

**Committee:** Council

**Date:** 19 November 2014

Wards: All

**Subject:** Strategic Theme – Safer & Stronger Communities

Lead officer: Chris Lee

Lead member: Cllr Edith Macauley, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Engagement and Equalities

Contact officer: Chris Lee / Kate Herbert

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**Recommendations:**

A. That Council consider the content of this report.

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**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. Council at its meeting of 5 March 2014 approved the Business Plan 2014-18.
- 1.2. The Business Plan represents the way in which the Council will deliver the Community Plan, which having been refreshed in 2013 is grouped into five headings (Merton a place to work, A healthy and fulfilling life, Better opportunities for youngsters, Keeping Merton Moving, and Being safe and strong). These are delivered by four Thematic Partnership Boards.
- 1.3. Each meeting of the 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 that are delivered under the 'Being safe and strong' theme.
- 1.4. The ambition for this theme is for everyone in Merton to feel safe in their community so we aim to prevent and reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and misuse of drugs and alcohol. To make our communities strong, we also want residents to play an active part in the life of the borough and to feel truly valued.

**2 DETAILS**

**2.1. Crime levels / fear of crime and resident satisfaction**

- 2.1.1 Crime as recorded by Total Notifiable Offences reported to the Police is reducing in Merton.
- 2.1.2 Appendix 1 to this report is an excerpt from the Metropolitan Police daily scorecard dated 01/10/2014, showing performance for Total Notifiable Offences (TNOs) and the "MOPAC 7" offences for the current 12 months, compared to the previous 12 month period.
- 2.1.3 Generally, the picture is positive with overall crime down by 1,169 offences and reductions seen in Burglary, Criminal Damage, Robbery and Theft from Person offences. Whilst the overall amount of Theft of and Theft from Motor Vehicles offences is showing a decrease, there has been an increase by 21 offences for Theft/Taking of Motor Vehicles.

- 2.1.4 The two crime types which are showing an increase in the current period are Violence With Injury (VWI) and Domestic Abuse.
- 2.1.5 When drilling down into the VWI offences, it can be seen that while there are fewer Domestic Abuse VWI than Non-Domestic Abuse VWI offences, the domestic cases are showing the bigger increase in terms of both number and percentage. Overall, Domestic Abuse cases are up by 21.4% in the last 12 months compared to the previous period. There are further details later in this report on what activity the Community Safety Partnership is undertaking around Domestic Abuse.
- 2.1.6 Crime is a lower concern for Merton residents when compared to the London average. The 2013 Annual Residents survey (reported earlier this year) found that crime remained one of the top concerns for residents, but a slight fall this year to 30% from 32% last year, saw the level of concern score significantly below the London average of 36%.
- 2.1.7 Young people's concerns are similar to those of adults, with 46% mentioning crime in their top three concerns. The figure is slightly below the London average of 47%.
- 2.1.8 The Annual Residents' Survey also asks for opinions about Policing. For 2013, 62% of respondents stated that they thought it was Excellent, Very Good or Good. This is a significant increase of 5% from 2012 and Merton scores remain consistently above London-wide scores.
- 2.1.9 Every year the Council undertake a borough wide public consultation to seek the views of residents about areas of concern and satisfaction with services. One of the key questions that the survey asks is how concerned residents are about crime. Whilst the Merton average was 50% there were variations with residents in Area 6 (Colliers Wood, Graveney and Longthornton wards) significantly more worried about crime (61%).
- 2.1.10 The consultation also asked residents how safe they felt in their local area. Reflecting that crime continues to be a top concern to residents, feeling safe in your local area is clearly the most important factor to residents with 63% rating it as important to their sense of health and wellbeing. 52% of residents feel that this could be improved. Residents in Area 3 (Cannon Hill, Merton Park, West Barnes, Lower Morden wards) rate feeling safe as significantly more important than the average, whilst residents in Area 5 (Ravensbury, St Helier and Cricket Green wards) and Area 6 (Colliers Wood, Graveney and Longthornton wards) are significantly more likely to say that this could be improved to increase their sense of health and wellbeing.
- 2.1.11 With young people, feeling safe in your local area is also the most important factor, with 74% rating it as important to their sense of health and wellbeing. 55% of young people felt that this could be improved.
- 2.1.12 In terms of confidence in the police, with 75% Merton had the 7<sup>th</sup> highest confidence in London (Richmond had the highest confidence with 86%), and was above the MPS average of 68% but saw a fall of 1% compared to Quarter 1 2013/14.
- 2.1.13 A new neighbourhood confidence tool is currently being trialled by the Police, which maps the confidence survey data to neighbourhood policing areas. The results for Merton are as follows: Wimbledon: 80% (6<sup>th</sup> highest confidence in

London), Morden: 76% (17<sup>th</sup> highest confidence in London), Mitcham: 70% (41<sup>st</sup> highest confidence in London). There are a total of 108 neighbourhood areas in London. This performance places Merton's neighbourhood policing area in the top 38% across London.

2.1.14 At 81%, Merton police user satisfaction was the joint 8th highest in London and above the MPS average for 80%. The figure was 4% behind the joint highest boroughs (Hammersmith & Fulham and Kingston) on 85% and saw a fall by 2% compared to Q1 2013/14.

## 2.2. CDRP Strategic Assessment and priorities

2.2.1 Every year the Safer Merton Partnership has a statutory responsibility to undertake a strategic assessment (SA) of the borough. The aim of an SA is to present and interpret the summary findings of intelligence analysis and its purpose is to assist the partnership in identifying the major issues within the local area, to allow resources to be allocated and activities prioritised. The SA is a restricted internal document that does not need to be published and is designed to assist the partnership in developing and updating a three-year rolling Partnership Plan.

2.2.2 The Strategic Assessment process in Merton was changed last year to use a model proposed by the Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science at University College London. This model is based around the problem-solving model and seeks to look at the borough from a victim, offender and location perspective, rather than by crime type. As such, the priorities selected were more cross-cutting in nature than in previous years. The priorities for the CSP for 2014-15 are as follows:

- **Supporting our communities** – assessing the needs of the borough's vulnerable locations to see how the partnership can start to make real changes in these areas. Look at the differences between the day-time and night-time needs of the town centres, which are amongst the biggest crime generators on the borough.
- **Building confidence** – how can we better reassure and inspire confidence in our communities that Merton is a safe place to live and work? Can we ensure that both our communication methods and messages are more targeted to those in which we are trying to reach?
- **Supporting our victims** – how can we better support victims of crime in Merton? In what ways can we reduce the numbers of repeat victims and how can we better support those who do not necessarily feel confident in reporting?
- **Management of offenders** – examine our work on borough with regards to offenders, particularly with regards to Integrated Offender Management and the Transforming Rehabilitation agendas.

2.2.3 The Strategic Assessment for 15/16 is underway.

## 2.3. Anti- Social Behaviour

2.3.1 One of the key questions that the Annual Resident Survey asks is how concerned residents are about anti-social behaviour. Whilst there are variations, on average 44% of Merton residents are concerned about ASB. This has seen a drop from 51% 2 years ago.

- 2.3.2 The proportion of residents who felt informed about measures to combat anti-social behaviour rose to 35%, reversing the fall seen in 2012 where the figure fell to 29% from 36% in 2011. Residents in Area 4 (Lavender Fields, Pollards Hill and Figges Marsh wards) felt significantly more informed (43%) than the Merton average (35%).
- 2.3.3 There has been an increase in ASB reported to the Council with 147 cases reported to the ASB Unit in Quarter 1 2014/15, compared to 119 during the same time period 2013/14, an increase of 23.5%. In Q2 there were 192 cases compared to 175 cases for Quarter 2 2013/14 an increase of 9.7%. This is against a background of a 25.8% reduction in the number of anti-social behaviour calls recorded by Police in the same timeframe.
- 2.3.4 Despite the increase in caseload, the overwhelming majority of cases continue to have had first contact within the agreed timeframe and at the same or higher level of performance as last year. There was only one case which did not have first contact within the agreed timeframe.
- 2.3.5 ASB legislation changed recently following the enactment of the Anti Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. This introduces new remedies to tackle ASB including 'Community Triggers' to require action of agencies as well as Community Protection Notices and Public Spaces Protection Orders. The Council is implementing procedures and protocols to ensure this legislation and the new powers can be used efficiently
- 2.3.6 In keeping Merton safe we have in the last year introduced a borough-wide Controlled Drinking Zone which is having some positive effect in reducing alcohol related ASB, particularly in Mitcham. We have also implemented a Dispersal Zone in the vicinity of Tamworth Rec and Figges Marsh which is helping reduce ASB.
- 2.4. Domestic Violence
- 2.4.1 Police crime figures show that domestic abuse involving violence with injury has increased (by approx. 40% in the last 12 month reporting period). This may reflect increased confidence in the crime being handled but what is certain is that there is an increase in cases presenting. There were a total of 59 clients attending the One Stop Shop during Quarter 1 2014/15, and 63 clients in Quarter 2 2014/15 an increase from 43 clients seen during the same period in 2013/14. We have recently increased the frequency of MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) to deal with the increased caseload.
- 2.4.2 Merton is trialling a bespoke domestic abuse reporting car with a PC, detective and IDVA on board to provide a better level of service at initial reports of DA.
- 2.4.3 Repeat victims - Through the domestic abuse multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) process and research, repeat victims of DA are being identified and bespoke packages are being put together to break the cycle of DA.
- 2.4.4 Repeat offenders - Active targeting of repeat offenders through Integrated Offender Management (IOM) processes and through Operation Dauntless, the Metropolitan Police initiative to tackle DA.

- 2.4.5 Education - Relationships and DA is a priority for work with schools including the focus for the Growing Against Gangs and Violence programme.
- 2.4.6 The One Stop Shop celebrated its 4 year anniversary in September alongside partners including the Polish Family Association. Since its launch in 2010 it has given support and practical advice to over 700 clients.
- 2.4.7 We have recently completed an external review of need and provision in this area the results have been reported to the Crime and Disorder as well as Health and Wellbeing Partnership. A new partnership working body (VAWG Board) has been established to oversee the work to reduce Violence against Women and Girls.
- 2.5. CCTV
- 2.5.1 The Council continues to operate a Public surveillance CCTV service 24/7 365 days of the year. A recent report to Overview and Scrutiny Commission set out the findings of a review of the operation. The findings are being acted on and investment is being planned to improve the performance. Work is in hand to renew the maintenance contract which will also provide the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) equipment. There are opportunities for this to be utilised for crime reduction purposes as well as traffic management which are being developed.
- 2.5.2 CCTV has been instrumental in reducing crime and close work with the Police and other partners, including Circle Anglia Merton Priory, has greatly assisted in identifying perpetrators and bringing them to justice. Through the CCTV Steering Group, work is in hand to develop closer working with the business community in order to ensure it plays as full a role as possible in tackling crime in town centres and other business areas.
- 2.6. Drugs and alcohol
- 2.6.1 The performance of commissioned substance misuse services continues to be above the national rates in respect of the key indicator of successful completions as a proportion of all in treatment with a local rate of 44.1% against a national average of 39.8%. Successful completions are a key measure of a recovery focused treatment system.
- 2.6.2 The performance of the drug treatment system, as measured by the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) indicator regarding presentations to treatment, continues to be strong in Merton. Performance remains above the national averages in relation to both opiate and non-opiate using clients.
- 2.6.3 The number of people receiving alcohol treatment has shown a 4% rise compared to 2012/13, however rates of successful completion (26.9%) are slightly above the national average of 26.6%. Rates of subsequent representation to treatment within six months (8.9%) are lower than the national average for this client group. Successful alcohol treatment is likely to support local performance against the Public Health Outcome indicator of alcohol related admissions to hospital.
- 2.7. Neighbourhood Watch
- 2.7.1 Neighbourhood Watch schemes cover just over 37% of the borough. 577 Coordinators are involved across the 30,000+ homes. Recent changes in the way we recognise NHW schemes will increase coverage. This follows

analysis from burglary reassurance visits carried out by the Police and the opportunity to engage and involve more residents in the scheme. Work is well advanced in renewing signage on streets to indicate the presence of schemes.

2.7.2 The Neighbourhood Watch AGM on 16<sup>th</sup> October held in the Civic Centre celebrated 10 years of Neighbourhood Watch in Merton. The event was very well attended and received a presentation from the Police Anti-Terrorist Squad.

2.8. Integrated Offender Management

2.8.1 This is principally work carried out by the Police and Probation services. As of October 2014, there were 28 individuals in the IOM cohort. As part of the work around IOM, analysis was undertaken by the police in July 2014 to ascertain if being on the scheme had reduced the level of offending amongst the cohort.

2.8.2 The analysis found out that for 33 members of the cohort, in the 12 months prior to them joining, there had been 97 arrests, while there had been 33 arrests whilst on the scheme (duration varies between 3 to 6 months). In terms of the number of convictions, there were 101 in the 12 months prior to them joining the cohort, while there had been 19 convictions whilst part of the cohort (duration varies between 3 to 6 months), with 18 members not having any convictions during that time. Whilst not directly comparable in terms of timeframes (12 months compared to a 3-6 month period), the initial indications point to a decrease in arrests and convictions whilst on the scheme. This analysis is due to be updated when 12 months of cohort data becomes available.

2.8.3 The Probation service is in a state of change at present with the establishment of a contracted service and Community Rehabilitation Companies to provide services to low risk offenders alongside the Probation service dealing with the higher risk offenders. On 29<sup>th</sup> October the Justice Secretary announced that MTCNovo, a Joint venture of private companies and charitable bodies, had been selected as preferred bidder for the London CRC contract.

2.9. Local Policing Model - information from Merton Police

2.9.1 Since the introduction of the Local Policing Model in July 2013, crime has continued to fall in almost all areas. Confidence levels remain good and have generally remained static since the model was introduced. The main difference arising from the introduction of the Local Policing Model for the public is that the LPTs cover a greater range of hours according to demand profile and are therefore on duty often later at night.

2.9.2 Police officers on Merton Borough are divided according to the roles they are tasked to conduct. Many of these roles are demand led rather than geographic responsibility. In simple terms the following outlines police officers on the Borough:

<b>Total</b> Police Officer Numbers	332
Demand-led Response Team Officers (ERPT)	125

CID Numbers – Demand-led (except a Crime Squad of 1 DS and 8PC/DCs)	69
Local Policing Teams (LPTs) – Equally divided across sectors except Task force - see below	123
Partnership and control room functions - Not on active patrol mostly back office type functions - e.g. control room staff, Gangs officer, court officer etc.	8
Senior Management Team/Support	7

2.9.3 Within the LPT numbers we have 20 PCs Faces of the Ward (Home beats). The rest of these numbers are equally split between each of the three sectors, apart from a Task Force (of 1 PS and 7 PCs). This task force is tasked to key sector crime problems at a fortnightly tasking meeting. It will therefore tend to be tasked according to crime issues presenting at that time.

2.9.4 We also have 20 PCSO's as Faces of the Ward - one based on each ward. The Police have recently flexed the additional 4 PCSOs on the BOCU to act as a town Centre Team in Mitcham to deal with the increased crime numbers experienced in this area

2.9.5 The only other taskable unit across the Borough is the Crime Squad of 1DS and 8PC/DCs that are tasked to specific crime issues. They will tend to be focused on more serious crime problems than the task force such as burglary and robbery.

## 2.10. Safer Merton restructure

2.10.1 Driven by the Medium Term Financial Strategy a restructure of the Safer Merton Team is currently well advanced. This will see the deletion of the Head of Safer Merton post as well as the integration of the teams into other parts of the Council. Whilst ASB and CCTV will remain in Environment & Regeneration, within Public Protection working alongside other regulatory services and parking, the remainder of the community safety staff will move to Public Health following the transfer of drugs and alcohol commissioning earlier this year. The research and data analysis functions will work well alongside those responsible for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment in Public Health. The new structure is expected to be implemented in the new calendar year.

## 2.11. Increasing community cohesion and integration

2.11.1 Building on the Merton Partnership's commitment last year to the Armed Forces Community Covenant, Armed Forces Day was marked in the borough on 28 June. A dedication service took place at the war memorial outside the Civic Centre and was followed by a parade through the streets of Morden to honour members of Merton's armed forces. A multi faith service then was held at St Lawrence Church. The Mayor of Merton, Councillor Agatha Akyigyina, was joined by the Queen's Deputy Lieutenant for Merton, the right Honourable Sir John Wheeler JP, and local representatives from the Royal British Legion, local MPs, and Merton councillors. Members of the Royal British Legion, Army Cadets from Wimbledon College, the Territorial Army, the Scouts and Guides, Air Training Corps and the Wimbledon and Wandle

- Scout Band also attended to pay their respects to the armed forces in the UK and overseas.
- 2.11.2 A range of events took place across the borough to commemorate the start of World War I, including Morden Park hosting a performance of a narrated piece highlighting the mood of Britain in Merton 2014, and Lights Out on 4 August which issued an invitation to everyone in the UK to turn off their lights for one hour leaving one single light or candle glowing. Other activities and events throughout the four year commemoration will be advertised through press releases, My Merton and our website.
- 2.11.3 The Council has led a partnership project on financial resilience and financial capability of local people. The project has included some mapping of advice and support services across the borough and identifies a multi agency action plan to strengthen skills and ability to access appropriate financial support across the council.
- 2.11.4 The Croydon, Merton and Sutton Credit Union has recently received a review with recommendations for improving the offer and take up of Credit Union services. A pilot project has started in Pollards Hill to promote the credit union and develop skills locally. The Credit Union has invited the Merton Partnership to play a role in overseeing their work, and the Safer and Stronger Thematic Partnership will lead on this.
- 2.11.5 The 2013/14 target for the percentage of residents who agree that their local area is a place where people of different backgrounds get on well together was met, with 90% of respondents agreeing with this statement.
- 2.12. Empowering local people to have a greater choice and influence over local decision making and a greater role in public service delivery
- 2.12.1 The recent local elections saw 22 new councillors elected. The Council supported new councillors in getting to grips with their new roles through a Member Induction programme, which included topics such as safeguarding, local government finance and overview and scrutiny, and also covered guidance around undertaking case work and engaging with local communities.
- 2.12.2 The Council continues to invite questions from members of the public to be put to the administration at every meeting of Full Council. Following a 12 month trial, the Council has agreed to continue to webcast Full Council and Planning Committee meetings for a further two years, ensuring opportunities for local people to engage with council meetings. There is also the potential to webcast other meetings on an ad hoc basis if there is likely to be public interest in the meeting.
- 2.12.3 The Healthier Communities & Older People Scrutiny Panel is planning to recruit co-opted members onto the panel in a more transparent way. The positions will be advertised and individuals and groups will be able to apply to be co-opted onto the panel.
- 2.12.4 A meeting took place on 9 September to explore how to support and develop Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) voice in the borough. A follow up session took place on 11 November and the outcomes of this will be reported back to the JCC in December.



- 2.12.5 The online consultation database available at [www.merton.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.merton.gov.uk/consultations) now has a facility for people to subscribe to alerts on particular subjects or geographical areas as new consultations are added.
- 2.12.6 The Safer Neighbourhood Board has been engaging with local representative groups seek co-opted members to increase the diversity across the board. For example, Merton CIL, Interfaith Forum, BAME community, and Youth Parliament/ Youth ambassadors.
- 2.13. Developing the council's leadership role and the capacity of the community and voluntary sector, including increasing the scope and impact of volunteering
- 2.13.1 Volunteer Centre Merton (VCM) and Merton Voluntary Service Council (MVSC) formally merged on 1 July. There will be some exciting developments ahead as the organisations integrate and improve access to volunteering and organisational support in the borough. A new Chief Executive for MVSC has been appointed – Khadiru Mahdi will start the role on 5 January 2015. Currently Chief Executive of Tower Hamlets CVS, he has over 15 years senior leadership and management in the public and voluntary sectors. His career has varied between working for large and small community organisations in Hackney and Lambeth to the regional voluntary organisation, London Voluntary Service Council (LVSC). We look forward to welcoming Khadiru in January.
- 2.13.2 In November 2014, the Merton Compact will celebrate 10 years of continued Compact excellence. A celebratory event took place on 4 November to recognise the impact the 'compact way of working' has had in the borough and the value it has added both to partnership working and outcomes for local residents. The event included the Merton Compact Awards, commendations for key figures instrumental to the Compact's continuing success and good practice examples of what Compact working has achieved in the borough. The award winners were as follows:

Award category	Awarded to
<b>Merton Compact Best Project Award</b> – Celebrating projects that have successfully embraced Compact principles	<b>Wandle Valley Resource Centre</b> – Grenfell Housing and Training and the London Borough of Merton partnered on this project to ensure that an unused council building in Mitcham has been brought back into use for the benefit of the local community. Funding has been secured to deliver training on site to unemployed people living in the four most deprived wards in the borough.
<b>Merton Compact Inclusion Award</b> – Recognising projects, groups and organisations that have worked with a wide range of partners in the delivery of their projects	<b>Merton Community Health Champions project</b> – Merton's Community Health Champions project is a partnership between London Borough of Merton Public Health, Merton Voluntary Service Council, local community groups and the NHS through LiveWell Merton. The programme recruits and trains Community Health Champions from diverse backgrounds to support local community groups and their members and promote healthy lifestyles in East Merton.

Award category	Awarded to
<p><b>Merton Compact Change Award –</b> Celebrating those groups and organisations who have applied Compact principles to negotiate changes to the delivery of projects and services</p>	<p><b>Healthwatch Merton –</b> Healthwatch Merton is the local consumer champion for the children, young people and adults of Merton and works to help them get the best out of their local health and social care services.</p>
<p><b>Special Recognition Awards –</b> Discretionary awards to recognise an outstanding contribution to strengthening, supporting and improving partnership working between the statutory and voluntary sectors</p>	<p><b>Merton Means Business –</b> This is an outstanding example of collaborative work between Merton Voluntary Service Council and &amp; Merton Chamber of Commerce</p> <p><b>Mitcham Town Community Trust –</b> This is a true partnership initiative offering wider community access to school facilities and a number of community programmes</p> <p><b>Mrs Leigh Terrafranca –</b> Leigh has been a very active member of the Wimbledon East Hillside Residents Association</p>
<p><b>Chris Frost Award –</b> Recognising individuals who have demonstrated continued commitment to the Merton Compact. This award honours the late Chris Frost, who did so much to promote the Compact locally and nationally</p>	<p><b>Lola Barrett –</b> Lola Barrett has been driving the work of the Merton Compact for the last 10 years as a CEO of Grenfell Housing and Training, Chair of MVSC and Chair of Merton Unity Network and an active voluntary sector representative. She is one of the most established and recognisable leaders in the voluntary sector in Merton.</p>

2.13.3 The Merton Compact was also recognised at the 2014 National Compact Awards. Merton was shortlisted in four categories:

- **Compact Advancing Equality category –** Merton Community Health Champions
- **Compact Leadership category –** Lola Barrett
- **Compact Engagement category –** Transforming Families in Merton
- **Compact Impact category –** Merton Adult Education and St Mark’s Family Centre community learning

This years National Compact Awards recognised Chris Frost by renaming their Compact Voice Chair’s Special Award the Chris Frost Award. Awarded by the Chair of Compact Voice (Simon Blake OBE) to recognise excellence in Compact working, the award commemorates the work of Chris Frost, who passed away in 2013. It was therefore poignant that the first Chris Frost award was presented to Lola Barrett, in recognition of her work to champion the Merton Compact and bring about real change in the borough.

- 2.13.4 The Merton Community Fund now has a steady regular income from standing orders and payroll giving. There needs to be more work undertaken to increase the number of regular donors. MVSC have developed a campaign to increase the profile and sign up to the fund. It is anticipated that the first awards will be made in January 2015 for projects to start in April 2015.
- 2.13.5 The Merton Means Business initiative is still in operation linking businesses to voluntary and community groups in the borough. The project has been identified as a model of good practice by the Cabinet Office and NAVCA and will feature in a number of publications in the coming months. The partnership between MVSC and Merton Chamber of Commerce has also been selected as one of the pilot areas to participate in the new programme developed nationally. At present Merton Means Business is unfunded and is being sustained by the partners.
- 2.13.6 Through the transformation work underway within council departments, progress is being made to explore areas of work in which volunteers can be included to add value to public services.
- 2.13.7 The member induction programme mentioned above involved a session on 1 July for newly elected councillors on the subject of Community Leadership. This event conveyed information about the changing demographics in the borough, key messages from our communities through the Annual Residents' Survey and details of the Merton Partnership and the Merton Compact. Partners from Merton Police, Merton Fire, MVSC and Merton Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise attended to share their views and experiences of partnership working and respond to members' queries.

### **3 SCRUTINY FEEDBACK**

- 3.1. In the past year the Overview and Scrutiny Commission has scrutinised a number of items related to the stronger communities theme, including:
- 3.2. Volunteering – the Commission has continued to monitor implementation of recommendations made by its volunteering scrutiny task group. It has been pleased with progress made on these and the level of detail provided by the council working in partnership with Merton Voluntary Service Council.
- 3.3. Equalities – the Commission receives a report each year so that it can scrutinise progress in regard to the council's equalities commitments and provide comments as appropriate
- 3.4. The Commission has also received a detailed report on predicted demographic changes to 2017 and the implications for council services, community cohesion and borough infrastructure. This information provided the context for budget scrutiny discussions last year and for selection of topics for inclusion in the 2014/15 scrutiny work programme.
- 3.5. The Borough Commander has attended Commission meetings regularly to answer questions about crime and policing in Merton. The Commission has formally thanked him and his officers for excellent work in continuing to keep crime rates low. It has examined detailed information on officer numbers and performance so that the impact of the move to the Local Policing Model could be assessed.

- 3.6. The Commission has continued to monitor the outcome of its civil unrest scrutiny task group and is now satisfied that all recommendations have been implemented.

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

- 4.1. Merton Police have been consulted on this report

#### **5 TIMETABLE**

- 5.1. None

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

- 6.1. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

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

- 7.1. There are no legal or statutory implications arising from this report.

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

- 8.1. There are no direct implications arising from this report

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

- 9.1. None

#### **10 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**

- Latest Crime statistics

#### **12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**