

## Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Date: 28 April 2021

### Subject: Analysis of the Annual Member Scrutiny Survey 2021

Lead officer: Rosie Mckeever, Scrutiny Officer

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

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#### Recommendations:

- A. That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission considers the findings arising from the 2021 Member Survey.

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#### 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the Overview and Scrutiny Commission to consider the findings from the 2021 Member Survey.

#### 2 DETAILS

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. The survey also evaluates the effectiveness of the scrutiny function as a whole and with the different work streams that make up overview and scrutiny.

##### Key findings

Overall, the results from this year's survey are positive:

**Overall effectiveness:** Regarding the overall effectiveness of scrutiny, 64% of respondents rated scrutiny as completely or somewhat effective. The result of 64% was the same for scrutiny's overall impact on the pandemic response.

**Task groups:** Task group work was once again rated the most effective element of scrutiny with 80% rating it as completely or somewhat effective. This was closely followed by performance monitoring with 76%.

**Scrutiny team:** Satisfaction with the team remained positive with respondents giving the team a satisfaction rating of 100%. In total, 60% of respondents rated the support provided as excellent, with the further 40% rating the team as good.

#### 3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

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 year on year

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

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

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

None for the purposes of this report.

#### **6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

There are none specific to this report.

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

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**

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 NHS (Merton Clinical Commissioning Group and local NHS Trusts).

In Merton the responsible committee is the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.

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. Appendix 1: Member Survey 2021 – analysis and findings

10.2. Appendix 2: Verbatim comments from Members