideration of the business plan. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission is recommended to take these into account when determining its response to Cabinet.

## **2 DETAILS**

- 2.1. On 14 October 2019, Cabinet received a report on the business plan for 2020-24. These items have been reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Panels and to the Commission so that comments and recommendations from scrutiny can be conveyed to Cabinet at its meeting on 16 December 2019.
- 2.2. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission has a constitutional duty to co-ordinate the scrutiny responses on the business plan and budget formulation. The outcome of scrutiny by the panels (described in section 3 below) is presented to Commission for this purpose.
- 2.3. The substantive report on the Business Plan 2020-2024 is contained elsewhere on this agenda for the Commission's consideration.

## **3 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS**

- 3.1. Appendix 1 contains comments and recommendations made by the scrutiny panels.
- 3.2. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission is recommended to consider the comments and recommendations put forward by the scrutiny panels when determining its overall scrutiny response to Cabinet on the Business Plan 2020-24.

## **4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1. The Constitution requires the Overview and Scrutiny Commission to consider the comments and recommendations put forward by the overview and scrutiny panels and to agree a joint overview and scrutiny response. Cabinet is then required under the terms of the Constitution to receive, consider and respond to references from overview and scrutiny.

## **5 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 5.1. The Constitution contains the requirements for consulting scrutiny on the budget and business plan. There is an initial phase of scrutiny in November each year, with the second round in January/February representing the formal consultation of scrutiny on the proposed Business Plan, Budget and Capital Programme.

## **6 TIMETABLE**

- 6.1. Round one of scrutiny of the 2020-24 Business Plan was undertaken as follows:-
- Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel: 30 October 2019
  - Healthier Communities & Older People Scrutiny Panel: 5 November 2019
  - Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel: 6 November 2019
  - Overview and Scrutiny Commission: 13 November 2019
- 6.2. Comments and recommendations from round one will be reported to Cabinet on 16 December 2019.
- 6.3. Round two of scrutiny of the Business Plan is planned as follows:-
- Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel: 8 January 2020
  - Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel: 15 January 2020
  - Healthier Communities & Older People Scrutiny Panel: 9 January 2020
  - Overview and Scrutiny Commission: 22 January 2020
- 6.4. The responses from round two will be presented to Cabinet on 10 February 2020. A meeting of full Council will then take place on 4 March 2020.

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

- 7.1. These are detailed in the substantive reports elsewhere on this agenda and in the reports considered by Cabinet on 14 October 2019.

## **8 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. The process for developing the budget and business plan is set out in Part 4C of the Council's Constitution. The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and panels with regard to the development of the budget and business plan is set out in Part 4E of the Constitution.
- 8.2. The legal and statutory implications relating to the Business Plan are contained in the reports elsewhere on this agenda.

**9 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

9.1. None directly relating to this report.

**10 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

10.1. None directly relating to this report.

**11 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1. None directly relating to this report.

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

- Appendix 1: comments and recommendations made by the scrutiny panels in relation to the Business Plan 2020-24.

**13 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

13.1. None

**References/Comments from Scrutiny Panels to the Overview & Scrutiny Commission 13 November 2019**

**Scrutiny of the Business Plan 2020-2024**

Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel, 30 October 2019

The Panel discussed each of the new savings proposals and asked questions of clarification.

Councillor Daniel Holden raised a motion with regards to ENV1920-01 which is the Parking Services application to change Merton's PCN charge band from band B to band A. The motion was seconded by Councillor David Dean and debated by the Panel.

The Panel unanimously RESOLVED to make the following reference to Cabinet:

“This Panel recommends to Cabinet that the proposed saving of ENV1920-01 be accepted on the proviso that the key locations that give rise to PCN's are checked and reviewed by the Highways inspectors to ensure that the appropriate signage, layout and road markings are clear and therefore not unfairly penalising residents.

Once the review is concluded, the results should be brought to the Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel for comment”.

Healthier Communities & Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 5 November

The Panel discussed the report and the one proposed saving in relation to its remit.

No reference was made to Cabinet.

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel, 6 November 2019

The Panel discussed the report and the savings in relation to its remit.

No reference was made to Cabinet.