

Merton Council

Council meeting

Membership

The Mayor: Councillor David Chung

The Deputy Mayor: Councillor Pauline Cowper

Councillors: Agatha Mary Akyigyina, Stephen Alambritis, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Hamish Badenoch, John Bowcott, Michael Bull, Adam Bush, Tobin Byers, Charlie Chirico, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Stephen Crowe, Mary Curtin, David Dean, John Dehaney, Nick Draper, Edward Foley, Brenda Fraser, Fidelis Gadzama, Ross Garrod, Suzanne Grocott, Jeff Hanna, Joan Henry, Daniel Holden, James Holmes, Janice Howard, Mary-Jane Jeanes, Abigail Jones, Philip Jones, Andrew Judge, Sally Kenny, Linda Kirby, Abdul Latif, Najeeb Latif, Brian Lewis-Lavender, Gilli Lewis-Lavender, Edith Macauley MBE, Russell Makin, Maxi Martin, Peter McCabe, Oonagh Moulton, Ian Munn BSc, MRTPI(Rtd), Katy Neep, Dennis Pearce, John Sargeant, Judy Saunders, David Simpson CBE, Marsie Skeete, Peter Southgate, Geraldine Stanford, Linda Taylor OBE, Imran Uddin, Gregory Patrick Udeh, Peter Walker, Jill West, Martin Whelton and David Williams

Date: Wednesday 3 February 2016

Time: 7.15 pm

**Venue: Council chamber - Merton Civic Centre, London Road,
Morden SM4 5DX**

This is a public meeting and attendance by the public is encouraged and welcomed. For more information about the agenda please contact

democratic.services@merton.gov.uk or telephone [020 8545 3361](tel:02085453361).

All Press contacts: press@merton.gov.uk, 020 8545 3181

Council meeting

3 February 2016

1	Apologies for absence	
2	Declarations of Pecuniary Interest	
3	Minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 10
4	Announcements by the Mayor, Leader of the Council and Chief Executive	
5	Public questions to cabinet members The questions and written responses will be circulated at the meeting.	
6	Councillors' ordinary priority questions to cabinet members The questions and written responses will be circulated at the meeting	
7a	Strategic theme: Councillors' questions to cabinet members The questions and written responses will be circulated at the meeting.	
7b	Strategic theme: Main report - Sustainable Communities	11 - 34
7c	Strategic theme: motions	
8	Report from Raynes Park Community Forum	35 - 38
9	Report from Wimbledon Community Forum	39 - 42
10	Notice of motion - Conservative 1 (Webcasting)	43 - 44
11	Notice of Motion - Conservative 2 (Health Champions)	45 - 46
12	Notice of Motion - Conservative 3 (Adult Social Care precept)	47 - 48
13	Review of Polling Places	49 - 72
14	Approval of pay policy statement and re-adoption of the members allowances scheme	73 - 80

15	Council Calendar 2016/17	81 - 84
16	The Use of Special Urgency for a Key Decision - Procurement for Integrated Health Improvement	85 - 88
17	Changes to membership of committees and related matters	89 - 90
18	Petitions	91 - 94
19	Business for the next ordinary meeting of the Council	

Note on declarations of interest

Members are advised to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared they should withdraw from the meeting room during the whole of the consideration of that matter and must not participate in any vote on that matter. If members consider they should not participate because of a non-pecuniary interest which may give rise to a perception of bias, they should declare this, withdraw and not participate in consideration of the item. For further advice please speak with the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance.

Agenda Item 3

All minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the committee/panel. To find out the date of the next meeting please check the calendar of events at your local library or online at www.merton.gov.uk/committee.

COUNCIL

18 NOVEMBER 2015

(19.15 - 22.00)

PRESENT

The Mayor of Merton, Councillor David Chung
The Deputy Mayor of Merton, Councillor Pauline Cowper

Councillors: Agatha Mary Akyigyina, Stephen Alambritis, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Hamish Badenoch, John Bowcott, Michael Bull, Adam Bush, Tobin Byers, Charlie Chirico, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Stephen Crowe, Mary Curtin, David Dean, John Dehaney, Nick Draper, Edward Foley, Brenda Fraser, Fidelis Gadzama, Ross Garrod, Suzanne Grocott, Jeff Hanna, Joan Henry, Daniel Holden, James Holmes, Janice Howard, Mary-Jane Jeanes, Abigail Jones, Philip Jones, Andrew Judge, Sally Kenny, Linda Kirby, Abdul Latif, Najeeb Latif, Brian Lewis-Lavender, Gilli Lewis-Lavender, Edith Macauley, Russell Makin, Maxi Martin, Peter McCabe, Oonagh Moulton, Ian Munn, Katy Neep, John Sargeant, Judy Saunders, David Simpson, Marsie Skeete, Peter Southgate, Geraldine Stanford, Linda Taylor, Imran Uddin, Gregory Udeh, Peter Walker, Jill West, Martin Whelton and David Williams

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

An apology was received by Councillor Dennis Pearce.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

No pecuniary declarations were made.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

The Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 9 September 2015 were approved as a correct record.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Agenda Item 4)

The Mayor provided the Council with a brief update on his recent Mayoral duties including the success of 'Silver Sunday' afternoon tea event which 120 residents had attended, democracy week with the Borough's primary schools, and the Remembrance Services.

The Mayor also made a presentation of the London in Bloom - Silver and Bronze awards to the Cemetery's manager, as Borough's cemeteries had recently won the awards.

5 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS (Agenda Item 5)

The responses to the written public questions were circulated prior to the meeting. The Mayor then invited each of the questioners in turn to ask (if they wished) a supplementary question to the appropriate Cabinet Member.

A copy of the supplementary questions and the responses will be included within the 'Public questions to Cabinet Members' published document.

6 COUNCILLORS' ORDINARY PRIORITY QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS (Agenda Item 6)

The responses to the Members' ordinary priority questions were circulated prior to the meeting. The Mayor then invited each of those Councillors in turn to ask (if they wished) a further supplementary question to the Cabinet Member.

A copy of the supplementary questions and the responses will be included within the 'Councillors' ordinary priority questions' to cabinet members published document.

7a STRATEGIC THEME: COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS (Agenda Item 7a)

The responses to the Members' strategic theme priority questions were circulated prior to the meeting. The Mayor then invited each of those Councillors in turn to ask (if they wished) a further supplementary question to the Cabinet Member.

A copy of the supplementary questions and the responses will be included within the 'Strategic theme: Councillors' questions to Cabinet Members' published document.

7b STRATEGIC THEME: MAIN REPORT - SAFER AND STRONGER WITH A FOCUS ON POLICING. (Agenda Item 7b)

The report was moved by Councillor Edith Macauley and seconded by Councillor Stephen Alambritis.

Councillor David Simpson also spoke on this item.

RESOLVED

That the Strategic Theme report is agreed.

7c STRATEGIC THEME: MOTIONS (Agenda Item 7c)

The motion was moved by Councillor David Williams and seconded by Councillor Abdul Latif.

The Labour amendment, as set out in agenda item 24 was moved by Councillor Brenda Fraser and seconded by Councillor Imran Uddin.

The Labour amendment was then put to the vote and was carried – votes in favour 38, and votes against 20 with 1 abstention.

The substantive resolution was then agreed.

RESOLVED

This Council notes that Merton's current Community Cohesion Strategy 2012-2015 will shortly come to an end, although it remains fit for purpose under the new statutory PREVENT regime and there is no impediment to it continuing in place whilst a new strategy is developed. The timetable for renewing the Merton Community Cohesion Strategy has slipped due to reduced staff capacity and the need to focus existing capacity on the frontline of actually delivering the community cohesion strategy on the ground, as illustrated by the agenda/minutes of the Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minorities in July and September 2015. Council acknowledges that it is important to ensure full consultation on the strategy so that we get the aspirations and priorities right and that a rushed strategy with inadequate consultation will not well serve the people of Merton.

The legal and statutory implications in the last report to the JCC remind the Council that under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 it has a duty in the exercise of its functions to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism' and that the strategy will promote inclusion and support local people to get involved in their local community and to continue to build good relations in the borough', which is what the existing strategy was designed to achieve and what the new strategy will build on.

The Council resolves to recommend to the Merton Partnership, which is made up of organisations including the police, the council, the NHS and voluntary sector organisations – as owners of the strategy – to inject a greater degree of urgency into the process of renewal where possible, bearing in mind the need to ensure full consultation and the significant reduction in the capacity of organisations such as the police to undertake partnership work in the light of cuts in their funding from central government, and:

- 1). Ensure that full consultation with all relevant partners and groups in the borough is undertaken prior to the implementation from February 2016.
- 2). Continue to encourage meaningful dialogue between the key stakeholders (i.e. Thematic Partnerships; Safer Stronger Group/Executive Board; JCC and Faith

and Belief Forum and the Executive Board itself) that includes and goes beyond the aspirations consulted on and agreed by the partnership outlined in the identified seven key priorities (ie improving engagement with minority and new communities, monitoring community tensions, continuing inter-faith dialogue, supporting and engaging with the voluntary sector, supporting employment and economic development opportunities, encouraging and supporting children, young people and families, and improving health outcomes)

- 3). Acknowledging that “community cohesion” is a broad concept and that rigid measurements of levels of cohesion are not always possible, continue to include a detailed action plan and to impose where appropriate and helpful a rigour with targets and expectation of outcomes that are SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and timely)
- 4). Continue to support the promotion of the use of the English language by all established groups receiving public funding, bearing in mind the requirements of the Equality Act.

8 REPORT FROM COLLIERS WOOD COMMUNITY FORUM (Agenda Item 8)

Councillor Greg Udeh presented the report, which was received by the Council.

9 REPORT FROM MITCHAM COMMUNITY FORUM (Agenda Item 9)

Councillor Ian Munn presented the report, which was received by the Council.

10 REPORT FROM MORDEN COMMUNITY FORUM (Agenda Item 10)

Councillor Philip Jones presented the report, which was received by the Council.

11 REPORT FROM RAYNES PARK COMMUNITY FORUM (Agenda Item 11)

Councillor Michael Bull presented the report, which was received by the Council.

12 REPORT FROM WIMBLEDON COMMUNITY FORUM (Agenda Item 12)

Councillor James Holmes presented the report, which was received by the Council.

13 NOTICE OF MOTION - CONSERVATIVE 1 (Agenda Item 13)

The motion was moved by Councillor Hamish Badenoch and seconded by Councillor Daniel Holden.

The Labour amendment, as set out in agenda item 25 was moved by Councillor Judy Saunders and seconded by Councillor Tobin Byers.

Councillor Ed Foley also spoke on the item.

The Labour amendment was then put to the vote and was carried – votes in favour 34, and votes against 24 with 1 abstention.

The substantive resolution was then agreed.

RESOLVED

Merton Council listens to residents and resolves to engage with their concerns in better ways than just Twitter #Mertonlistens

Council notes the significant investment Merton is making into listening and responding to our residents as part of the new Customer Contact Programme which is focused on offering our customers quick and easy access to information and services online, providing a more efficient and responsive service for residents.

Merton's website is being redesigned so it is much easier for residents to "report", "say", "pay" and "apply" for Merton's services. In addition, residents will be able to set up their own website "personal account" which will be personalised to their (or their households) interests, bringing together, into one place, all of their interactions with the council. As a result of this project, the council will:

- be able to keep residents informed of the progress being made with their enquiry
- have more time to spend with customers who need specialist, expert advice
- waste less time responding to complaints or repeat requests for services

Council notes that Merton also listens to residents via regular consultations including the Annual Residents Survey, strategic and budget consultations, traffic and parking consultations and consultations via area forums. The council also offers a dedicated contact centre for telephone enquiries and the LoveCleanStreets smart phone app to allow easier reporting of street scene issues.

Council further notes that local authorities have spent millions on social media since the start of the government's austerity programme. However social media networks, such as Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram and Twitter, may not always be the most efficient or effective method of interacting with residents and not all councils would want to spend precious resources employing officers specifically to monitor and respond to social media. In a time of government cuts, councils such as Merton have endeavoured to focus spending on front line services, including refuse collection and social services, rather than on staff employed to monitor social media, and to invest in comprehensive online customer relationship management (CRM) solutions that can be used more effectively and efficiently to give a consistent service to residents without impacting on the frontline.

Council therefore agrees to continue to use Twitter where it is appropriate, but to direct residents to more effective and efficient methods which will ensure their issues are comprehensively addressed.

14 NOTICE OF MOTION - CONSERVATIVE 2 (Agenda Item 14)

The motion was moved by Councillor Suzanne Grocott and seconded by Councillor Brian Lewis-Lavender.

The Labour amendment, as set out in agenda item 26 was moved by Councillor Mark Allison and seconded by Councillor Katy Neep.

Councillor Peter Southgate also spoke on the item.

The Labour amendment was then put to the vote and was carried – votes in favour 34, and votes against 20 with 5 abstentions.

The substantive resolution was then agreed.

RESOLVED

Noting the current budget process is already well under way with savings targets for the Medium Term Financial Strategy from 2016/17 to 2019/20 already scrutinised by each of the scrutiny panels in October and November this year with no changes agreed, this Council resolves to ask the Overview and Scrutiny Commission to review, in line with its usual practice of scrutinising all aspects of the budget proposals including deliverability and risk, the weightings used to determine departmental savings targets and their appropriateness in relation to the previously approved “July principles” which were voted for by all parties on the council with the exception of the Conservative Group - bearing in mind that the weightings have been agreed by Council in each of the past five years and that, unless the council tax is increased, reductions to savings in one area will mean more cuts are needed in other areas, particularly environmental services - in detail at a date after its next meeting on 24 November 2015, and thereafter as is usual on an annual basis as part of the usual scrutiny process regardless of which administration is in office.

15 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME (Agenda Item 15)

The report was moved by Councillor Mark Allison and seconded by Councillor Stephen Alambritis.

Councillor Suzanne Grocott also spoke on this item.

A roll-call was called for the vote on the substantive motion

Voting in Favour: Councillors: Agatha Mary Akyigyina, Stephen Alambritis, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Tobin Byers, Caroline Cooper- Marbiah,

Pauline Cowper, Mary Curtin, John Dehaney, Nick Draper, Edward Foley, Brenda Fraser, Fidelis Gadzama, Ross Garrod, Jeff Hanna, Joan Henry, Mary-Jane Jeanes, Abigail Jones, Philip Jones, Andrew Judge, Sally Kenny, Linda Kirby, Edith Macauley, Russell Makin, Maxi Martin, Peter McCabe, Ian Munn, Katy Neep, Judy Saunders, Marsie Skeete, Peter Southgate, Geraldine Stanford, Imran Uddin, Gregory Patrick Udeh, Peter Walker, and Martin Whelton. (37)

Voting Against: Councillors: Hamish Badenoch, John Bowcott, Michael Bull, Adam Bush, Charlie Chirico, Stephen Crowe, David Dean, Suzanne Grocott, Daniel Holden, James Holmes, Janice Howard, Abdul Latif, Najeeb Latif, Brian Lewis-Lavender, Gilli Lewis-Lavender, Oonagh Moulton, David Simpson, Linda Taylor, Jill West, and David Williams. (20)

Not Voting: Councillors: David Chung and John Sargeant. (2)

RESOLVED

That Council agrees

1. to the uprating changes for the 2016/17 council tax support scheme detailed in this report in order to maintain low council tax charges for those on lower incomes and other vulnerable residents.
2. the adoption of the new 2016/17 scheme

16 REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES (Agenda Item 16)

The report was moved by Councillor Mark Allison and seconded by Councillor Stephen Alambritis.

Councillor Janice Howard also spoke on this item.

RESOLVED

That Council agrees

1. to the designation of Christ Church as the polling place for polling district KB in Village Ward and polling district LA in Raynes Park Ward.
2. to make no change to the polling place for polling district SD in Cannon Hill Ward.

17 STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES UNDER THE GAMBLING ACT 2005.
(Agenda Item 17)

The report was moved by Councillor Nick Draper and seconded by Councillor Stephen Alambritis.

Councillor David Simpson also spoke on this item.

RESOLVED

That the Council agrees to adopt the revised draft Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005, which had been endorsed by Members of the Licensing Committee on the 20 October 2015.

18 LICENSING POLICY 2016-2021 - (UNDER LICENSING ACT 2003) (Agenda Item 18)

The report was moved by Councillor Nick Draper and seconded by Councillor Stephen Alambritis.

Councillor David Simpson also spoke on this item.

RESOLVED

That the Council agrees to adopt the new draft Statement of Licensing Policy and a Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) for Mitcham Town Centre and the surrounding area, which had been endorsed by Members of the Licensing Committee on the 20 October 2015.

19 CHAS2013 LTD - APPROVAL OF SALARY RANGE FOR MANAGING DIRECTOR (Agenda Item 19)

The report was moved by Councillor Mark Allison and seconded by Councillor Stephen Alambritis.

Councillor Hamish Badenoch also spoke on this item.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and was carried – votes in favour 36, and votes against 21 with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED

That Council agrees to approve an appointment to the post of Managing Director of CHAS 2013 Ltd on a salary not exceeding £120,000 per annum.

20 THE USE OF SPECIAL URGENCY FOR A KEY DECISION - THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION SERVICES (HALL PLACE) (Agenda Item 20)

The report was moved by Councillor Stephen Alambritis and seconded by Councillor Mark Allison.

RESOLVED

That the Council notes the taking of an urgent key decision and the waiving of the Call-in procedure.

21 CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND RELATED MATTERS (Agenda Item 21)

The report was moved by Councillor Stephen Alambritis and seconded by Councillor Mark Allison.

RESOLVED

That Council notes the changes to the membership of Committees that were approved under delegated powers since the last meeting of the Council.

22 PETITIONS (Agenda Item 22)

The report was moved by Councillor Stephen Alambritis and seconded by Councillor Mark Allison.

RESOLVED

That Council

1. notes the update on the petition received at the last meeting,
2. accepts receipt of the following five petitions presented by:
 - Councillor David Dean, relating to 'improving the local shops at Martin Way parade
 - Councillor Daniel Holden relating to 'the parking restriction in Garth Close'
 - Councillor Brian Lewis-Lavender relating to 'an increasing K5 bus service'
 - Councillor Oonagh Moulton relating to 'Safer crossings on Durnsford Road'
 - Councillor John Sargeant relating to 'a requesting for a CPZ for Cannon Hill Lane,'

23 BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL (Agenda Item 23)

That the Strategic Theme for the next ordinary meeting of the Council to be held on 3 February 2016 shall be Sustainable Communities.

Committee: Council

Date: 3 February 2016

Wards: All

Subject: Strategic Objective Review – Sustainable Communities

Lead officer: Director for Environment and Regeneration, Chris Lee

Lead member: Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration, Councillor Andrew Judge

Contact officer: Paul McGarry, FutureMerton Manager

Recommendations:

That Council consider the content of the report.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Council at its meeting in March 2015 approved the Business Plan 2015-2019.
- 1.2. The Business Plan represents the way in which the council will lead the delivery of the Community Plan via a number of thematic partnerships and strategic themes. Performance against these themes, plus an additional theme of corporate capacity, is monitored by Council.
- 1.3. Each meeting of Council will receive a report updating on progress against one of these strategic themes. This report provides Council with an opportunity to consider progress against the priorities under the ‘*Sustainable Communities and Transport*’ theme.
- 1.4. The ambition for the theme as outlined in the council’s Business Plan 2015-19 is ‘to create a more sustainable borough, one which is less reliant on fossil fuel and which reduces its negative impact on the environment and climate change in particular’.
- 1.5. The Business Plan can be viewed at www.merton.gov.uk/businessplan .

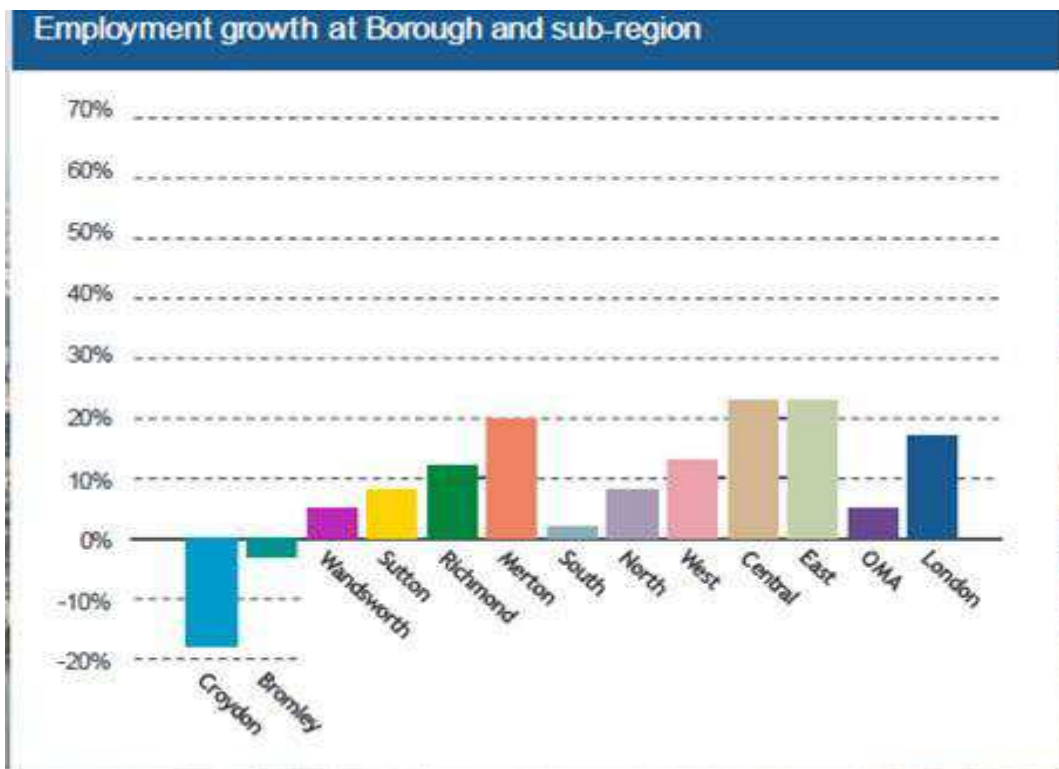
2 DETAILS

- 2.1. This update focusses on progress under six headings: business growth, housing supply, Crossrail2, renewable energy and air quality. Appendix B. sets out performance indicators for sustainable communities.

Business growth

- 2.2. Merton Council’s Economic Development Strategy programme has made significant progress in putting in place the business and economic development infrastructure and delivered a number of successful projects that have created jobs, new businesses and help attract new companies into the borough.

- 2.3. In addition, Merton's economic development programme has helped a number of local unemployed and low skill residents gain employment and apprenticeships.
- 2.4. Two of the programmes run through the Merton Economic Development Strategy include Merton Business Support Service (tendered to Merton Chamber of Commerce to deliver) and Wimbledon Tech Campus (WimbleTech)
- 2.5. **Merton Business support Service (MBSS):** provides high quality support to help small businesses start- ups develop and expand. It is delivered by the Merton Chamber of Commerce and some of London's leading private sector business advisors and consultants.
- 2.6. To date, this programme has started 171 businesses, created 454 jobs, raised £777,000 finance, supported over 40% start ups from east of the borough with 50% of businesses with growth/ growth potential also coming from the east of the borough.
- 2.7. **Wimbledon Tech Campus (Wimbletech):** In May 2014 the Council provided a small sum of seed funding to a local entrepreneur wanting to create a Tech Campus (Wimbletech) in a dedicated office space in Wimbledon Library. This offered a modern and flexible co-working space for tech start-up businesses in South London.
- 2.8. Wimbletech has been so successful that in eighteen months of operating, it is currently providing affordable and flexible co-working office space for 90 tech businesses/start-ups. Wimbletech also undertakes corporate social responsibility activities by providing free community and education events (delivered by the tech entrepreneurs) on Information Technology to help people of all ages and backgrounds learn about digital technology.
<http://www.wimbletech.com>
- 2.9. Overall Merton's EDS related programmes have led to:
- 545 new jobs created
 - 270 new businesses created
 - 300 jobs safeguarded or attracted as a result of business retention, inward investment, business loans and shop front grant programme
 - 700 businesses received practical advice and to start-up, develop, grow or survive downturn
 - £130,000 worth business loans made to Merton businesses through the Merton Business Loan scheme, to start-up or expand
 - £900,000 of finance raised to help business to start-up, grow and survive – as a result of the business support and business loans programmes
- 2.10. According to work carried out by the South London Partnership in late 2015, Merton is the only borough in the south to have experienced employment growth above the London average.



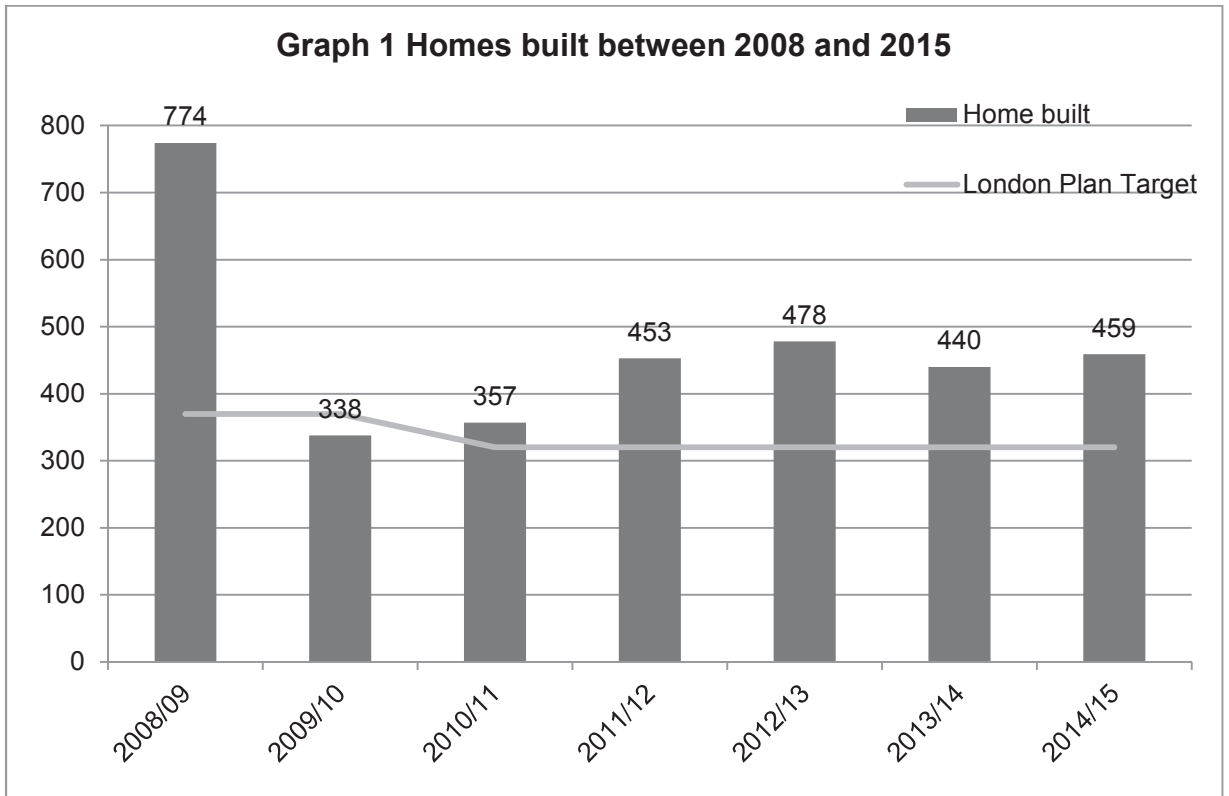
Employment growth 2003-2013 (source Transport for London's South London Transport Plan, 2015 update)

Housing supply

- 2.11. Developers (including registered social housing providers) build new homes in Merton once they have been granted planning permission. Merton Council's Core Planning Strategy (2011) and Sites and Policies Plan 2014 are the main policy documents guiding the development of new homes and allocating potential sites to build homes on.
- 2.12. Housing supply, and the affordability of new homes, is a government priority. The Mayor of London regularly calculates the need for homes and sets targets for each borough. Merton's target for new homes changed from 320 (2011 - 2015) to 411 new homes in April 2015 onwards. According to the London Plan 2015, 40% of new homes built in London each year should be affordable.
- 2.13. In the last financial year, 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, Merton has exceeded its housing targets:
 - 459 additional new homes were built in Merton, against a target of 411 homes per year.
 - 41% of those new homes were affordable (against a target of 40%)
 - For the future, Merton council has identified enough land for new homes to meet its housing targets for the next seven years

New homes built in Merton 2008-2015

- 2.14. Officers visit development sites and keep records of the new homes built in Merton every year. Merton has exceeded the target by almost 960 homes since 2008.



2.15. In the last financial year (2014-15) 41% of the new homes built in Merton were affordable (a total of 186 homes)

2.16. Graph 2 and Table 1 present the affordable homes provision between 2008 and 2015.

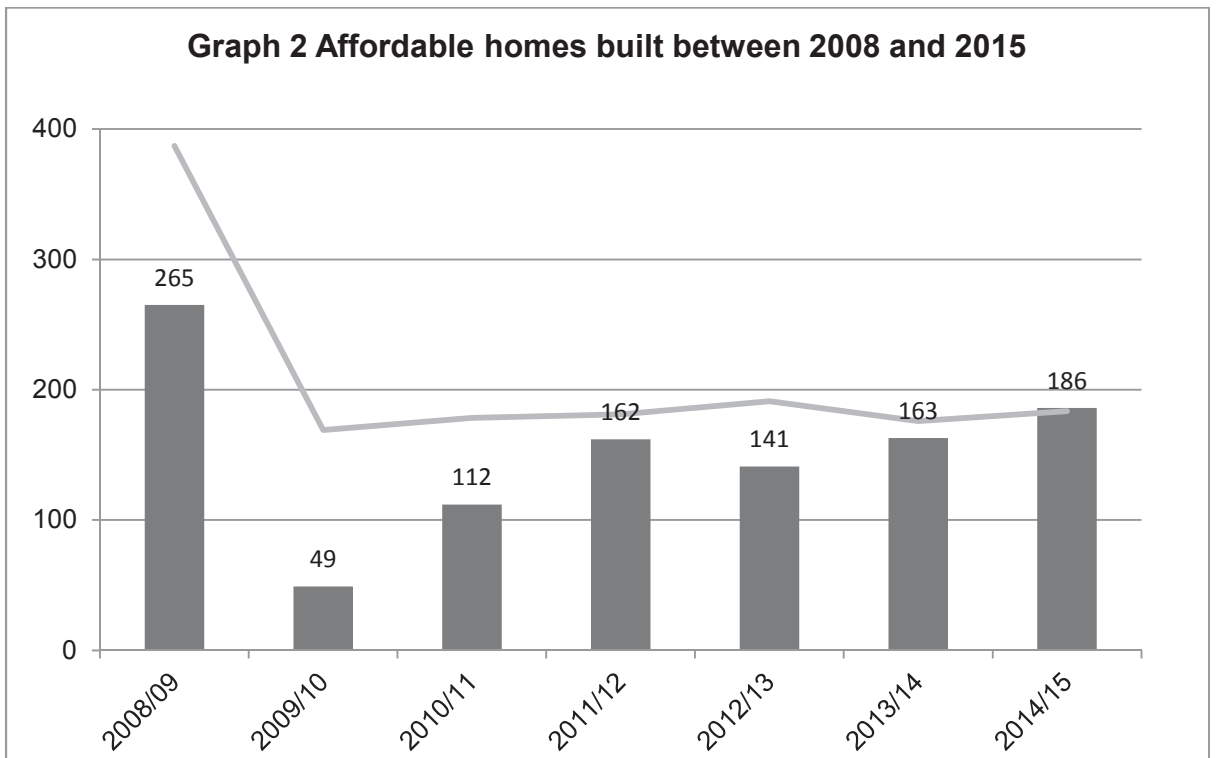
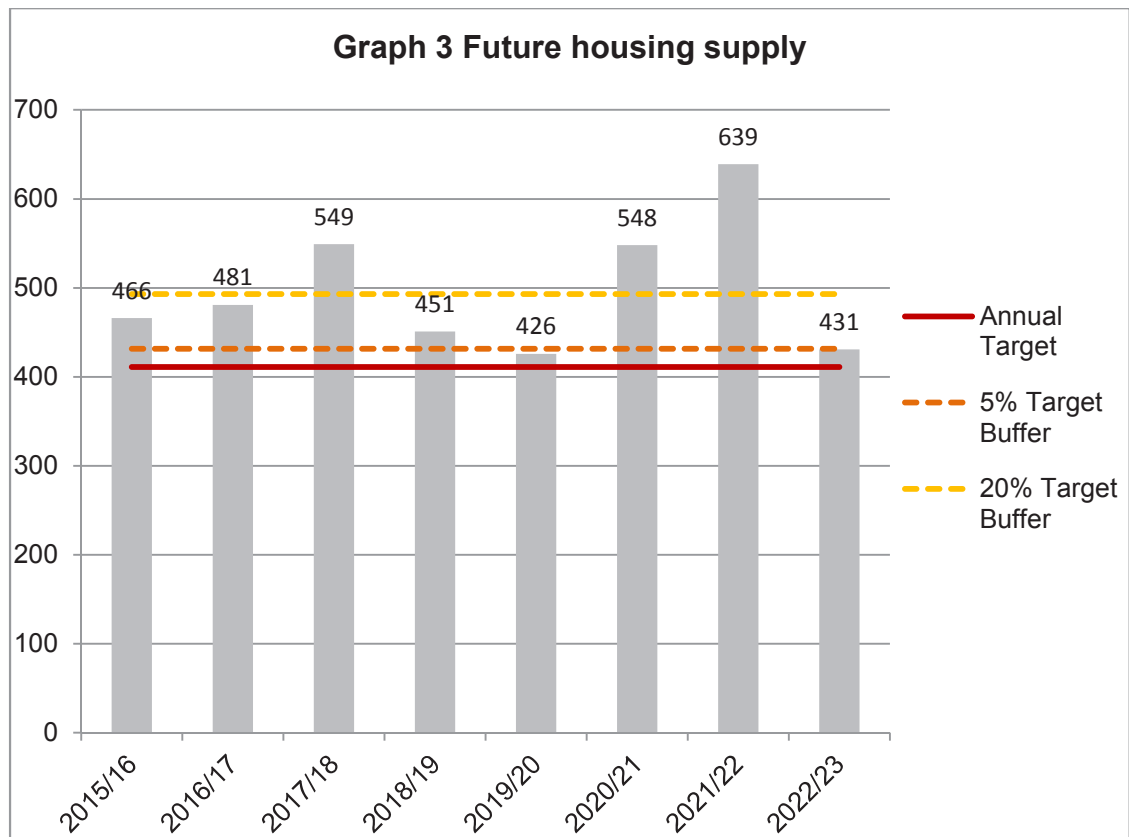


Table 1 Affordable homes built in Merton between 2008 and 2015

Financial Year	Total homes built in Merton	Total Affordable Home built	%	London Plan target	Number of Social Rented	%	Number of Intermediate	%
2008/09	774	265	34%	50%	200	75%	65	25%
2009/10	338	49	14%	50%	30	61%	19	39%
2010/11	357	112	31%	50%	45	40%	67	60%
2011/12	453	162	36%	40%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2012/13	478	141	29%	40%	71	50%	70	50%
2013/14	440	163	37%	40%	75	46%	74	45%
2014/15	459	186	41%	40%	143	77%	43	23%

Future housing supply

2.17. Merton’s future housing supply is presented in Graph 3. These calculations are based on detailed assessment of sites under construction (e.g. Colliers Wood tower) in the planning system (e.g. Wimbledon Stadium) or allocated for long-term future development (e.g. Morden town centre).. At this time, the calculations do not take CHMP estate regeneration into account



2.18. The map overleaf illustrates location of both the homes that have been built since 2008 and the new homes that are expected to be built in Merton between 2015 and 2025.

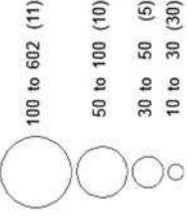


London Borough of Merton

Graph 4 Housing Supply

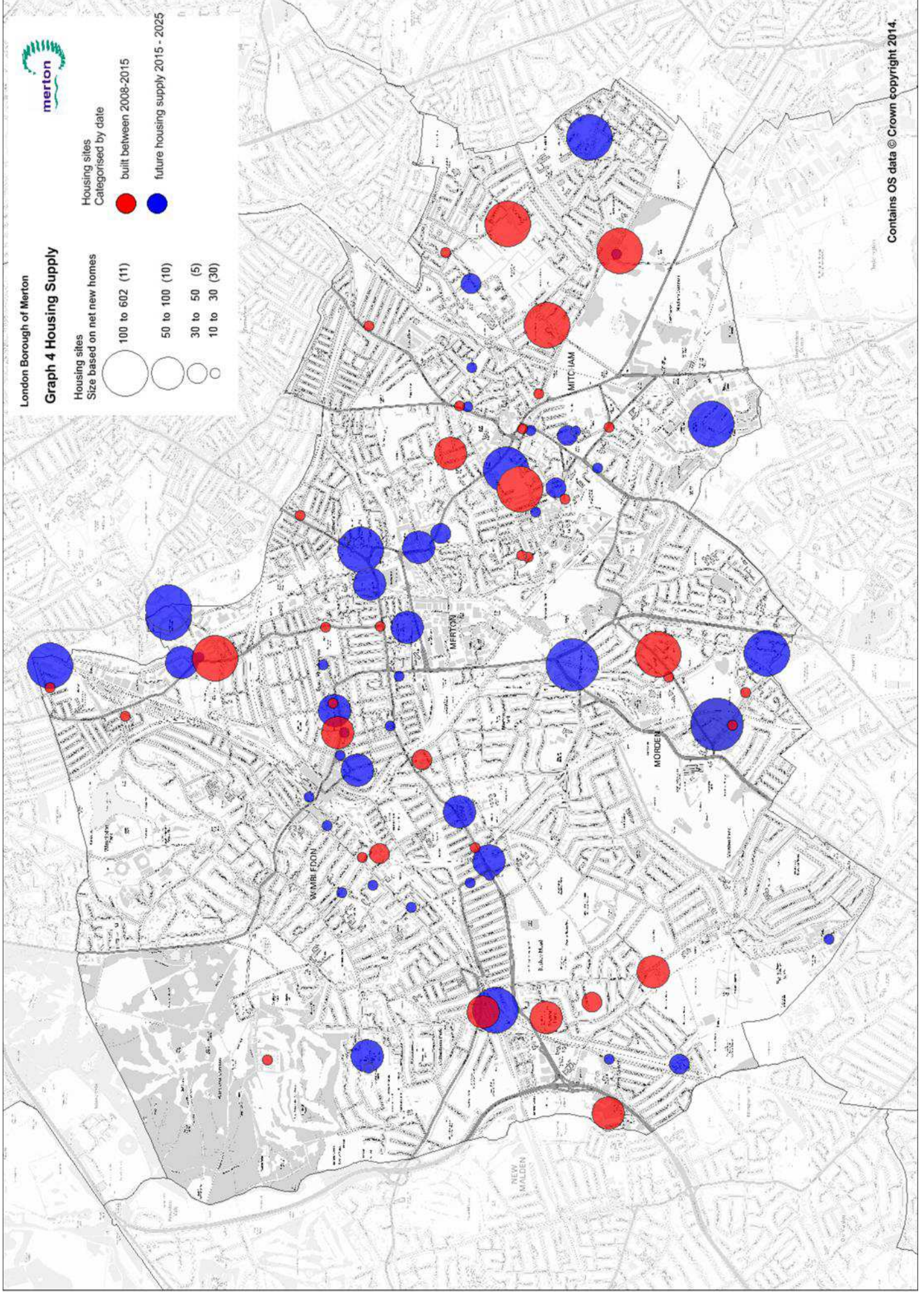
Housing sites
Size based on net new homes

Housing sites
Categorised by date



Red circle: built between 2008-2015

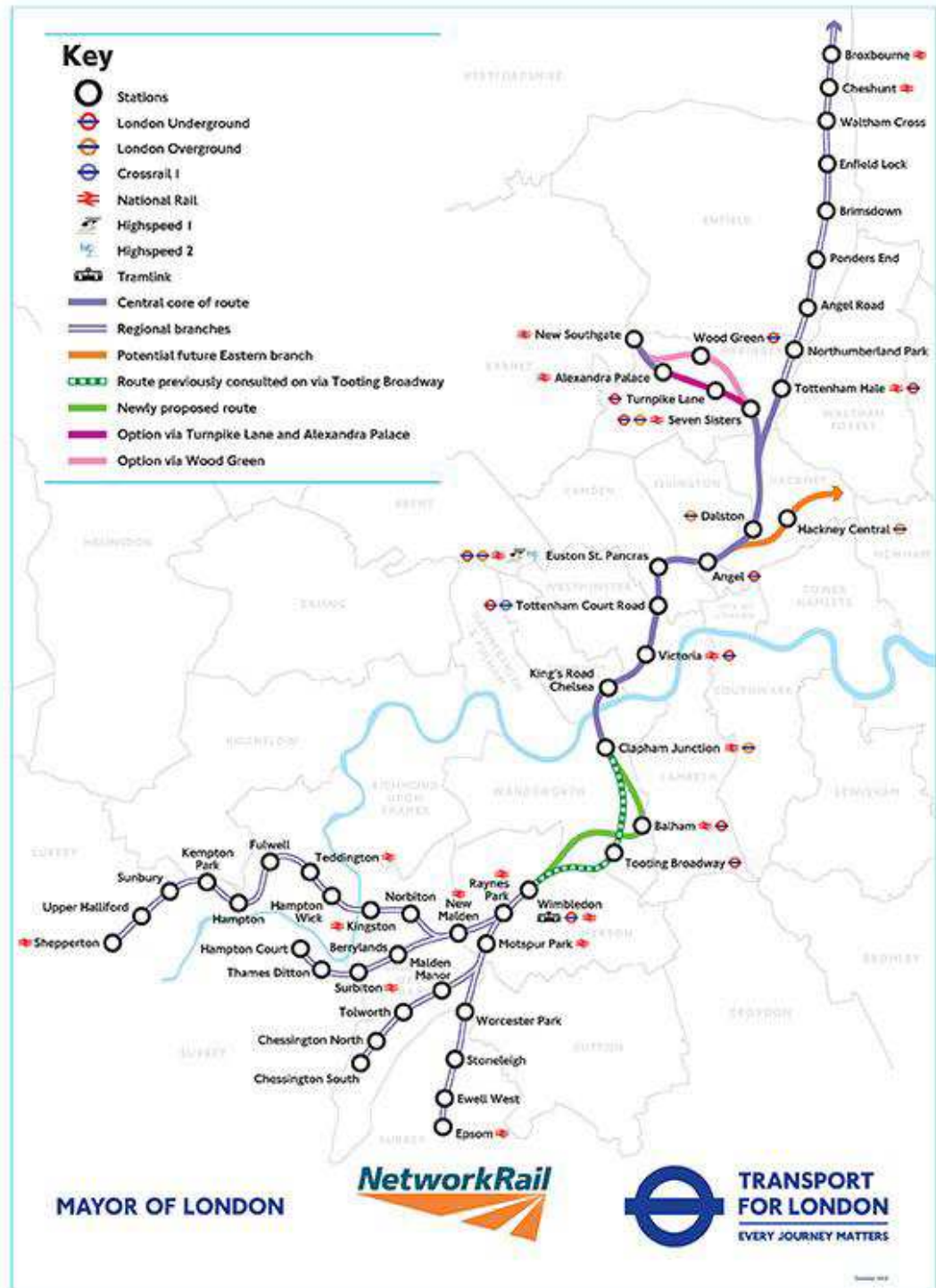
Blue circle: future housing supply 2015 - 2025



Crossrail2 - Wimbledon town centre

- 2.19. Crossrail2 is being planned as London's next major infrastructure project, following on the development of Crossrail1 which is due to open for service in three year's time. Crossrail2 is being proposed to run underground from south west London (Wimbledon) to north east London (Tottenham) with various stops and interchanges including Clapham Junction, Victoria and Tottenham Court Road. Overground it will connect directly to the Network Rail network. A map of the proposed route is included here.
- 2.20. Although Crossrail2 is currently unfunded, over the past year, government has carried out a significant amount of work in progressing the scheme.
- Merton's response and actions*
- 2.21. Wimbledon is the borough's economic powerhouse with half of the borough's jobs in the area. Over the past three years the council has been working with a wide range of organisations to make the most of the opportunities and mitigate the potential negative impacts arising from Crossrail2
- 2.22. **2013 Future Wimbledon Conference:** Merton Council and LoveWimbledon hosted an international conference of businesses, landowners, architects and developers to
- 2.23. **2014 Future Wimbledon Ideas Competition:** Merton Council and LoveWimbledon with CABE and the Design Council hosted a competition where local, national and international groups set out their ideas for the future of Wimbledon.
- 2.24. **2015 Merton Council's cross-party response to the Crossrail2 consultation** welcomed the principle of and opportunities for additional investment in Merton but raising concerns about the development process and long-term socio economic impacts of some of the proposals, particularly focussed on Wimbledon town centre and Weir Road industrial estate. The response is attached as Appendix C. to this report.
- 2.25. **2016 - 2019: FutureWimbledon masterplan.** The council, LoveWimbledon, Wimbledon competition winners (including the Wimbledon East Hillside Residents Association), the community, businesses, landowners will work together to develop a Future Wimbledon masterplan. Developed as a process of public consultation, the masterplan will set out the collective ambition for Wimbledon and develop deliverable actions and projects to manage change and co-ordinate investment arising from Crossrail2.
- 2.26. The Council through Future Merton is working with Crossrail 2 , local landowners, business , the community and other stakeholders to optimise the long term benefits of CR2 whilst seeking to sustain a viable and attractive town centre in the medium term.

Crossrail 2 route (autumn 2015)



2.27. Changes to the planning system

Over the past four years, as part of reducing red tape, government has made numerous changes to the planning system. These include allowing offices, small shops, light industrial units and other types of development to change to residential use without the need for planning permission.

2.28. The forthcoming Housing and Planning Bill, which will have its second reading in the Lords starting on 26 January 2016, proposes further changes to :

- The definition of new Starter Homes product, which will be classified as “intermediate affordable homes” in the planning system and a new duty on councils to promote the supply of Starter Homes prior to other types of affordable homes.
- Introduction of ‘banning orders’ for rogue landlords
- The introduction of a database of rogue landlords and letting agents, and measures to recover rent from these landlords.
- Provision for a regulatory ‘home ownership criteria’ to ensure housing associations introduce the Right to Buy or equivalent support for home ownership.
- The payment of ‘grant’ to providers to compensate for Right to Buy discounts from the government or the GLA.
- Provisions for councils to make a fixed payment to government each year, based on an estimate for the value of high-value vacant homes.
- A duty on councils to consider selling vacant high value housing.
- Powers to reduce regulatory control over registered providers.
- Powers to require higher earning social tenants to pay a higher rent in social housing.
- Duties on local authorities to award sufficient permissions to meet demand for custom building.
- Brownfield registers introduced and new ‘permission in principle’ for some sites.
- More intervention powers for the Secretary of State and the Mayor over planning permissions and some revisions to the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process.

2.29. Together with London Councils, Merton Council is following the progress of this Bill and will update councillors once the Bill receives Royal Assent later in 2016. It is clear that there are a number of challenges and opportunities arising from this legislation which we will need to manage carefully for the benefit of the borough.

Air quality

- 2.30. The council is developing and implementing a variety of proposals to try and improve air quality. Across the borough, the council is considering a policy to incentivise motorists to use less damaging vehicles by imposing a surcharge for diesel vehicles in particular whilst encouraging electric vehicles and other less air polluting motor vehicles. It is expected that a draft policy will be available in the summer of 2016, leading to changes in residents permits from April 2017.
- 2.31. Funded by a successful bid to the Mayor's Air Quality Action Fund in 2013, we have been working to identify sources of pollution on the Willow Lane Industrial Estate and look at ways of controlling these in partnership with other agencies, including the Environment Agency and Willow Lane Business Improvement District
- 2.32. This project also has a strong business engagement component aimed at raising the profile of air quality and practical steps that businesses could take to change the way staff travel to and from work. As part of this project the council has been promoting a range of sustainable programmes to businesses in Willow Lane, such as cycle training, Dr Bike maintenance, eco driving assessments and free oyster cards to encourage modal shift and healthier lifestyle options.
- 2.33. The project also includes air quality monitoring aimed at potentially harmful particulate matter. This monitoring is in partnership with Merton's Pollution Team and their joint service partners in Richmond.
- 2.34. The project is still ongoing and will include a final report of activities and outputs. Since Connect House in Willow Lane is to be used for resident dwellings the issue of air quality will become even more important on the estate.

Solar photovoltaic panels - Merton Council investment

- 2.35. After £2.3 million of direct investment over 5 years Merton has one of the largest Borough portfolios of solar panels in London - saving money and reducing carbon emissions .
- 2.36. As a result of the council's investment programme we have 34 systems producing electricity for 27 sites including 14 schools and 6 libraries and community centres. The list of sites with solar panels is included as Appendix A.
- 2.37. Last year, these systems saved 385,989 kg of CO2 and generated 713,414 kWh of electricity (equivalent to boiling 6,258,549 1 litre kettles or running 4072 energy saving light bulbs for the whole year) reducing electricity bills for these buildings and for the council.
- 2.38. *Solar Panel systems are measured in kiloWatt peak (kWp), which is the total amount of power the system could produce in perfect conditions. For reference a domestic size system is 2- 4 kWp.
- 2.39. Importantly, this investment has been based on a robust business case for each round of installations, representing good value for money for council taxpayers. Sites have been carefully selected based on their capacity for solar panels and the financial return to the council. The business cases

demonstrate a financial return to the council of above 4%, with systems paying back their investment in under 10 years and continuing to benefit sites for the 25 year lifetime of the panels

- 2.40. The council's programme has installed solar panels on the largest and most viable roofs in the council's control however, the lack of remaining large roofs combined with changes to government support for renewable energy announced in December 2015 mean that future installation programmes may be more challenging to achieve.
- 2.41. The council's 2016 programme is focussing on some of the remaining viable primary schools and we will be looking at the 4 Private Finance Initiative (PFI) secondary schools: Raynes Park High School, Rutlish, Richards Lodge and Harris Morden. Under the PFI contract the council pays for the energy costs for these sites and therefore they should provide the council with a strong long term investment, saving for the schools and the council for years to come.

3 SCRUTINY FEEDBACK

3.1. Pre-decision scrutiny

3.2. The Sustainable Communities Panel has undertaken pre decision scrutiny on a number of strategic issues and priorities of the council, including. This included:

- Inward Investment Strategy – The Panel made recommendations regarding the development of the council's inward investment strategy as part of its task group review of adult skills and employability and asked to comment ahead of their consideration by Cabinet. The Panel made recommendations on the nature of the activities the council could undertake to promote the borough as a great place for business.
- Economic Development Strategy – The Panel received a progress update on delivery of the councils economic development strategy.
- 20 Mph zones/road safety – The Panel considered the outcome a review of the operation of 20mph zones and limits by an independent consultant and considered the options for Merton. The Panel supported that 20mph zones and limits should be considered on a case by case basis in the borough and recommended that Cabinet investigate radar based technology and signage, and associated costs and benefits to manage speeds.
- Street Lighting - The Panel considered the councils approach to street lighting and possible technology that could be used, including the position of the council's street lighting contract.

3.3. Housing supply

3.4. The Panel set up a task group to establish how the supply of affordable housing could be facilitated to meet identified need in the borough. The task group looked at the role of the council as an enabler of housing development, opportunities for partnership working and the business case for the council as a provider of social housing.

3.5. The recommendations resulting from the review sought to:

- build stronger relationships with housing associations and the private rented sector, acknowledging the key role they play in meeting housing need;
 - strengthen the Council's position as an enabler of housing development, in its engagement with private developers and seeking to deliver the maximum amount of affordable housing possible;
 - ensure that Affordable Housing Viability Assessments will be shared with members of the Planning Applications Committee
 - encourage the role of the Council as a provider of housing; and
 - support those in priority need and on the Council's Housing Register to access affordable housing
- 3.6. Cabinet endorsed the task group review at its meeting in October 2015 and agreed to investigate recent government changes in affordable housing rules and finance and to then submit an executive response to the Panel. This was received by the Panel at its meeting in January 2016. The Panel will continue to scrutinise progress on this work.
- 3.7. Other work
- 3.8. The Panel has continued to keep an overview of the delivery of the recommendations and action plans resulting from its task group review Climate Change and Green Deal Task Group.
- 3.9. The Panel receives a presentation every six months on progress with delivery of the regeneration programme for each of the town centres in Merton.
- 3.10. The Panel receives regular reports on the performance of Circle Housing Merton Priority Homes and progress on its regeneration projects.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1. None for the purposes of this report.

5 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 5.1. None for the purposes of this report.

6 TIMETABLE

- 6.1. None for the purposes of this report.

7 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

8 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. None for the purposes of this report.

9 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

10 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

10.1. None for the purposes of this report.

11 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1. None for the purposes of this report.

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

Appendix A – list of council-owned sites with solar panels through proactive council investment programme

Appendix B – Progress against sustainable communities performance indicators

Appendix C – Merton Council response to Crossrail2 consultation, January 2016.

APPENDIX A: LIST OF COUNCIL-OWNED BUILDINGS WITH SOLAR PANELS

This list is accurate as at January 2016 and relates to the council's proactive investment programme in renewable energy. It does not include sites where solar panels or other renewable energy equipment have been installed as a requirement of the planning system.

Where a site is listed twice, it is because the solar panel system was expanded.

	Site Name	System size (kWp)*
1a.	Haslemere Primary School 1	9.80
1b.	Haslemere Primary School 2	67
2a.	Lonesome Primary School 1	9.80
2b.	Lonesome Primary School 2	39.50
3a.	Corporate Archive 1	25.38
3b.	Corporate Archive 2	27
4a.	High Path Day Centre 1	9.4
4b.	High Path Day Centre 2	48
5.	Jan Malinowski Centre	49.35
6	Lavender Childrens Centre	28.20
7.	Street Sweeping & Salt Store	20.68
8.	Transport Offices & Workshop	24.44

9.	Beecholme School	49.98
10a.	William Morris School 1	49.98
10b.	William Morris School 2	96.25
11a.	SMART Centre 1	12
11b.	SMART Centre 2	12
12a.	Canons Leisure Centre Sports Hall	80
12b.	Canons Leisure Centre Swimming Pool	80.5
13.	Stanford Primary School	71.5
14.	Cricket Green School	48.25
15.	Cranmer Primary School	50
16.	West Wimbledon Primary School	46.25
17.	Bond Road Primary School	39.5
18.	New Horizon Centre	24.25
19.	Pollards Hill Library	20.5
20.	Wimbledon Leisure Centre	64
21.	Garfield Primary School	85
22.	Malmesbury Primary School	37
23.	Merton Hall	30
24.	Chaucer Centre	24.5
25.	Liberty Primary School	50
26.	Mitcham Library	24
27.	Wimbledon Park Primary School	70









APPENDIX B: SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The performance indicators for Sustainable Communities are listed below.

Many of the indicators are monitored annually so monitoring for the financial year 2015-16 will only be available after the end of March 2016.

From 2016-17 performance indicators will be introduced to measure air quality in the borough.

Performance against energy and carbon savings from the council's buildings is measured by Facilities Management (corporate services)

Performance Indicators Code & Description	YTD Result	Annual YTD Target	YTD Status	April 2014-March 2015 reporting	Notes
SP 020 New Homes (annual)	459	320		2014-15	
SP 257 % Town centre vacancy rates (Quarterly)	4.9%	10%		Q3 2015-16	
SP 263 % modal share for walking and cycling in the borough (annual)	33	36		2014-15	
SP 265 Reduce total no. killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents (annual)	32	44		2014-15	
SP 382 New jobs created - number of apprenticeships (Annual)	100	60		2014-15	
SP 383 Number of new businesses created through the Economic Development Strategy (EDS) (Annual)	157	100		2014-15	
SP 395 Number of new jobs created through the Economic Development Strategy (EDS) (annual)	176	300		2014-15	Performance has increased in 2015-16 due to momentum built up on EDS projects as set out in this report.
SP 396 % modal increase in cycling from 2% baseline in the borough (annual)	3%	0.5%		2014-15	

**COUNCILLOR ANDREW JUDGE
CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION
& ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**



Michèle Dix
Managing Director of Crossrail 2
TfL Albany House
Petty France
London
SW1H 08D

**London Borough of Merton
Merton Civic Centre
London Road
Morden
London
SM4 5DX**

Tel: 020 8545 3989

Email: andrew.judge@merton.gov.uk

Date: 7th January 2016

Dear Michèle,

CROSSRAIL 2 CONSULTATION MERTON COUNCIL'S CROSS-PARTY RESPONSE

Further to our meetings in October 2015, we are writing to provide Merton Council's formal cross-party response to the latest Crossrail 2 consultation. (October 2015 – January 2016).

As you will be aware from the various public meetings you and your team have attended in Merton, the proposals set out in your consultation have generated a considerable number of concerns amongst land-owners, investors, residents and business in the borough.

Merton Council continues to support the strategic case for Crossrail 2 and recognises the benefits the project will provide to the growth of London and Merton. Crossrail 2 is an essential piece of infrastructure for the future prosperity of our city. However, our support for Crossrail 2 is not at any cost and the council has significant reservations about the proposals in Merton and crucially, the potential impact during construction, particularly in Wimbledon.

The proposals as set out in the latest consultation represent an unacceptable level of upheaval and disruption to our business community and one where we cannot think of any current UK, European or global comparisons for where so much of a major town centre is lost to make way for new infrastructure. We understand that the consultation scheme is an early concept design, however the current plans place Wimbledon town centre in a uniquely vulnerable position. If the plans remain as they are, we would be forced to reconsider our support for the project.

The strategic case for Crossrail 2

Merton Council is already taking a strategic lead in planning for Crossrail 2 and encouraging economic growth in Wimbledon through our 2013 Future Wimbledon Conference and the 2014 Future Wimbledon Ideas Competition. The ideas competition was run in partnership with the Design Council, NLA and Love Wimbledon BID to explore how Crossrail 2 would be a catalyst for growth and design excellence in Wimbledon.

Future Wimbledon attracted over 100 international entries and sets the tone for the council's forthcoming masterplan for Wimbledon, central to which is the integration of a new station quarter into the urban grain of Wimbledon town centre.

The council has a number of roles relating to Crossrail 2, including;

- Place shaper
- Enabler, in terms of plan making and engaging with our communities
- Planning authority
- Highway authority
- Land owner, both in central Wimbledon and Weir Road.

Merton Council, in partnership with Love Wimbledon Business Improvement District will embark on a masterplanning process in mid-2016 to establish a long term vision for Wimbledon and to identify opportunities for economic growth and enhancement to Wimbledon's public realm. The masterplan process will also need to address how proposals for Wimbledon Station integrate with the town centre and we encourage TfL and Crossrail 2 to be part of that process with our businesses and residents.

We believe Wimbledon could be a stronger player in the London economy, capitalising on its global brand recognition, excellent transport connections, lifestyle & quality of life offer and is indeed already home to a number of blue chip companies and international headquarters.

Crossrail 2 not only provides future transport capacity and wider connectivity for Merton's businesses and residents, it is also a substantial catalyst for economic growth, particularly in central Wimbledon.

Wimbledon is already the UK's only transport hub to have all modes of transport in one place (Rail, Underground, Tram, Bus, Taxi and Cycle facilities) Crossrail 2 significantly enhances this offer and provides the much needed opportunity to reconfigure the already over-crowded and out-dated facilities at Wimbledon Station.

Crossrail 2 will undoubtedly increase the transport connectivity from Merton to London and the south-west sub-region. Better trains, higher frequencies and significant investment in stations and the public realm are all clear benefits that Merton supports. We also believe that Crossrail 2 has the potential to unlock Wimbledon as an enhanced business district; with our global brand, Wimbledon could be south London's premier choice as business location.

The council's analysis on growth capacity could see a doubling of Wimbledon's commercial floor space by 2030. It is the council's intention to grow its economic base in Wimbledon to further strengthen its role as our main town centre, with a rich mix of office, retail, hotel, conferencing and leisure offerings, whilst of course, also maintaining its unique character and heritage.

The economic impact of our commercially focussed growth in Merton will add to Crossrail 2's business case and opens up scope for Wimbledon's status in the London Plan to be elevated from Major Centre to Metropolitan Centre or alternatively, be considered an Opportunity Area (when combined with our housing-led regeneration areas in Morden Housing Zone and South Wimbledon & Colliers Wood Area for Intensification).

Merton's regeneration strategy is to intensify housing and promote growth in the Northern Line corridor in Morden, South Wimbledon and Colliers Wood. A Crossrail 2 interchange at Tooting Broadway greatly enhances accessibility to Merton's planned regeneration areas.

St Georges Hospital is also a major trip generator in the wider community. St George's is one of the UK's largest teaching hospitals and the major trauma centre for the whole of south west London and Surrey covering a population of around 2.6 million - and would benefit not only from improved connectivity of a Tooting Broadway Crossrail 2 station but also the opportunity to deliver step-free access for staff, patients and visitors. For these reasons; Merton Council strongly supports the Crossrail 2 interchange at Tooting Broadway over the Balham option.

Broadly, we support the key objective of Crossrail 2 unlocking residential development at the regional level, where there are obvious opportunities for much-needed housing. However, for Wimbledon, we are concerned that the focus on housing alone will lead to the creation of a dormitory suburb, dominated by one-way commuting to Central London; which is diametrically opposed to the polycentric city model which the London Plan has sought to achieve over the past 15 years; championed also by the Outer London Commission which advocates greater roles for outer London town centres.

Merton Council is absolutely clear that the focus of new development and regeneration in Wimbledon should be commercial led – addressing an existing shortage of work-spaces and unmet demand for more retail, leisure and cultural destinations in Wimbledon. It is also important that the quality of life for residents is enhanced as a result of Crossrail 2 and the accompanying development of Wimbledon town centre. The needs of both current and future residents must be met through, for example, improved station access, reduced congestion and the preservation of the best of the town's existing heritage and character.

Whilst the longer term opportunities of Crossrail 2 are undoubtedly positive and could bring about much progressive change to Merton; there are a significant number of short and medium term challenges that we now need to plan for in collaboration with your team and others in TfL, the Mayor of London's office and our business and residential communities.

Crossrail 2 Consultation process

Merton Council expressed concerns in October 2015 that a public consultation consisting of a single option for Wimbledon Station was flawed and not a genuine consultation. There was little information in the public domain regarding alternative route options through Wimbledon or alternative station configurations including deep level tunnels. I appreciate the considerable resource your team has since put in place to work with Merton Council officers to understand the range of station and track options looked at by TfL and to help gain a greater understanding of the rationale behind why these options were not progressed. It is disappointing that alternative scenarios were not presented in the public consultation as genuine alternatives to the proposed single option, but we are encouraged by your commitment to work with Merton to revisit and understand these options as the concept design progresses into 2016.

The council also questions the Crossrail 2 stance of seeking to acquire commercial properties only, rather than considering alternatives that may provide a more satisfactory station design. The socio-economic impact of this stance in Wimbledon is unprecedented and we remain to be convinced that Wimbledon could remain a vibrant town centre with the scale of loss of commercial floor space in the identified Crossrail 2 work-sites.

Given that residents have already expressed considerable concern about the potential loss of residential property, we would encourage Crossrail 2 to minimise third-party land-take as far as possible and to plan accordingly. We would also push for the Crossrail 2 team to consider creative station design such as over-line decking in order to retain commercial space whilst works are underway.

The identification of non-safeguarded work-sites has generated a substantial degree of commercial uncertainty to businesses and land-owners which has already dented market confidence and delayed investment decisions in Wimbledon town centre and is also causing legitimate concern over the future of businesses in Weir Road. The paucity of information available to land-owners during the consultation is unsatisfactory and the council hopes that moving forward, the Crossrail 2 team will engage much earlier with land-owners 1:1 in a more meaningful dialogue.

Consequences for Merton

The proposed option for Wimbledon Station includes a cut-and-cover station box for Crossrail 2, requiring the demolition of Centre Court shopping centre and Wimbledon Bridge House. This presents a double dis-benefit as not only would Wimbledon lose the majority of its retail offer for up to a decade, the scheme wouldn't provide any substantial improvements to the existing Wimbledon Station.

We have serious doubts as to whether a town centre could recover from the proposed downtime in retail offer, given the retail investment going on in competing town centres. The council wants Wimbledon to grow, not contract and we have increasing feedback from land-owners and businesses that there is much more demand for business space than is presently available in Wimbledon.

Wimbledon Town Centre is Merton's economic engine, with over half of the borough's jobs and around 80% of the borough's comparison retailing jobs. The impact of Crossrail 2's construction on Wimbledon and Weir Road could lead to the loss or displacement of between 3000-5000 jobs. We need more detail on phasing and decanting of valuable employment spaces to fully understand the impact of constructing Crossrail 2.

The loss of associated business rates is a critical concern of the council, at a time when the government are promoting greater retention of local business rates. The scale of potential loss in Merton during construction will be detrimental to the council's medium term financial strategy. Merton Council will push strongly for appropriate financial compensation for any loss in revenues during construction in order to maintain our council services. Any loss of income to the council needs to be factored into the Crossrail 2 business case.

Merton Council will be seeking a commitment that Crossrail 2's construction would not de-value Merton's employment base or lead to a significant loss of jobs and vitality in Wimbledon town centre. We will seek financial assistance to maintain a truly viable town centre during construction.

Merton Council has continued to invest in economic development activities throughout the recession which has led to a decline in the borough's commercial vacancy rates. Our industrial stock is fully let and our retail vacancies are consistently below the London average, with Wimbledon town centre having only 1.7% retail vacancies and 8% office vacancies. There is unmet demand for commercial premises in Merton and we are one of the only southwest London boroughs experiencing economic growth and we have recently been recognised by the Federation of Small Businesses and London Councils as London's most small-business friendly borough.

The current Crossrail 2 proposals completely undermine the borough's recent successes and pose a threat to our ambitious growth plans for Wimbledon town centre. We are a pro-growth, pro-development borough; but only if the design quality is of the highest standard and if proposals fit well with the ambition of the council and our residents. The consultation proposals have a long way to go to achieve this.

The council has previously highlighted the serious lack of any socio-economic analysis of the impact of the consultation proposals on our local economy in terms of the construction phase and the timescale for which work-sites may be required. This information is now critical to inform land owners and investors of key decisions over the next decade. There is also little indication of how any phasing or de-canting may be managed as well as by whom, TfL or LBM?

Supporting infrastructure to unlock growth.

Lessons learned from Crossrail 1 recognise that major infrastructure investment is a catalyst for growth and intensification around stations. We are also more aware of the potential for over-site developments and ensuring that infrastructure is proactively planned in such a way to future-proof sites for future development opportunity.

Crossrail 1 has also demonstrated how successfully large engineering works can be undertaken with minimal disruption to business, commuters and residents alike. As well as the loss of shops and businesses, residents have already raised worries about, for example, construction vehicle movements, the length of building works and traffic gyratory congestion during construction and so we would like to see the same measures put in place for Crossrail 2 as have worked well in the City and Bond Street, the latter of which of course includes a similar mix of business premises and residential homes.

Over-station (OS) and over-track (OT) developments in Wimbledon have long been part of Merton's local plan, as far back as the 2003 Unitary Development Plan and featured heavily in the 2014 Future Wimbledon competition responses. We believe the following supporting infrastructure is critical to minimise the construction impact of the project and also provides opportunity for new development up-front to re-accommodate businesses prior to any demolition of current facilities (if deemed necessary at all depending on future options pursued), thus sustaining Wimbledon's vitality.

Merton's infrastructure asks;

1. Wimbledon North Bridge: connecting Alexandra Road and Queens Road (subject to consultation with residents and minimisation of the loss of residential properties)
2. Revisions to Wimbledon traffic flows including traffic modelling and a revitalised public realm to be explored through a masterplanning process. This will allow us to fully understand the impact and deliverability of new bridges or decking structures as a potential solution to Wimbledon's through-traffic problems.
3. Wimbledon Station OS & OT decking adjacent to and north of Centre Court. This is a pre-requisite development opportunity to provide decant commercial provision and should connect with the North Bridge proposal (1)

4. Wimbledon Bridge House (southern deck). Whilst Crossrail 2 proposals indicate a new tram viaduct, the council believes this should be a fully decked structure above the railway to provide an integrated tram interchange and world class public realm flanked by new commercial development. This proposal should also open up access to Dundonald Yards as a longer term development opportunity.
5. Long term solutions are sought for Lower Downs tunnel in Raynes Park, which is frequently struck and blocked by vehicles and is an ongoing problem for Network Rail and Merton.
6. Long term solutions are sought for Durnsford Road bridge which is narrow, challenging for pedestrians and cyclists and would require upgrading to support any redevelopment or intensification of Weir Road industrial area.
7. More detailed work, including traffic modelling is required on options for West Barnes and Motspur Park level crossings to mitigate any further severance caused by the railway in these communities. The crossings provide vital access to many local schools and the Burlington Road / Shanon Corner business area. The crossings are also vital to our local shopping parades. Local residents and businesses are rightly concerned at the traffic impact of additional trains using the crossings and the prospect of crossing closures. Full exploration of bridge and underpass options are vital to the prosperity of the community.
8. Further design detail is required to allow us to fully understand the implications of additional tracks in the Raynes Park area. Proposals to date for the line south of Wimbledon have been less well developed.

Placemaking and Growth

Again, learning from Crossrail 1, the project is a momentous opportunity to provide for economic growth, transform our public transport provision and to re-think Wimbledon town centre's traffic system to create a place for people. Crossrail 2 could significantly contribute to Wimbledon's success through a holistic and seamless integration of a major transport hub and urban centre.

However, there are barriers to the delivery of great placemaking, for which the council will seek resources from TfL and the Mayor to ensure that Wimbledon station and town centre developments are of the best design possible and that Merton maximises the benefits of Crossrail 2 whilst ensuring that disruption is kept to a minimum.

Barriers to unlocking our growth potential:

1. Wimbledon gyratory & traffic flow – a new solution is required, aligned to the emerging masterplan and enabling infrastructure listed above.
2. Dundonald yards – a phased release of the Network Rail site will create a new mixed use neighbourhood for Wimbledon
3. Clarity sought over the best solution for Weir Road, including any decant offer for business, compensation for lost business rate income, support to help businesses relocate and compensation to LBM as freeholder.
4. Clarity sought on the future of the Rainbow Yards development in Raynes Park
5. Funding towards masterplanning and development management to enable Merton Council to lead and shape plans to maximise the growth potential of the borough

6. Commitment to working with the GLA to progress swiftly, revisions to the London Plan for Wimbledon Metropolitan Centre or Opportunity Area (including Planning Frameworks) and to proactively plan for any phased release of industrial land and adequate provision of community infrastructure.

In conclusion, we appreciate that this is the first of many consultations on Crossrail 2 and that the scheme design is at a concept stage. However, at such an early stage, it is clear that the proposals have such significant and unparalleled consequence for the economic sustainability of Merton, notably in Wimbledon Town Centre.

Whilst we can all recognise the long term benefits of Crossrail 2 to London and Merton, we remain unconvinced of the design solution thus far for Wimbledon Station and believe that the real growth opportunities for Wimbledon have not fully been exploited (e.g., over-rail developments). We are also fundamentally opposed to any residential led regeneration in central Wimbledon which must be also allowed to flourish as a place of work and culture.

There are considerable issues to overcome, not least that the current consultation only considers one option. We require a thorough, critical analysis of other options for Wimbledon Station, but we are in the early days of planning. I appreciate the commitment of your team to work with Merton officers to fully integrate any Crossrail 2 proposals with the council's emerging masterplan for Wimbledon.

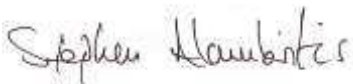
We trust this provides you and your team with the opportunity to revise the proposals in a way that moves away from engineering and respects the grain and character of Wimbledon as a place, to significantly reduce the impact of construction on our residential and business communities.

We all look forward to reviewing the next iteration of Crossrail 2 proposals in tandem with the council's masterplan; and to be in a position to strongly support Crossrail 2 which is vital to London's economy and transport infrastructure.

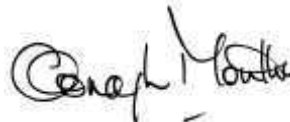
Yours sincerely,



Councillor Andrew Judge
Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Environmental Sustainability



Councillor Stephen Alambritis
Leader of Merton Council



Councillor Oonagh Moulton
Leader of Merton Conservatives



Councillor Peter Southgate
Leader of Merton Park Independent Residents



Councillor Mary Jane Jeanes
West Barnes Ward Liberal Democrat Councillor

Raynes Park Community Forum Thursday 1 December 2015 Chair's Report

The meeting was held in Raynes Park Library Hall, and chaired by Councillor Jill West. More than 50 residents attended, as well as five other Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Update from Merton Police

PC Beth Williams said there had been a recent spate of burglaries from sheds on Cottenham Park Road. As a result there will be additional patrols early in the morning. PC Williams recommended that bicycles and other expensive items should be locked securely.

There will be an event at Tesco's on 9 December to promote awareness of counter terrorism work and encourage residents to report anything suspicious.

In response to questions PC Williams confirmed that the CCTV cameras facing Lambton Road are working and that the lease for their base on St Georges Avenue still had at least another year remaining.

Local Health Matters

South West London Collaborative Commissioning Issues Paper

Murrae Tolson from NHS Merton CCG delivered a presentation on the Issues Paper that has been produced to look at the need for change across all health services in South West London. The Issues Paper is based on a five year strategy and has eight work streams. The presentation can be found at

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/raynesparkcommunityforum.htm>

In response to questions Murrae said that the Nelson and Raynes Park Health Centres do not currently offer walk-in urgent care services but this could be considered as an option as part of the review of local services. Services at the Nelson are still embedding and improving in response to feedback from patients. There have been some teething problems with telephone and IT systems at the Nelson and there is work going on to resolve these.

A question was asked about an online tool from Target to help diagnose ovarian cancer. Murrae apologised for slow progress that had been reported in adopting this and explained that delivering change can be frustrating because the NHS system is complex. It was asked whether an incentive to encourage GPs to not refer patients was planned for Merton. Murrae responded that Merton were not considering such an incentive, however were implementing an out-patient navigation programme in which GPs have access to a Decision Support Tool. The decision support tool is currently being piloted in five practices and should help focus on the quality of care by getting the referral to the right place, first time.

HARI Service

Amanda Featherstone from the Holistic Assessment and Rapid Investigation team at the Nelson Health Centre gave a presentation about the work of the team. The multi-disciplinary team provides assessments for those with complex needs that look at the whole person. The presentation can be found at:

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/raynesparkcommunityforum.htm>

In response to questions Amanda said that they are currently getting around 15 referrals per week in addition to those on a course of rehabilitation or for review appointments. This is growing as more GPs become aware of their work. As the service targets complex and multiple needs it is not intended to see high volumes of patients. The service is funded by Merton CCG. It does not offer advice about complementary and alternative medicine.

Lambton Road Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Judith Brodie, Chair of the Lambton Road PPG, gave an update on the work of the group. PPGs are patient led forums that engage with the staff at a GP practice to help improve services. At Lambton Road they meet monthly with a GP and the Practice Manager, produce newsletters and have created a directory of services for older people. During a listening week in early November volunteers spoke with more than 200 people in the surgery to complete a survey. These are being analysed along with an additional 200 online forms and the results will feature in the next newsletter.

Further details on how to contact the group and get involved are available on the practice website <http://www.lambtonroadmedical.nhs.uk/home,55571.htm>

Crossrail 2

Councillor David Dean updated the meeting on the current Crossrail 2 consultation. Concerns have been raised in both Wimbledon and Raynes Park about the impacts on the town centres. In Raynes Park there has not been any safeguarding as yet so it is not clear what would be the implication for the town centre, or the Rainbow Estate. Crossrail 2 secured £200m from the Treasury in the Autumn Statement to complete the planning and design work. Final permission to proceed is not likely to be given before 2020. The Future Merton team is leading on negotiations with Crossrail 2 on behalf of the Council along with Councillors Alambritis and Judge.

Residents can find out more and respond to the consultation at www.crossrail2.co.uk. The consultation is open until 8 January 2016.

Rainbow Estate

The council has given planning permission to the Rainbow, which the developers have three years to implement. The Mayor of London has considered the development and decided not to call it in. The development could be affected by Crossrail 2 but the land needed to be safeguarded in Raynes Park has not yet been assessed by Network Rail.

Great British High Street Awards

Raynes Park lost out on the award for best London high street but finished in the top three. Chris Larkman thanked all those involved in supporting the bid.

Raynes Park Christmas Festival

The Festival will take place on Friday 4 December and promises to be bigger and better than last year. The lights switch on will be at 5pm. Chris thanked Nick Coke from the Salvation Army for leading the arrangements for the event.

Current and anticipated planning applications

Thames Water Sewer works are due to finish on Sunday 6 December.

Travelodge works are ongoing and the hotel is likely to be opening in April 2016.

1 Durham Road – there has not been any application for tree works submitted to Merton Council so the owners have been written to.

Greyhound Stadium – the application from AFC Wimbledon and Galliard Homes will be considered by the Planning Applications Committee on 10 December.

The proposed new cycle route between New Malden, Raynes Park and Wimbledon – awaiting detailed proposals from Kingston Council, in particular how access to resident's gardens would be secured.

The bins south of the Skew Arch will be removed to reduce the incidence of fly tipping.

Open Forum

Paper recycling bin south of the station is not being emptied mid-week and is overflowing. This will be checked with the Waste Team.

There is a new website for the area being developed by local businesses. <http://raynesparklocal.co.uk/> includes news, events, promotions and useful links.

White lines outside Waitrose have reduced a lane of traffic. Councillor Crowe agreed to raise this with the Highways team.

Jane Plant said that volunteers were needed to help plant new trees in Raynes Park Sports Ground. The planting will take place on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 December between 10am and 1pm.

Residents in controlled parking zones with a one-hour restriction instead of all day restrictions said that the new arrangements were working well.

Chris said that a group of volunteers would be forming to clear and re-plant on the railway embankment.

Date of next meeting Thursday 3 March 2016, 7.15pm, in the Library Hall

Wimbledon Community Forum
2 December 2015
Chair's Report

The meeting was held at the Wimbledon Methodist Church, and chaired by Councillor James Holmes. Approximately 15 residents attended, as well as eight other Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Thames Water – water conservation and Smart Meters

Mumin Islam, Metering Stakeholder Liaison at Thames Water, and his colleagues Clare Collard and Laura Edwards, spoke to residents about Thames Water's Smart Meters and provided information on how residents could conserve water. The presentation can be found at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/wimbledoncommunityforum.htm>

Smart meters will be fitted in homes of Thames Water customers for free. Unlike standard meters, which are fitted in homes and provide a dial reading, smart meters are online and provide greater information. They are located outside rather than in homes, but placing them inside houses is a possibility for the future.

In response to questions, Thames Water said:

- Other than the Sewers Crossing Railways scheme – an ongoing scheme to improve sewer infrastructure - no major water works are currently planned in Merton as the borough has fewer leaks than other areas. Thames Water will notify councillors and residents in advance of any further works planned in the future.
- Smart water meters are being rolled out across London over the next 10/20 years. The programme is not currently in LB Merton and Thames Water are not able to confirm a start date yet but will notify residents well in advance of any changes to their bill.
- Smart meter roll-out programmes take three to four years to complete in each borough; households without a meter receive smart meters first, but eventually the company will roll them out to all customers. Current analogue meters will not be removed until they reach the end of their 15-year life-cycle.
- Thames Water will contact each customer individually about the installation of their smart water meter. Any residents with concerns about moving to a smart meter because of the impact on their bill or sensitivities to electromagnetic waves, should contact Thames Water once they have received their first letter which will have contact numbers on.
- An educational programme on how to save water is planned. In terms of smart meters, all customers will go on a two-year transition period during which they will stay on their normal bill but will be able to see how much their metered bill would be, helping them to adjust their water usage in anticipation of metered billing.
- Smart meters will mainly be installed underneath pavements rather than underneath roads.
- The installation of smart meters is contracted out; however Thames Water works very closely with its contractor, Morrison Utilities, whose employees are fully trained and wear Thames Water uniforms.

- The roll-out programme is not intended to generate revenue and therefore there will be no additional charge to customers for its implementation.
- Thames Water is working closely the government's Information Commission Office to ensure data protection of its customers.
- Thames Water's planning department works with local authorities to look at implementing the required water infrastructure when major regeneration developments are planned.

Richard Tracey, Assembly Member

Richard Tracey, the London Assembly member for Merton and Wandsworth provided residents with an overview of the projects he's been working on in the run up to his retirement after eight years as Assembly Member:

Assembly Members have been involved in the scrutiny of the police budget and lobbied the Home Secretary and MPs to prevent budget cuts. The Comprehensive Spending Review has now concluded that the police will not face any budget cuts, and Assembly Members have been reassured by the Police Commissioner and Borough Commanders that the priority is borough and neighbourhood policing.

Mr Tracey has also been heavily involved in transport matters in London, including campaigning Crossrail 2 for longer trains to cope with commuter capacity and securing some more bus lines to support the new train network.

In response to questions about Crossrail 2, Mr Tracey said:

- Consideration is still being given to whether Crossrail 2 will include a track running through Tooting or Balham. Consultation over such issues is still taking place.
- Talks are ongoing over providing links from South London to Heathrow Airport. There is currently no suggestion that Crossrail 2 would divert from its proposed North-South route, but Mr Tracey/Councillor David Dean agreed to follow up with Network Rail the possibility of a link from Fulwell to the airport (feedback from Mr Tracey to be provided on this matter). Discussions are already taking place for the Crossrail Regional option to go west of Wimbledon.
- Mr Tracey has been lobbying for a Tramlink extension, but although this is an aspiration of Sutton and Merton councils, it is not in TfL's current budget plans, therefore is not funded.
- TfL is being encouraged to develop much of the land it owns for housing.
- Mr Tracey agreed with concerns voiced by Councillor Peter Walker that the construction period of Crossrail 2 could have a detrimental effect on Wimbledon Town Centre and its economy. Mr Tracey has raised this as a concern with Network Rail.

Mr Tracey has been working on the London Waste and Recycling Board to assist boroughs in being more efficient in handling waste and recycling and giving them funding to help them with this goal.

Greater London National Park City

Ben Brace, a volunteer on the campaign to make London a National park City explained what the project is about. A presentation on the campaign can be viewed at

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/wimbledoncommunityforum.htm>

The campaign is seeking support from Merton's wards - to date three of Merton's wards of signed up to show their support (Colliers Wood, Cricket Green and Longthornton). Once support has been obtained, volunteers will try to raise funds to create an entity to drive the campaign forward. Support can be given by signing up on the campaign website <http://www.nationalparkcity.london/>.

There is cross-party support for the campaign from all of the current London Mayoral candidates.

Motions to Council and Soapbox

These items were postponed to the next meeting due to time restrictions.

Dates of future meetings:

Monday 14 March 2016 at The Mansel Road Centre, Trinity United Reformed Church, Mansel Road, London SW19 4AA

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2016

NOTICE OF MOTION

This Council believes that webcasting has an important part to play in ensuring greater openness and transparency of decision making in Merton; enhancing democracy; and increasing accountability to the residents it is elected to serve.

This Council therefore regrets the decision taken as part of last year's Budget setting process to discontinue the webcasting service as from February 2016 and the failure to investigate other models of delivery, such as sponsorship or an in house service as happens in Wandsworth.

Given that – unlike My Merton - the quarterly publications of many local authorities are now completely self-funding, this Council requests Cabinet at its meeting on 15 February 2016 to reallocate up to £15,000 from Merton's current communications and marketing budget of over £300,000 per annum in order to ensure continued webcasting of major meetings such as Full Council and the Planning Applications Committee, while also exploring alternative low cost ways of providing this important service.

Cllr Hamish Badenoch

Cllr Adam Bush

Cllr Daniel Holden

Cllr David Simpson

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2016

NOTICE OF MOTION

This Council notes that, as part of Merton's Workplace Health programme, a network of volunteer Health Champions has been introduced to help their colleagues to lead healthy lifestyles by raising awareness of activities that are available to support healthy living.

Given that responsibility for Public Health has moved from the NHS to Merton Council, it is important that the local authority sets a strong example in promoting preventative health measures in areas of concern such as smoking, obesity, diabetes etc. and this Council congratulates all those staff members who have so far signed up to become Health Champions.

This Council recognises that residents and local community leaders also have an important role to play in taking forward the prevention agenda here in Merton, particularly given the ongoing demand for local health services.

This Council therefore resolves to urge all councillors to help promote preventative solutions to the health issues facing local communities in Merton by becoming Health Champions and by encouraging other community leaders and interested residents across the borough to do the same.

Cllr Michael Bull

Cllr Brian Lewis-Lavender

Cllr Gilli Lewis-Lavender

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2016

NOTICE OF MOTION

This Council believes that a civilised and prosperous society should support its most vulnerable and elderly citizens.

Given the demographic pressures faced by the borough's adult social care services in light of the projected 9% increase in the older population of Merton between 2015 and 2020, this Council welcomes the approach taken by the Government to enable councils to respond to growing local need for social care through:

- A £1.5 billion expansion of the Better Care Fund to support better health and social care integration by 2020; and
- Allowing those local authorities responsible for social care to levy a new social care precept of up to 2%, provided the money raised is spent exclusively on adult social care.

Cllr James Holmes

Cllr Gilli Lewis-Lavender

Cllr David Williams

Council

Agenda Item

Wards: Longthornton, Pollards Hill

Subject: Review of Polling Places

Lead officer: Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services

Lead member: Councillor Mark Allison

Contact officer: Andrew Robertson, Head of Electoral Services

Recommendation:

That the council agrees the designation of Elmwood Tennis Club as the polling place for polling district IB in Longthornton Ward and polling district JB in Pollards Hill Ward.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 A new polling place is required in Longthornton Ward and Pollards Hill Ward due to the loss of the currently designated building.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1 The current polling place for polling district IB in Longthornton Ward and polling district JB in Pollards Hill Ward is the Westminster School Sports Pavilion, 245A Tamworth Lane, CR4 1DH. The pavilion is owned by Westminster School, who are in the process of selling the land where the pavilion is situated. The building's future after the land is sold is not known, although it is likely that it will be demolished to make way for housing. The school therefore cannot commit to hiring out the sports pavilion for the next scheduled elections in May 2016.
- 2.2 It is therefore proposed that the polling place is moved to the Elmwood Tennis Club, Rear of 337 Tamworth Lane, CR4 1DL. The tennis club is located near the sports pavilion, and has been used as a polling station in the past. The location would serve the electorate of polling districts IB in Longthornton Ward and JB in Pollards Hill Ward, and present the minimum amount of disruption to electors (around 1800 in total).
- 2.3 The management of the club has been helpful and have agreed for the building to be used by the local community for polling purposes. The management has also agreed that the club will be used exclusively for polling purposes on polling day. The club has recently been inspected by Electoral Services and has been assessed as meeting the requirements of a polling place, so long as the following modifications are made to enable disabled access to voters.
- The doorway to the club has a 10 centimetre step. A ramp will need to be provided by Electoral Services to bridge the step to enable level access into the club.

- The club is approached by a 30 metre unlit, unpaved driveway. Electoral Services are looking into several options to level the surface of the driveway before polling day, with the most likely solution being the laying of portable pathway, such as portapath or super-trac. Electoral Services will also provide temporary lighting to illuminate the approach to the club.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 Such is the paucity of options in polling districts IB and JB, the only realistic alternative to using Elmwood Tennis Club as a polling place would be to erect a marquee on Marlowe Square, CR4 1DT, which adjoins Tamworth Lane. This option would be considerably more expensive than using the tennis club, due to the cost of hiring a marquee, the provision of electrics for lighting inside the marquee, and the hire of portable toilets. Due the lack of a kitchen, polling staff would be unable to prepare hot drinks or food, which could be an issue bearing in mind the amount of hours worked during the course of the day. If the owner of the land is not the council then there may also be a problem obtaining permission to erect a marquee on site.
- 3.2 In Longthornton Ward, electors from polling district IB could be re-directed to St Olave's Church; which is the designated polling place in the neighbouring polling district of ID. However, this would cause electors to travel considerable extra distance to vote, especially for those residents in the south and west of the polling district. St Olave's Church also already accommodates two polling stations and over 2400 electors. If another polling station was added there would be significant space issues and possible confusion for voters.
- 3.3 In Pollards Hill Ward, electors from polling district JB could be re-directed to The Sherwood Primary School, which is the designated polling place in the neighbouring polling district of JC. However, this would again cause electors to travel extra distance to vote. The Sherwood Primary School also already accommodates two polling stations and over 2500 electors. Adding another polling station would make space in the hall a concern.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN AND OUTCOMES

- 4.1. The General Purposes Committee was consulted on the proposal via e-mail due to there being no scheduled meeting before Council. Members were invited to comment; and were advised that if no response was received, then it would be taken that they consented to the proposal. Cllr Byers replied on behalf of the Labour members of the Committee, and stated that they had no comments on the proposed change. Cllr Howard replied on behalf of the Conservative members of the committee, and stated that they are content with the proposed solution of the tennis club as the polling place for polling districts IB and JB.
- 4.2. All councillors for both Wards (Labour) have been consulted on the proposal to designate Elmwood Tennis Club as the polling place for polling district IB in Longthornton Ward, and polling district JB in Pollards Hill Ward, in place of the

Westminster City School Sports Pavilion. Only one reply has been received, from Cllr Whelton, who stated that he was happy for the tennis club to be used as a polling place.

- 4.3. Political party agents have also been consulted on the proposal. Both the Conservative group and the Labour group are in support of designating the tennis club as the polling place.
- 4.4. It is the view of the Returning Officer that the General Purposes Committee recommends that the full council agrees the designation of the Elmwood Tennis Club as the polling place for polling district IB in Longthornton Ward and polling district JB in Pollards Hill Ward. The tennis club is in the most convenient location for electors residing in the two polling districts, has superior facilities for staff, and is a significantly cheaper option than hiring a marquee; even after taking into account modifications required to make the club fully accessible to disabled voters.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1 The Council meeting on 3rd February 2016 must make the decision on these proposals so that all polling districts have a designated polling place for the elections on 5th May 2016.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Provision for the hire of buildings for use as polling places is included within the budget allocation for the elections to be held on 5th May 2016. It is estimated that the proposal to use the Elmwood Tennis Club would add around £750 extra cost to the total election budget in 2016. This would consist of additional costs of installing temporary lighting and temporary pathway to make the approach more accessible. The total cost of erecting a Marquee on Marlowe Square would add around £2500. This price is based on the cost of the temporary polling station installed at Mitcham Garden Village for each election, and would consist of the hire of a marquee, the provision of electrics for lighting inside the marquee, and the hire of a portaloos for staff.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Council has a duty under the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA 1983) to divide its area into polling districts for parliamentary and local government elections, to designate a polling place for each polling district, and to keep these under review. The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000¹ list section 18 of the RPA 1983 as one of the functions that are not to be the responsibility of an authority's executive. This function has not been specifically delegated by the Council.

¹ SI 2000/2853

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 it is the duty of a public authority in the exercise of its functions to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not;
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics;
- Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people;
- Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

8.2 In providing services and access to them the Council is required by law to make reasonable adjustments in order to avoid discriminating against disabled persons. When considering what adjustments should be considered as reasonable the council is required to have regard to the relevant code of practice. The following are some of the factors to be taken into account when considering what is reasonable:

- Whether taking any particular steps would be effective in overcoming the substantial disadvantage that disabled people face in accessing the services in question;
- The extent to which it is practicable for the service provider to take the steps;
- The financial and other costs of making the adjustment;
- The extent of any disruption which taking the steps would cause;
- The extent of the service provider's financial and other resources;
- The amount of any resources already spent on making adjustments; and
- The availability of financial and other assistance.

8.3 The right to free elections forms part of Article 3 of Protocol 1 of the Human Rights Act 1998. Any resident is entitled to vote, if qualified by age and nationality, and if not subject to any other legal incapacity.

8.4 As indicated above, the principles have been followed of seeking to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances, and seeking to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place is accessible to electors who are disabled. There is a commitment to ensure that all polling places are accessible.

- 8.5 The aim of enhancing community cohesion and engagement would be expected to be achieved by the principles in 8.1 and 8.2 through promoting democratic engagement by seeking to make voting in person as easy as possible for residents of all communities.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Integrity plans are maintained for elections. These involve working closely with Merton Police on operational matters, together with liaising with the Metropolitan Police Service officer specifically delegated with responsibility for potential election offences.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 In reviewing polling places, the reasonable facilities for staff at polling stations during elections have been considered. The physical fabric of possible polling places has also been considered to reflect the need for members of the public to visit their polling station.

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

- a) Maps of Longthornton Ward and Pollards Hill Ward.
- b) Maps of polling district IB and polling district JB with location of Elmwood Tennis Club and Marlowe Square.
- c) Photos of Elmwood Tennis Club.
- d) Photo of Marlowe Square.
- e) Photos of portable pathway.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Reports on polling stations made by Electoral Services staff, by presiding officers and polling station inspectors at past elections.

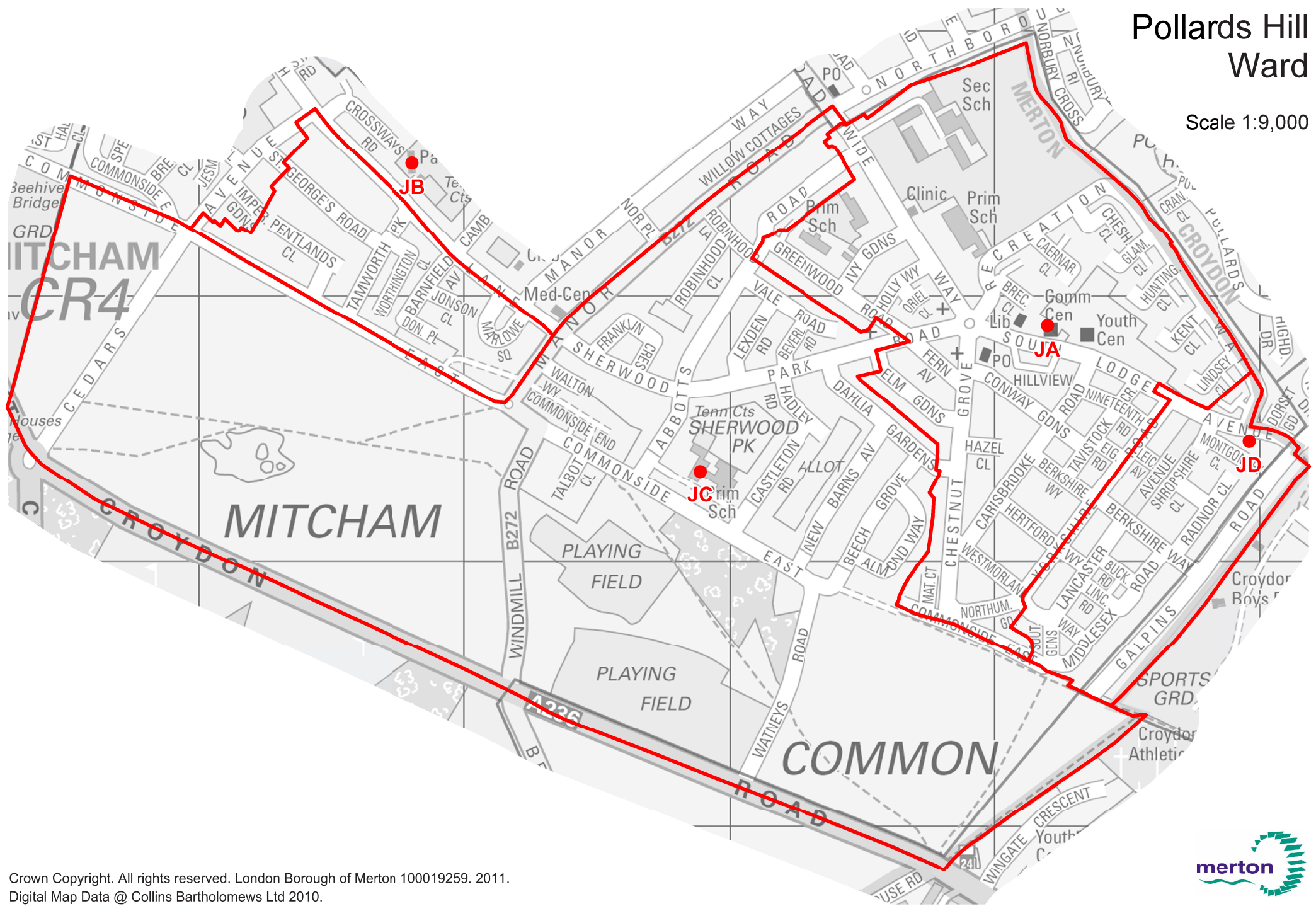
Longthornton Ward

Scale 1:10,500



Pollards Hill Ward

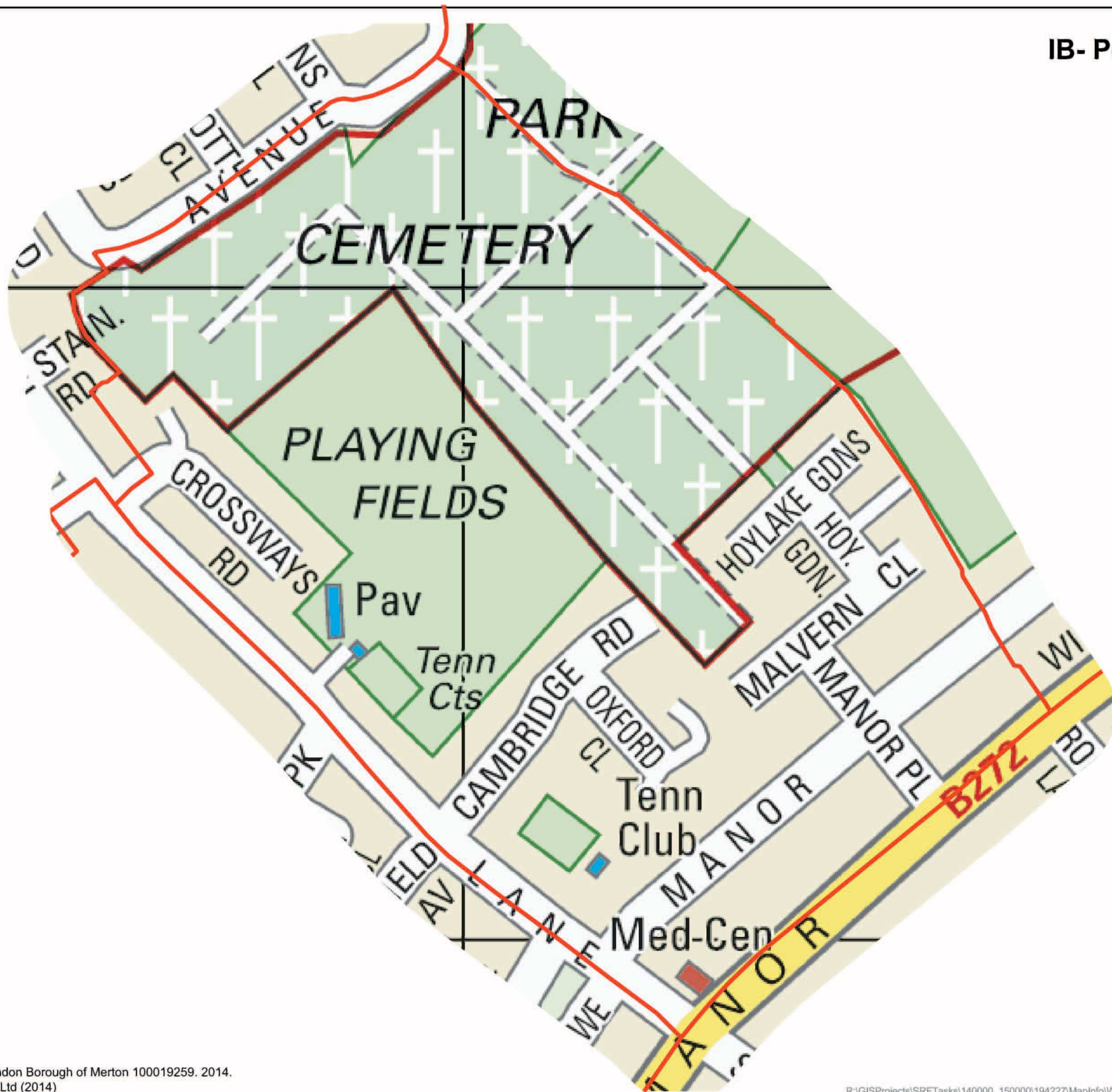
Scale 1:9,000





Scale 1 :3,000

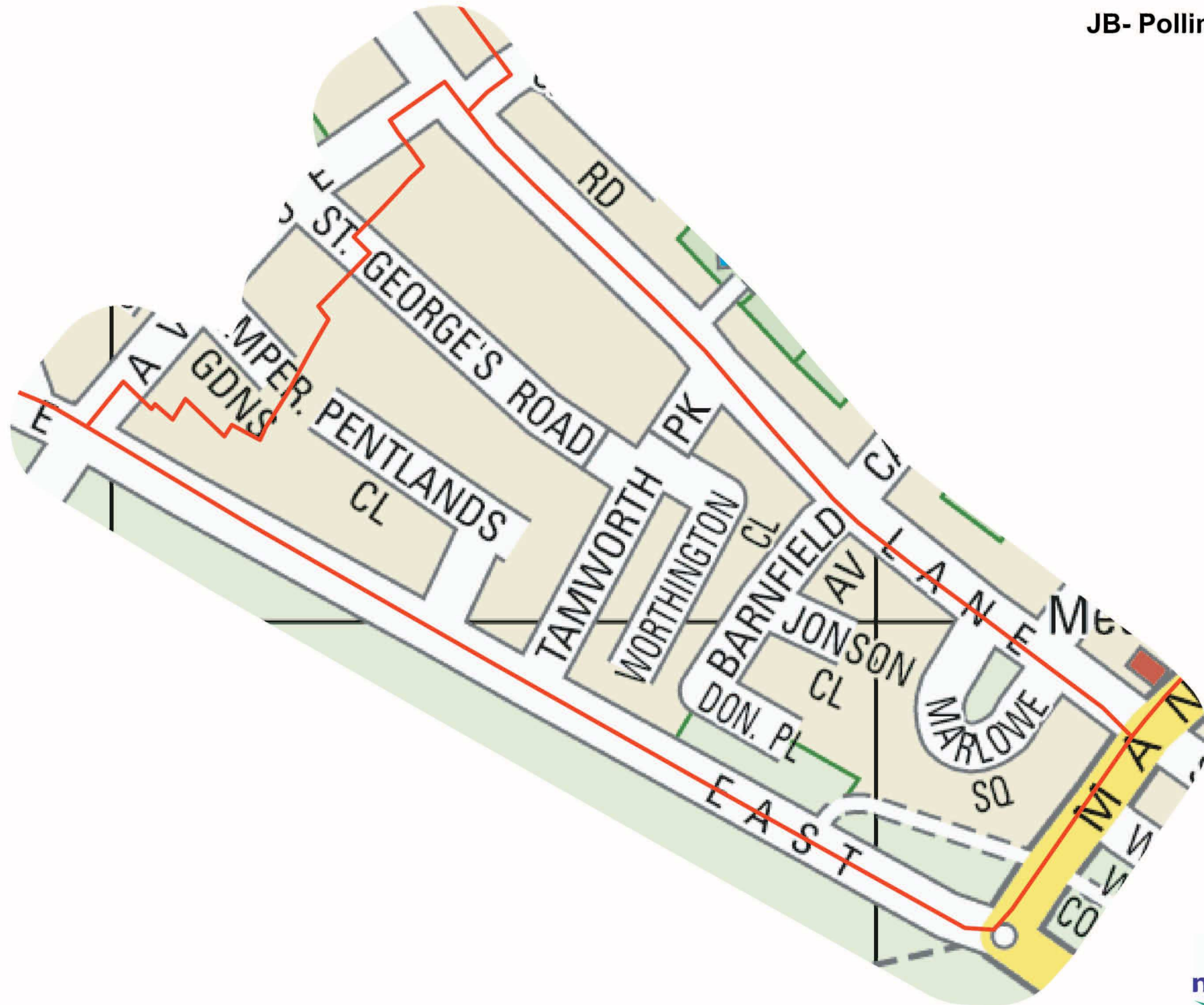
IB- Polling District





Scale 1 :2,500

JB- Polling District







NEW MEMBERS
WELCOME
PLAY TENNIS
TODAY!

WINDMILL SCHOOL
025 845 2177







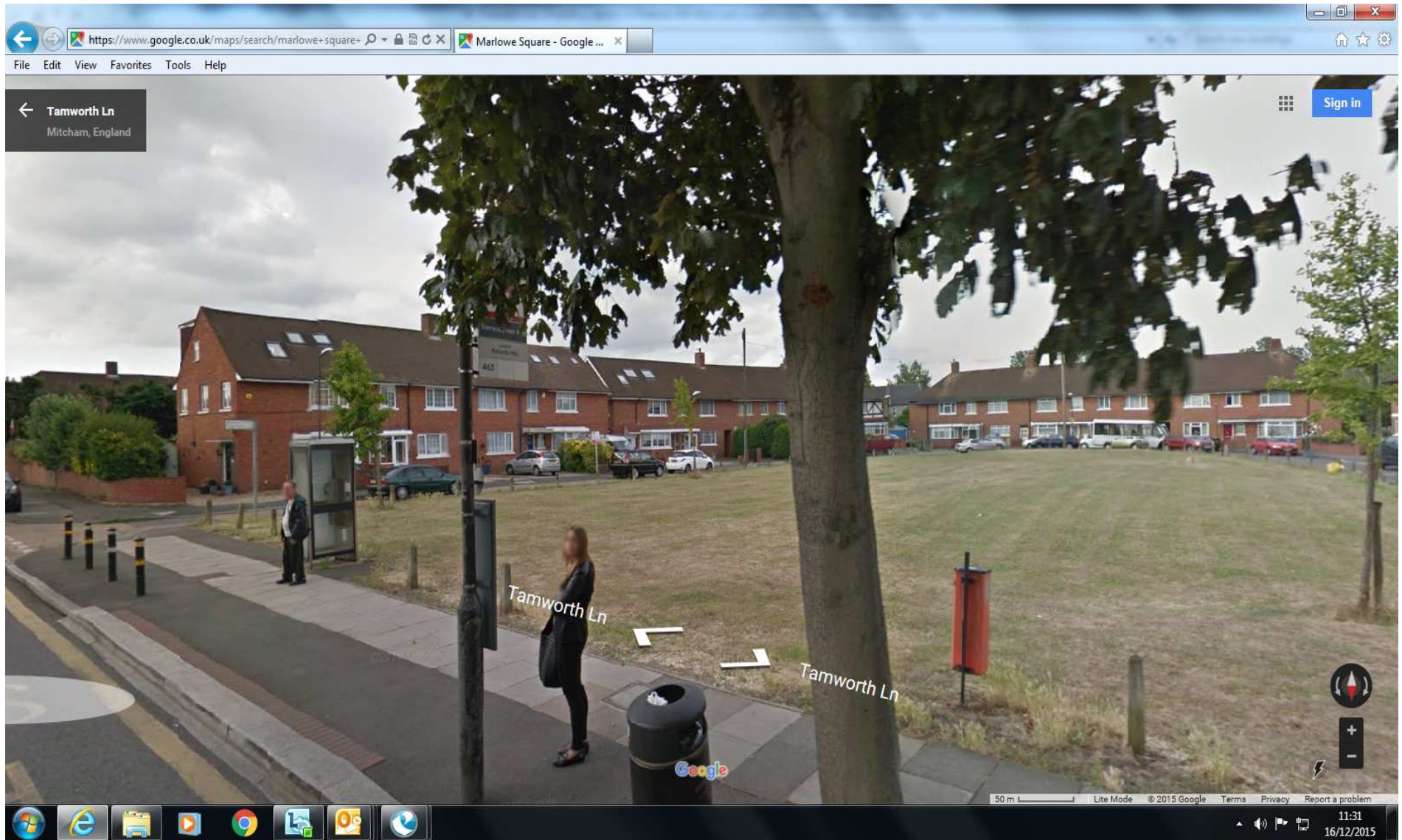
EXIT





Marlowe Square

Page 67



Super-Trac



Portapath



Committee: Council

Date: 3 February 2016

Wards: All

Subject: Approval of Pay Policy Statement and re-adoption of the Members' Allowances Scheme

Lead officer: Kim Brown, Joint Head of HR Policy Development; Paul Evans, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer

Lead member: Councillor Mark Allison, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

Contact officers:

Kim Brown, Joint Head of HR Policy Development, kim.brown@merton.gov.uk;
Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services, julia.regan@merton.gov.uk

Recommendations:

1. That Council approve publication of the Pay Policy Statement for 2016/17.
 2. That Council reconfirm the Members' Allowances Scheme with no change for 2016/17, with effect from 1 April 2016
-

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires the Council to publish a pay policy statement and for the statement to be re-approved by Council each year.
- 1.2 The existing pay policy statement for 2015/16 was approved by Council on 4 February 2015.
- 1.3 The only amendments from the last year's version are to update the pay ratio data, and to add some commentary in relation to pending legislative changes. It is therefore proposed that the pay policy statement attached as Appendix A should be approved for 2016/17.
- 1.4 The report also recommends re-adopting the Members' Allowances Scheme with no change for 2016/17.

2. DETAILS

- 2.1 The pay policy statement for the year 2015/16, approved by Council, is currently published on the Council's website

- 2.2 A full Council meeting is required to re-approve the pay policy statement each year.
- 2.3 There has been no change in the council's pay policy, and there have no pay awards for Chief Officers earning above £100,000 per annum. The only amendments from last year's version are to update the pay ratio data, and to add some commentary in relation to pending legislative changes.
- 2.4 A draft Pay Policy Statement for 2016/17 is attached at Appendix A.
- 2.9 In relation to the Members' Allowances Scheme the Council is required further to the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 to re-adopt its scheme of members allowances for the year 2016/17 and in doing so give due regard to the recommendations made by the report of the Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors in London whose latest report was published in 2014.
- 2.10 The Independent Panel did not recommend any significant changes to the Scheme of Allowances which it approved in its report in 2006 and again in 2010. It recommended that members' allowances be pegged to the annual local government pay settlement.
- 2.11 Council is recommended to confirm its existing scheme of Member Allowances for 2016/17 and to retain the same level of allowances for 2016/17, thereby agreeing to not apply the local government pay settlement.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 Publication of a Pay Policy Statement and member allowances are statutory requirements.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1 Any changes to the pay policy statement would be considered by the Council's Senior Remuneration Panel prior to submission to Council.

5. TIMETABLE

- 5.1 The Pay Policy Statement must be approved by Council for publication from 1 April 2016 on the Councils website.

6. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There is provision in the draft MTFs for 2015-19 for an increase in the budgeted cost of salaries and Members' Allowances. These provisions will be kept under review each year.

7. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Publication of the Pay Policy Statement and annual re-approval by a meeting of the full council is a statutory requirement under the Localism Act 2011.
- 7.2 Guidance was issued to authorities in 2011 to accompany the Localism Act, and revised 'final supplementary guidance' was issued by the DCLG in late February 2013. The required changes were addressed in the 2013/14 Pay Policy Statement and in subsequent years.
- 7.3 Regulation 10 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 requires re-adoption of the scheme. Before making or amending its allowances scheme, the Council is required, by Regulation 19, to have regard to the recommendations of an Independent Remuneration Panel.

8. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The intention of the pay policy measures in the Localism Act is to improve transparency of decision making, particularly in relation to top earners in the organisation.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None

10.0 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 None.

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

- Appendix A – draft pay policy statement for 2016/17.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1 None

LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON
Draft for 2016/17
Pay Policy Statement

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council is committed to transparency of pay, and best value for money to residents in terms of the pay bill to the workforce and quality of services provided to residents. This statement is required under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.

We monitor the Council's benchmark position regularly in London utilising data sets from London Councils, and in particular the annual chief officers' salary survey. This information is used when reviewing pay and grading structures, in combination with data on turnover, recruitment and retention.

- 1.2 This pay policy statement sets out: the Council's current position in the labour market and pay benchmarking, pay ratios, the current pay structure and arrangements, dealing with data transparency and senior officer termination payments.

2. Pay benchmarking

- 2.1 In terms of the senior pay benchmarks derived from the London Councils database we know the Council is positioned broadly at the median for senior pay for the 32 boroughs. Our overall pay rates below chief officer-level broadly mirror the median for Outer London Local Authorities.

- 2.2 The pay benchmarks are reviewed annually to ensure the Council continues to provide good value for money and that senior managers are not paid in excess of local, regional and national labour markets, as appropriate to the job.

3. Pay ratios and Fair Pay in the Public Sector

- 3.1 The Council has a pay ratio of 1:11 between the lowest and highest paid employees, conforming to CIPD research evidence that the average ratio in Local Government in England is 1:10. It should be noted this is well within the ratio level of 1:20 that was established for the Hutton Fair Pay Review (March 2011) to consider. Recent research* has suggested that the ratio for the top 250 private sector organisations is 1:262, and 1:15 for the public sector overall. *research commissioned and published by the One Society think-tank.

- 3.2 Merton uses job evaluation to determine an employee's grade and the rates within the grade are determined through national bargaining. The current minimum rate of pay for NJC employees of £16,287 per annum is based on the nationally determined minimum spine point rate, however a London Living Wage guarantee ensures the lowest rate actually paid from 1 April 2016 to Merton's employees will be £9.40 per hour (£17,109 per annum). See paragraph 4.1 below for more detail on how we determine grades.

- 3.3 The Council ensures senior managers are required to demonstrate they are performing to appraisal objectives in order to qualify for incremental pay increases and this pay policy system conforms with the recommendations from the Hutton Fair Pay Review that senior managers' pay includes an element of 'earn back'.
- 3.4 As well as comparing with the lowest paid we also make comparison with the median (recommended in the Government's transparency guidelines). The ratio of the Chief Executive's pay to median employee salary is 1:7. The Hutton report suggested the ratio for the FTSE top 250 private sector companies was 1:38.
- 3.5 At the time of preparing this pay statement the Government was undertaking consultation on its proposals for mandatory reporting from early 2016 of the gender pay gap for organisations with more than 250 employees. The average full-time salary for males employed by the Council is £26,688 a year, and the average full-time salary for females is £27,227 a year. The gap between male and female pay is -£539 (-2.0%) i.e. females earn on average more than males.

4. Current pay structures and arrangements

- 4.1 The Council operates:
- The Joint National Council (JNC) for LA Chief Executives, and the JNC for LA Chief Officers pay agreement arrangements &
 - The National Joint Council (NJC) Greater London Provincial Council (GLPC) Outer London pay agreement for most posts below Management Grade (MG), and applies the GLPC job evaluation scheme for jobs up to grade ME16. Job evaluation objectively establishes the relative size/value of posts whereas the pay/grade relationship ('price tag') is agreed by the Council with reference to GLPC benchmark guidance. The pay and grading structure below chief officers and Management Grade (see 4.3 below) currently allows for time-served incremental progression on an annual basis up to the grade maxima.
- 4.2 Some other employees are paid on nationally determined pay scales such as: Soulbury, Youth & Community, Teachers, Craft Workers and local conditions.
- 4.3 Senior managers, on grades MGA to chief executive grade are placed on grades with incremental progression on an annual basis. Progression through the grade is dependent upon satisfactory performance. Job evaluation for chief officers and managers above ME16 is conducted using the Hay job evaluation scheme.
- 4.4 Senior staff receive no performance-related pay or bonuses. They contribute from 8.5% up to 12.5% of their salary to the local government pension scheme and Merton's employer contribution to the pension fund for all contributing members is 13.9%. In some years the Chief Executive also

receives election expenses when general, local or European elections occur. Annual cost of living increases are determined nationally.

- 4.5 All matters relating to senior pay, including the chief executive's appraisal setting and assessment is dealt with by the Council's senior remuneration panel comprising of each of the political group leaders, chaired by the Leader of the Council for the administration at which the salary package is considered and recommended for approval. Salary packages over £100,000 will be reported to full Council for approval.
- 4.6 The Council applies the NJC and Chief Officers pay awards. At this juncture the pay award outcome for 2016/17 is still awaited.
- 4.7 Any proposed changes to the pay and grading structure are subject to an Equality Impact Assessment to assess the likely impact of the changes. We conducted a full Equal Pay Audit in 2006, which found no significant issues, and we conduct further smaller audits on a periodical basis.

5. Transparency arrangements

- 5.1 The Council via its Internet site:
 - publishes all senior employee salaries with: names, title, salary band and information including job descriptions that will cover span of control and managerial responsibilities.
 - publishes on an annual basis via its website a schedule of all council employees earning £50,000, or more, in accordance with the recommended code of practice for data transparency
 - publishes structure charts on the Council's website as recommended by the government code of practice for data transparency.
 - publishes this policy via the Council's website
- 5.1 In the event that there are changes in an employee's salary (including market supplement) which results in a salary increase to £100k during the year; this package needs to be recommended by the remuneration panel and approved by full Council. Once agreed by full Council the details of the individual and post will be published including: name, title, salary band and information including job description that will cover span of control and managerial responsibilities.
- 5.2 The Chief Executive's remuneration, that of the Directors, and any officer earning over £100k, is already the subject of a published statement on the Council's website. Such levels of remuneration are subject to the Council's senior remuneration panel consisting of the three different political party leaders (see 4.5 above). Other salary and budget information is published in the annual statement of accounts, available from the Council's website. The Chief Executive's appraisal objectives for 2016/17 will also be published.
- 5.3 For any new appointment where the salary is £100k per annum or more approval should be obtained from full Council prior to the appointment being

made (in practical terms the agreement would be sought at the start of the recruitment process).

6. Termination payments

- 6.1 For Chief Officers, termination payments are reported to the General Purposes Committee and the rationale for such termination arrangements for these matters are approved by members of the Council. From April 2013 all severance packages over £100,000 are reported to full Council for approval.
- 6.2 We will continue to review and publish our policy on the exercise of discretions under local authority regulations covering compensation for early termination of employment, redundancy and pension enhancements. We are currently considering our policy on the remuneration of chief officers who return to a local authority.
- 6.3 At the time of preparing this pay statement the Government was undertaking consultation on its proposals to cap termination payments in the public sector at £95,000, to be implemented via the Enterprise Bill. Should these proposals be adopted they will apply to the Council.

Committee: Council

Date: 3 February 2016

Wards: All

Subject: Calendar of meetings 2016-17

Lead officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance

Lead member: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

Contact officer: chris.pedlow@merton.gov.uk

Recommendations:

That the Calendar of meetings for 2016-17 at appendix A is agreed.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. To propose a calendar of meetings for Council bodies for 2016-17.

2 DETAILS

2.1. The details are set out in appendix A.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1. The Council can make whatever arrangements it sees fit in respect of the calendar within the legal constraints set out below. The Council should also have regard to audit and accounting requirements in respect of submission of the Annual Governance Statement by the end of June in each year and the approval of the Final Accounts by the end of September in each year.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1. The executive leader has been consulted in respect of the executive meeting schedule. The chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and the Scrutiny Panels have been consulted in respect of the scrutiny schedule. Chairs of other committees have also been consulted. Group offices and leaders have been consulted and their comments taken into account where possible.

5 TIMETABLE

5.1. The calendar contained in Appendix A covers the period from immediately after the 2015 Annual meeting up to and including the Annual meeting 2017.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. None

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. In borough election years the Council must hold its annual meeting between 12 and 25 days after the election. In other years the annual meeting must be held in March, April or May.
- 7.2. The Council must hold a meeting to agree its budget by 11 March in each year.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. Publishing a calendar of meetings in advance is important in giving people information about when the Council proposes to do its business and take decisions which affect the community and individuals.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. None

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. It is important for the proper discharge of the Council's duties that a proper framework for decision making is established including the scheduling of meetings in advance to allow for business reports to be properly prepared for decision making bodies.

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

- Appendix A – calendar of meetings for 2016/17

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1. None

Committee: Council

Date: 3 February 2016

Wards: All

Subject: The Use of Special Urgency for a Key Decision – Procurement for Integrated Health Improvement, stop smoking and weight management programme

Lead officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director Corporate Governance

Lead member: Councillor Stephen Alambritis, Leader of the Council

Contact officer: Chris Pedlow, Senior Democratic Services Officer, (020 8545 3616)

Recommendations:

A. That Council note the taking of an urgent key decision

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. This report appries Council of the taking of an urgent key decision in accordance with the provisions of Part 4 E, Section 17 of the Council's constitution.

2 DETAILS

2.1. *The Constitution makes provision for the taking of an urgent decision i.e.*

Paragraph (c) of Section 17 requires that "Decisions taken as a matter of urgency must be reported to the next available meeting of the Council together with the reason for urgency".

2.2. In accordance with paragraph 17(b) of the constitution the above titled report presented to The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Commission was brought to the attention of the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Commission who made the following statement:

'Having read both reports (public and exempt) that you wish to add to the agenda for Cabinet on 18 January 201, I accept that this decision should not be delayed to a later Cabinet meeting. The reports need to be approved by the Governing Body of Merton CCG on 26 January so that the contract can be awarded in time to start on 1 April 2016. I therefore approve the use of Rule 15 to allow the reports to be included on the agenda for Cabinet on 18 January as a late item.'

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1. None for the purpose of this report.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1. None for the purpose of this report.

5 TIMETABLE

5.1. None for the purpose of this report

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. None for the purpose of this report.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. None for the purpose of this report.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1. None for the purpose of this report.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None for the purpose of this report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. 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 - Notice of Decision

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1. None.

CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Caroline Holland - Director



Notice is hereby given that a key decision will be taken by Cabinet at its meeting on 14th September 2015.

The Award of a Contract for Temporary Accommodation Services (Hall Place)

Where a key decision contains exempt information and would be considered in private session a 28 days notice period, prior to the date of that the decision is required. If this notice period has not been given, then the decision can still be taken by the Cabinet, if the provision contained within Rule 18 (Exempt Urgency Procedure) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules Part 4B of the Constitution has been sort.

Also when a matter is a key decision and has not been advertised 28 days prior to the date that the decision is required to be taken, and it has also not been possible to give five clear days notice, then the decision can still be taken Under Delegation if the provisions of Rule 15 (Special Urgency) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules Part 4B of the Constitution can be applied, once agreement, has been obtained by Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, that the decision cannot reasonably be deferred

Councillor Southgate in his capacity as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, has approved the use of Section 15 - Special Urgency, and Section 18 - Exempt Urgency procedures for this decision, and acknowledged that the use of the former procedure exempts the decision from call-in.

The reason for urgency is the need to enter into a contract for temporary accommodation services with Rooms and Studios at Hall Place, Mitcham. Unless this is agreed, the provider has informed Steve Langley it would be his intention to offer the dwelling to another housing authority, which would mean disruption to homeless families and would affect the council's ability to discharge its legal duties towards homeless families.

The item is exempt due to Access to Information Rules, Part 4B section 3: information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Committee: Council

Date: 3 February 2016

Subject: Changes to Membership of Committees and related matters

Lead officer: Ged Curran, Chief Executive

Contact officer: Chris Pedlow, Senior Democratic Services Officer, (020 8545 3616)

democratic.services@merton.gov.uk

Recommendations:

- A. That the changes to the membership of Committees that were approved under delegated powers since the last meeting of the Council are noted.
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report asks the Council to appoint a member of the Standards Committee and note the membership changes made under delegated powers since the publication of the agenda for the Council meeting held on 18 November 2015.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The following membership changes have been made under delegated powers in accordance with section A4 of part 3F of the Constitution:
- 2.2.

Committee	Member resigning	Replaced by	Date
Corporate Parenting Steering Group	Councillor Linda Taylor	Councillor James Holmes	8 January 2016
Corporate Parenting Steering Group	Councillor James Holmes	Councillor Linda Taylor	13 January 2016

3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 3.1. N/A

4 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. None for the purposes of this report.

5 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The information regarding membership changes in this report complies with legal and statutory requirements. Council is required to accept nominations made by political groups.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. None for the purposes of this report.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

8 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

8.1. N/A

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

None.

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1. Documents from the authorised officer confirming approval of the membership changes agreed under delegated powers.

Committee: Council

Date: 3 February 2016

Subject: Petitions

Lead officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director, Corporate Governance

Lead member: Leader of the Council, Stephen Alambritis

Contact officer: Democratic Services, democratic.services@merton.gov.uk

Recommendation: That Council

- 1) receives petitions (if any) in accordance with Part 4A, paragraph 18.1 of the Council's Constitution; and
 - 2) note the response given by officers in respect of the petitions presented to the 18 November 2015 Council meeting.
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report invites council to receive petitions in accordance with Part 4A, paragraph 18.1 of the Council's Constitution

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. At the meeting held on 18 November 2015, Council received five petitions as detailed below. Any petitions received by Council are referred to respective departments with responsible officers asked to advise the presenting member in each case of the way in which the petition is to be progressed.
- 2.2. Petition - '*Requesting for a CPZ for Cannon Hill*' submitted by Councillor John Sargeant.

Cannon Hill Lane CPZ – Now that the Council is in receipt of a petition, the Council has added the request for a controlled parking zone to the borough's rolling Parking management Programme. An informal consultation will be timetabled once an engineer has assessed the site. All the residents will be informally consulted in due course.

- 2.3. Petition - '*On increasing K5 bus service*' submitted by Councillor Brian Lewis-Lavender.

K5 Bus service – the petition for the service to be extended will be forwarded to TfL with a support from L B Merton. However, it may also be advantageous if the Local MP was to raise the request directly with TfL. It is important to note that the decision to apply any change to an existing bus service sits entirely with TfL.

- 2.4. Petition - '*On improving the local shops at Martin Way parade*' submitted by Councillor David Dean.

Martin Way shopping Parade – This area has been on the Council’s radar for some time in terms of improving parking and loading provisions. For example, the Council used the opportunity and funding provided by Sainsbury’s to address facilities for the shops and shoppers and the public realm improved using the limited budget available. With regards to the remaining area, the Council will investigate the requested improvements subject to identifying the appropriate funding within next financial year.

- 2.5. Petition - ‘*On the parking restriction in Garth Close*’ submitted by Councillor Daniel Holden.

Garth Close – Upon receiving complaints from some residents and other road users, particularly pedestrians, the Council carried out a statutory consultation to improve safety and access particularly for pedestrians who are compelled to walk in the road. This is not ideal particularly for those with mobility problems. When considering road safety, S.122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 places a duty on the Council "to secure the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of vehicular and other traffic (including pedestrians) and the provision of suitable and adequate parking facilities on and off the highway" when exercising any of its functions under the 1984 Act. Road safety is therefore a matter that the Council should have proper regard to when considering whether to make an Order under S.6 of the 1984 Act. The Cabinet Member and officers are aware of the objections which have been fully considered. The Cabinet Member is still considering the objections and officer’s recommendations for the implementation of the proposed restrictions.

- 2.6. Petition - ‘*Safer crossings on Durnsford Road*’ submitted by Councillor Oonagh Moulton.

Safer Crossings along Durnsford Road – The Council takes safety very seriously and has a number of initiatives including an annual local safety programme. Within the budgets that are available, all recorded personal injury accidents are monitored throughout the borough and the appropriate engineering solutions are devised and introduced accordingly. In addition to the Local Safety programme, safety and access for all road users are incorporated within any highway, traffic and parking measure that is introduced across all programmes. In response to the petition, the various requests will be investigated within next financial year and the appropriate action will be taken subject to Cabinet Member approval, consultation and available funding.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. None for the purpose of this report.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. None for the purpose of this report.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. None for the purpose of this report.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. None for the purpose of this report.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. None for the purpose of this report.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1. None for the purpose of this report.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None for the purpose of this report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. Risk management and health and safety implications are considered in the main body of the report.

11 APPENDICES

11.1. None.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1. None.

