

COUNCIL
10 JULY 2013
(19:15 – 22:20)

PRESENT: The Mayor, Councillor Krystal Miller
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor John Sargeant
Councillors Agatha Akyigyina, Stephen Alambritis, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Mark Betteridge, John Bowcott, Margaret Brierly, Richard Chellew, David Chung, David Dean, John Dehaney, Nick Draper, Iain Dysart, Chris Edge, Suzanne Evans, Karin Forbes, Brenda Fraser, Samantha George, Suzanne Grocott, Maurice Groves, Jeff Hanna, Richard Hilton, James Holmes, Janice Howard, Mary-Jane Jeanes, Philip Jones, Andrew Judge, Linda Kirby, Gilli Lewis-Lavender, Logie Lohendran, Edith Macauley, Russell Makin, Maxi Martin, Peter McCabe, Ian Munn, Diane Neil Mills, Oonagh Moulton, Henry Nelles, Dennis Pearce, Judy Saunders, Linda Scott, Rod Scott, Debbie Shears, David Simpson, Peter Southgate, Geraldine Stanford, Linda Taylor, Sam Thomas, Ray Tindle, Gregory Udeh, Peter Walker, Martin Whelton, David Williams, Richard Williams and Simon Withey.

Prayer including 1 minute silence in remembrance of former councillor Gam Gurung

Tributes were made as follows:

Councillor Stephen Alambritis

“Gam Gurung first applied to go onto the long party list in 2008 to be a councillor for the Labour Party for the 2010 local elections here in Merton. Gam Gurung was successfully selected to be that prospective candidate for the Colliers Wood ward in 2009. Following the 2010 elections, Gam Gurung was now Councillor Gam Gurung of Colliers Wood ward. I was very happy at Council meetings like these when I looked behind me at the massed ranks of my Labour councillors to see that we had the first ever elected Labour Ghurkha councillor in this land. Gam Gurung loved representing his residents; he loved talking about politics, but above all, he loved speaking in this chamber.

We all get a bit apprehensive when it comes to giving our maiden speeches, Gam was no different. I well remember him coming to me when he was down to make his maiden speech. He wanted to rehearse it, not in front of a mirror, but as he always said to me, “in front of my leader”. After just one rehearsal and a few tweaks to his original speech, he said that he was ready, and from that day on his speeches were perfectly timed and brilliantly delivered.

On one occasion he said to me that he wanted to invite the Nepalese Ambassador to Merton. I said I doubted that such a busy man would leave Central London for an outer London spot here in Merton. I was of course completely wrong Madam Mayor and he was completely right. Not only did the Ambassador come here, but His Excellency spent the whole day here, and as we came into this chamber for a visit to his community, the Ambassador was pleasantly surprised by over 100 people here

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from the Nepalese community, here not only for the Ambassador, but for Gam.

Gam was often seen next to Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Defence, Jim Murphy MP, at events celebrating our armed forces in the House of Commons. Gam was next to Jim Murphy when Labour Friends of the Forces was created. Gam had a touching personality and worked very closely with his ward colleagues, Councillors Draper and Attawar. He did many nice and valuable things for people here and back in Nepal, where he opened a school in a ceremony attended by Councillor Russell Makin.

His values were to be kind to people less fortunate than himself. He was a soldier and a very brave soldier at that. He was a worker and a very hard worker at that. I found him to be a family man to a truly wonderful family. I shall continue to look behind me in the council chamber and I will forever see the country's first ever Labour Ghurkha councillor."

Councillor Gam Gurung may you rest in eternal peace.

Councillor Peter Southgate

"Thank you for allowing me to follow the Leader in paying tribute to Councillor Gam Gurung on behalf of the Merton Park Independents. I must admit I did not know very much about Gam until he arranged a reception for the Nepalese Ambassador in the Mayor's Parlour some two years ago. I learnt that evening what an extraordinary life he had led in the course of his journey from Nepal to Merton from childhood poverty to his long service with the Ghurkhas, then his struggles to establish a business in Nepal and his eventual decision to come to England and make a life for himself and his family here.

He was very proud I know to be the first ex-Ghurkha elected as a Labour councillor in England.

The Leader has touched on different aspects of his life, but when I compare it to my own relatively safe and comfortable childhood and upbringing in Merton, I feel immensely humbled by all that Gam achieved in the face of such challenges and adversity and although he's been taken from us at the tragically young age of 53, he did achieve so much for so many people in his life.

To his widow and his family I would say, we share your sense of loss but take comfort from the knowledge that he will be remembered as a great man."

Councillor Oonagh Moulton

"The Conservative Group were shocked to learn of the death of Councillor Gam Gurung. He was one of our most respected colleagues and I would like to join the Leader and other colleagues in offering our deepest sympathy to his family, friends and colleagues across the chamber.

With his election in May 2010, he became the first Ghurkha to be a member of this Council in its history. Gam was someone who was rightly proud of his heritage and

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he was always identifiable with his Ghurkha Terai hat at special events and occasions.

He did ensure, as the Leader stated, that the Mayor, then Councillor Gill Lewis-Lavender had the privilege of welcoming the Nepalese Ambassador to the Court of St James and here to our borough. This was a great honour for Merton and it was a direct consequence of Gam's efforts.

We knew him as a very kind man who had chosen a life of public service and who represented his Ghurkha community and his residents in Colliers Wood with dedication, commitment and loyalty. We will miss him."

Councillor Iain Dysart

"Gam Gurung was one of the friendliest people in politics I have met, and Gam Gurung went out of his way to engage with those of all persuasions. He was always standing up for his community and on building links with other communities. At Merton's Armed Forces Parades in 2011 and 2012, he proudly represented his regiment, yet he was also a humble man, full of humility. I doubt that he fully realised the esteem in which he was held. However, he is certainly much mourned and missed, as I am sure his family will know."

Councillor Suzanne Evans

"Great privilege to be at Gam's funeral. It's very humbling isn't it when you hear people talk about a man who everyone knew so much better than you and you realise that actually you missed out on quite a lot of his life and you wished you had got to know him better. The sheer amount of people there, the incredible passionate tributes that were paid to him, I really did wish I'd known him better and I think I speak for my colleagues here too.

I too was proud that we had an ex-Ghurkha on the Council. I was proud to be part of a Council that had him here. He was very missed at the Armed Forces Day Parade, when Gam, in his hat always struck such a striking figure. We will miss him greatly and I extend my sympathies and those of the Merton Coalition to my colleagues on the Labour benches and of course to Gam's friends and family."

Councillor Nick Draper

"Madam Mayor, in losing Councillor Gam Gurung, Colliers Wood has lost a friend as well as a councillor. We didn't have him for long enough. He had so much more to contribute than time and cancer allowed him. Laxmi and I and all our friends and neighbours in Colliers Wood will truly miss him. Madam Mayor, if you go on your travels, you go down Walpole Road in Colliers Wood, halfway down that road, you will find a wall that Gam built; he built it because an elderly couple had had their front wall kicked down by drunken thugs and the council couldn't replace it. Their

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insurance company wouldn't replace it. So we did replace it. Gam as the brickie, me as his mate, because that's the team that we are in Colliers Wood. But we've lost a member of our team and we mourn a colleague that we think of fondly. And we think of his family too at this very sad time."

Councillor Chris Edge

"It's often said that death and taxes are the only certain things in life and that obviously is true. I was privileged to be able to give Gam Gurung's wife her citizenship a few years ago and sadly he was so embarrassed about his treatment that he had to wear a hat in the room where we presented that to her.

From my own standpoint, Gam was always very friendly, a true gentleman, one would expect nothing less from a Ghurkha. I think even people from the opposition he was extremely friendly to. He will be sadly missed."

Councillor Russell Makin

"Namaste.

I have known Gam since he was elected to Council three years ago. Before being elected, Gam's dream was to build an extension to a school in his village in Nepal. With the help of the Power Trust and after ten years of planning, Gam was invited to open the new building at Easter this year. My family and I were honoured to witness this event. Unfortunately, even though Gam travelled to Nepal, he was far too ill to take part in the ceremony, so he was ably represented by his son, who performed the opening on his behalf. The plaque on the school building says 'opened by Councillor Gam Gurung'. This was one of many schemes that Gam was involved in, and even though he did not see the final build, he was very proud of this achievement in his lifetime. My family stayed in Gam's village for a couple of days and saw where he'd come from. He was constantly involved, concerned and respected within the Nepalese community. They and all his friends and family will miss him greatly."

The Mayor

"I would like to add my condolences to all of my Labour colleagues as well."

Order of Business

The Mayor sought the approval of the meeting, duly agreed, to change the order of business to allow the taking of agenda item 21 (Freedom of the Borough) after agenda item 9 (Notice of Motion).

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 1)
Councillor Miles Windsor.

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2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda item 2)

None advised.

3 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15 MAY 2013 (Agenda Item 3)

The following corrections were moved and agreed:

Page 1 – add at the end of the sentence “...Councillor Suzanne Evans advised of her resignation from the Conservative group whip.” The phrase “and her intention to set up a new group on the council.”

Page 1 – add at the end of the sentence “...Councillor Richard Hilton advised of his resignation from the Conservative group whip.” The phrase “and his intention to join Councillor Evan’s new group.”

Page 2 – the sentence “The Mayor thereupon put the nomination of Councillor Krystal Miller to the vote.....” Is amended to read “The Mayor thereupon put the nomination of Councillor Krystal Miller to the vote and there voted on a show of hands 51 for the nomination, 4 against and 2 abstaining.

RESOLVED: That the minutes as amended of the Annual Council Meeting held on 15 May 2013 are agreed as a correct record.

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2013

Council agreed the following corrections to the minutes of the 27 March 2013 meeting identified subsequent to their formal approval by Council at its meeting held on 15 May 2013:

1) agenda page 3, under Mayors Announcements; second paragraph, delete the word "a" after the word "from"

2) agenda page 4, after " 11 years" in the final paragraph add "ago".

3) agenda page 5, after "energetic" add "

4) agenda page 9 under Motion 3 (Conservative): Second sentence to read “In moving the motion, Councillor David Dean sought the consent of the meeting,

4 TO RECEIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Agenda Item 4)

Presentations

Leader

“I am delighted that on 20 June I was able, on behalf of the staff in particular of this borough, the officers, the directors and the councillors and everyone involved with the borough, including the residents, to be in attendance at the Hilton in Park Lane, along with the Chief Executive and a number of other councillors, including Councillor Mark Allison and other officers, all sponsored by Conways, at no cost to the borough, to the 10th Anniversary Awards of the Municipal Journal which has been going for

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about 126 years. They've been doing these awards for the last ten years and I am delighted to announce that the highlight of the evening, the last award was for the Best Achieving Council and that was for the London Borough of Merton.

May I just read from the actual brochure published after the awards:

"The London Borough of Merton's quiet, consistent and unassuming journey to excellence which has been consistently maintained, impressed the judges and made it a worthy winner amongst the very high calibre field for this Best Achieving Council of 2013 Award. Its high levels of resident satisfaction, staff commitment and joined-up political and managerial leadership were also strong contributing factors. The Council's commitment to partnership and to empowering community participation in service delivery has made a real difference to the needs of the disparate communities it serves."

Mayor

"There will be a short presentation to the three Leaders that have led this Council over the last ten years to take it to where it is today, Councillors David Williams, Andrew Judge and Stephen Alambritis.

I just wanted to say a big thank you to those who supported the first mayoral fundraiser of the year. When we finally added up the total, we raised £1800 which was a wonderful start to the year so thank you to everyone who showed their support.

You may notice that the Rabbi is wearing an insignia. This is a new insignia which we have obtained so that it can be used by any faith leader when supporting the Mayor. Obviously we are conscious of these difficult economic times, so just as with the cross which was donated by the YMCA in the 1970s, I'm very pleased to say that Revd. Andrew Wakefield has very generously donated this insignia. I have a certificate that I would like to present to Revd. Andrew Wakefield if he'll come to the front, as a mark of thanks from the borough."

5 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (Agenda Item 5)

The public questions and the replies given to these are available for inspection on the web page for this meeting.

6 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS (Agenda Item 6)

The priority councillor questions and the replies given to these are available for inspection on the web page for this meeting.

7 REPORT: CORPORATE CAPACITY WITH A FOCUS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE (Agenda Item 7)

The priority questions and the replies given to these are detailed on the web page for this meeting.

The report was moved by Councillor Mark Allison and seconded by Councillor Mark Betteridge.

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Report received.

Motion 1 (Conservative)

It was moved by Councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender and seconded by Councillor Diane Neil Mills that

This Council notes that:

- Merton currently has £107million of 'usable reserves' in the bank;
- the previous Conservative Administration had set aside a relatively small amount of capital funding in its 2010 budget to purchase the land situated at the end of Rookwood Avenue in West Barnes Ward, which is currently owned by The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames; and
- this piece of land is shortly to be sold at auction.

This Council recognises that the inhabitants of Rookwood Avenue have suffered considerably during the building of the B&Q Superstore, which is located more or less in their back yard, following the granting of planning permission by the previous Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, after initial refusal of the application by Merton's Planning Applications Committee. Many residents have lost a natural skyline view from their garden and potentially many thousands of pounds have been wiped off the value of their homes.

This Council believes that it is important to improve the quality of the environment in this Borough for local residents wherever possible and that the purchasing of this piece of land for use as an amenity space would greatly benefit the residents of Rookwood Avenue.

This Council therefore supports the purchase of this said piece of land and recommends that Cabinet seeks to acquire it from Kingston Council at the auction on 15 July 2013.

Liberal Democrat Amendment

It was moved by Councillor Mary Jane-Jeanes and seconded by Councillor Iain Dysart that the motion is amended as follows:

In penultimate paragraph, delete all words after "possible" and insert "and that should this land be purchased by the London Borough of Merton, the decision to leave the land in its current wild state or to change it should be made by the residents of Rookwood Avenue".

The amended penultimate paragraph would therefore read;

"This Council believes that it is important to improve the quality of the environment in this Borough for local residents wherever possible and that should this land be purchased by the London Borough of Merton, the decision to leave the land in its current wild state or to change it should be made by the residents of Rookwood Avenue".

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The Mayor put the amendment to the meeting and, there being none voting to the contrary, declared the amendment to be carried.

The motion as amended thereupon became the substantive motion.

Labour Amendment

It was moved by Councillor Andrew Judge and seconded by Councillor Stephen Alambritis that the substantive motion is amended as follows:

In the first paragraph, delete the first bullet point; in the second bullet point, insert after "Kingston upon Thames": ", and the current capital budget includes a budget for acquisitions"; and delete the third bullet point and insert "officers have worked with The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames over a number of months to achieve a realistic valuation of the site which ensures value for money for council tax payers, albeit that Kingston have ultimately decided to sell the land at auction".

In the second paragraph, delete the rest of the first sentence after "back yard".

In the final paragraph, delete all after "said piece of land" and insert "if value for money for council tax payers can be achieved".

Motion now to read

This Council notes that:

- the previous Conservative Administration had set aside a relatively small amount of capital funding in its 2010 budget to purchase the land situated at the end of Rookwood Avenue in West Barnes Ward, which is currently owned by The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, and the current capital budget includes a budget for acquisitions; and
- officers have worked with The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames over a number of months to achieve a realistic valuation of the site which ensures value for money for council tax payers, albeit that Kingston have ultimately decided to sell the land at auction.

This Council recognises that the inhabitants of Rookwood Avenue have suffered considerably during the building of the B&Q Superstore, which is located more or less in their back yard. Many residents have lost a natural skyline view from their garden and potentially many thousands of pounds have been wiped off the value of their homes.

This Council believes that it is important to improve the quality of the environment in this Borough for local residents wherever possible and that the purchasing of this piece of land for use as an amenity space would greatly benefit the residents of Rookwood Avenue.

This Council therefore supports the purchase of this said piece of land if value for money for council tax payers can be achieved.

The Mayor put the amendment to the meeting and, there being none voting to the contrary, declared the amendment to be carried.

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The motion as further amended thereupon became the substantive motion.

The Mayor put the substantive motion to the meeting and, there being none voting to the contrary, declared the motion as amended to be carried.

It was, therefore

RESOLVED: That

This Council notes that:

- the previous Conservative Administration had set aside a relatively small amount of capital funding in its 2010 budget to purchase the land situated at the end of Rookwood Avenue in West Barnes Ward, which is currently owned by The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, and the current capital budget includes a budget for acquisitions; and
- officers have worked with The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames over a number of months to achieve a realistic valuation of the site which ensures value for money for council tax payers, albeit that Kingston have ultimately decided to sell the land at auction.

This Council recognises that the inhabitants of Rookwood Avenue have suffered considerably during the building of the B&Q Superstore, which is located more or less in their back yard,. Many residents have lost a natural skyline view from their garden and potentially many thousands of pounds have been wiped off the value of their homes.

This Council believes that it is important to improve the quality of the environment in this Borough for local residents wherever possible and that should this land be purchased by the London Borough of Merton, the decision to leave the land in its current wild state or to change it should be made by the residents of Rookwood Avenue.

This Council therefore supports the purchase of this said piece of land if value for money for council tax payers can be achieved.

Motion 2 (Conservative)

It was moved by Councillor Suzanne Grocott and seconded by Maurice Groves that

This Council notes that:

- At the Council meeting of 21 November 2012 Merton adopted the default Localised Council Tax support scheme which was financed by removing second home discounts. No further budget reductions are required to fund this scheme for 2014/15.
- 22,808 residents in Merton currently benefit from the 25% single person council tax discount;
- The discount constitutes a £351 annual saving for the average Band D council tax bill in Merton; and

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- If residents were to lose their discount, they would see a more than 30 per cent increase in their council tax bill.

This Council welcomes the current review being undertaken in order to reflect local requirements and recognises that residents may face difficulties if they are required to pay more towards Council Tax.

This Council believes that the single person discount provides a welcome reduction in council tax bills for thousands of hard working Merton residents, and in particular for many widowed pensioners and single parent families.

This Council is therefore concerned by recent calls from the Local Government Association and some individual councils around the country for the “full and unconstrained ability” to vary council tax discounts so that they can remove the single person discount.

This Council also recognises the potentially negative impact on pensioners' incomes posed by recent policy proposals from the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, which include changes to the winter fuel allowance and inclusion of the state pension in the welfare cap.

This Council wants to see lower council tax bills for all residents in Merton and therefore resolves to firmly resist any attempts to scrap the 25% single person council tax discount; and further resolves to make the strongest possible representations to all national political parties and to the Local Government Association in support of retaining this discount for the thousands of pensioners and single parent families in the borough who currently benefit.

Labour Amendment

It was moved by Councillor Mark Allison and seconded by Councillor Richard Williams that the motion is amended as follows:

In the first paragraph, first bullet point, first sentence, after “Council Tax support scheme” insert “, and that the council meeting of 6 February 2013 removed” and after “second home discounts” insert “and exemptions on empty and unfurnished properties including those classed as uninhabitable. Although most Councils have simply absorbed the latter into their general funds, without maintaining Council Tax support at previous levels, Merton has used one to help offset the other”.

In the first paragraph, first bullet point, second sentence, delete “No” from “No further”; delete “are” and insert “may be”; and at the end of this bullet point insert “if the number of eligible claimants increases or the Government reduces the amount of grant available for Localised Council Tax support schemes”.

At the end of the second paragraph insert the following:

“Council notes that the Financial Monitoring Task Group of the Overview and

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Scrutiny Commission is and will continue to be fully involved in the review and that the review findings will go to the Commission for comment.”

At the end of the fourth paragraph insert the following:

“However, council notes that local authorities have no local discretion in respect to single person discount. We are not aware of any plans to change it but if central government did make changes we would need to abide by them.”

Delete the fifth paragraph.

At the beginning of the fifth paragraph insert “As agreed by full council on 13 July 2011,”; delete all after “residents in Merton and” and insert the following:

“as such has frozen council tax for three years in a row and absorbed the cut in council tax benefits. Council resolves to await with interest the Overview and Scrutiny Commission’s response to the review of Merton’s local council tax scheme and asks Scrutiny to ensure that, as part of the 2014/15 budget round, all aspects of council tax are interrogated to ensure we are abiding by our July 2011 agreement and delivering low council tax to our residents.”

Motion now to Read

This Council notes that:

- At the Council meeting of 21 November 2012 Merton adopted the default Localised Council Tax support scheme, and that the council meeting of 6 February 2013 removed second home discounts and exemptions on empty and unfurnished properties including those classed as uninhabitable. Although most Councils have simply absorbed the latter into their general funds, without maintaining Council Tax support at previous levels, Merton has used one to help offset the other. Further budget reductions may be required to fund this scheme for 2014/15 if the number of eligible claimants increases or the Government reduces the amount of grant available for Localised Council Tax support schemes.
- 22,808 residents in Merton currently benefit from the 25% single person council tax discount;
- The discount constitutes a £351 annual saving for the average Band D council tax bill in Merton; and
- If residents were to lose their discount, they would see a more than 30 per cent increase in their council tax bill.

This Council welcomes the current review being undertaken in order to reflect local requirements and recognises that residents may face difficulties if they are required to pay more towards Council Tax. Council notes that the Financial Monitoring Task Group of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission is and will continue to be fully

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involved in the review and that the review findings will go to the Commission for comment.

This Council believes that the single person discount provides a welcome reduction in council tax bills for thousands of hard working Merton residents, and in particular for many widowed pensioners and single parent families.

This Council is therefore concerned by recent calls from the Local Government Association and some individual councils around the country for the “full and unconstrained ability” to vary council tax discounts so that they can remove the single person discount. However, council notes that local authorities have no local discretion in respect to single person discount. We are not aware of any plans to change it but if central government did make changes we would need to abide by them.

As agreed by full council on 13 July 2011, this Council wants to see lower council tax bills for all residents in Merton and as such has frozen council tax for three years in a row and absorbed the cut in council tax benefits. Council resolves to await with interest the Overview and Scrutiny Commission’s response to the review of Merton’s local council tax scheme and asks Scrutiny to ensure that, as part of the 2014/15 budget round, all aspects of council tax are interrogated to ensure we are abiding by our July 2011 agreement and delivering low council tax to our residents.

The Mayor put the amendment to the meeting and declared it to be carried on a vote of 30 voting for the amendment, 25 voting against the amendment and 3 not voting.

The Mayor put the substantive motion to the meeting and, there being none voting to the contrary, declared the substantive motion to be carried.

RESOLVED: That the motion in the terms expressed by the Labour amendment detailed above is agreed.

Motion 3 (MPWIR)

It was moved by Councillor Peter Southgate and seconded by Councillor Karin Forbes that

This council congratulates all those who contributed to Merton’s outstanding success in being recognised as the Best Achieving Council in the MJ Achievement Awards 2013. Congratulations are due not only to the directors and staff of the council who worked so hard towards this award, but also to the partners, volunteers and community groups who play their part in making Merton a great place to live.

In 2002 the CPA rated Merton a “weak” authority and children’s services were put on special measures. Five years later, a radical change programme to turn around the council’s infrastructure resulted in a “four star – improving strongly” rating from the CPA – the highest attainable.

Continuous improvements have been achieved under the Conservative

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administration of 2006-10, and the Labour administration from 2010 to the present. Both administrations focussed on the need to achieve operating efficiencies in order to maintain services in the face of reducing budgets. A shared sense of purpose ensured organisational and financial stability through the change of political control.

“Merton 2015” aims to transform services by 2015, and has already saved £70m from the budget. But Merton is more than a cost cutting council:

- The Merton Compact is an exemplary model of a partnership agreement between voluntary, public and private sectors to deliver services to residents, and has won many awards
- Nearly 400 volunteers in Merton’s libraries have prevented closures and enabled a 40% reduction in budget. The service won the 2012 Team London Award for the best practice and recruitment of volunteers
- Merton has pioneered shared services with neighbouring boroughs:
 - HR shared service with Sutton
 - Legal service shared with Richmond since 2011, now being extended to Kingston and Sutton
 - South London Waste partnership teams Merton with Croydon, Kingston and Sutton to build and operate an energy from waste plant that will save LBM £60m over the next 25 years

The need to maintain services to residents with fewer resources is expected to continue, but the MJ Achievement Award demonstrates that Merton is well placed to meet the challenge in the years ahead.

The Mayor put the motion to the meeting and, there being none to the contrary, declared the motion to be carried.

It was, therefore

RESOLVED: That the motion detailed above is agreed.

8 REPORTS OF COMMUNITY FORUMS (Agenda Item 8)

Councillor Richard Hilton addressed the meeting in respect of an issue raised at the Wimbledon Community Forum.

He referred to the matter raised in respect of good parking across the borough for both businesses and residents and, in particular, the need to simplify the free parking times which, at present, are confusing. The Forum agreed that officers look at this issue and report back.

Reports otherwise received.

9 NOTICES OF MOTION (Agenda Item 9)

Motion (Conservative and Independent Member)

It was moved by Councillor John Bowcott and seconded by Councillor Samantha George that

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This Council notes Cabinet's agreement at its meeting on 16 January 2012 that:

- “the preferred management model for Morley Park should secure the best value and best facilities and services for the community within the borough and that, in addition to any lawful requirements, the process for selecting such should also be reasonable, fair and transparent”; and
- officers should continue “to review the details, rules and implementation of the Localism Act 2011 to ensure that the Council does not frustrate the aims of the legislation and, furthermore, to explore the opportunities presented by community trusts in respect of the management of parks and open spaces and to support local groups to achieve this objective where it can be demonstrated that there are clear and sustainable social, environmental and/or financial benefits to be gained from doing so”.

However, further to these resolutions by Cabinet and the motion passed by Full Council on 6 February 2013 welcoming the new Community Right to Bid and Community Right to Challenge, concerns continue to be raised by residents in the vicinity of the Atkinson Morley site about a lack of openness and transparency over the future management of the Metropolitan Open Land gifted to the Council under a section 106 agreement. In particular there have been concerns about:

- the Council's prejudicial antipathy to the proposal for an umbrella lease covering the whole of the open space;
- the process for awarding a formal sub-lease to Ursuline High School for use of the playing fields;
- the need to ensure the long term sustainability of the dowry received as part of the section 106 agreement; and
- the lack of information provided by the Council to enable the Morley Park Trust or any other community group to put together a detailed business plan for management of the open space.

This Council fully recognises the importance of assisting Ursuline High School to fulfil its outdoor sport and educational needs and therefore supports the leasing of the Morley Park playing fields to the school.

This Council also believes, however, that Merton needs to address the concerns highlighted by residents in a timely manner and so resolves to be much more open and transparent in its dealings with all community groups wishing to bid for local services or community assets.

This Council therefore requests that from now on Cabinet:

- a) sets out a clear and public timeline for considering each individual submission made by a community group in Merton under the Community Right to Bid or the Community Right to Challenge; and
- b) cooperates and engages closely with all such community groups, keeping both them and interested ward councillors fully informed at all stages of the

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process so that local assets and services can be maintained for the benefit of the whole community.

Labour Amendment

It was moved by councillor Andrew Judge and seconded by Councillor Martin Whelton that the motion is amended as follows:

After the first paragraph, insert new paragraphs as follows:

“Council reiterates these principles and notes that as yet the land has not been gifted to the Council and therefore no decisions can be made at this stage.”

In the second paragraph, first bullet point, delete “prejudicial antipathy to” and insert “position on”.

In the second paragraph, fourth bullet point, insert “perceived” before “lack” and insert the following at the end of this bullet point:

“, noting however that the land has not yet come into council ownership or management and therefore many relevant details are unavailable”

At the end of paragraph four, after “bid for local services or community assets.”, insert new paragraphs as follows:

“The Council notes that no Community Right to Challenge could be considered at this site yet since no ‘qualifying service’ is in operation.

The Council welcomes the work being undertaken and progress made with Morley Park Trust and the Ursuline School to explore the potential of a Community Trust. A Steering Group has been established with these groups and the Council to oversee the development of a management regime and schedule of management for the site as well as a viable business plan allowing use by the school whilst maintaining public access. A work schedule and timetable is being prepared that will guide work between now and practical handover of the site to the Council.”

In final paragraph, delete “from now on” after “This Council therefore requests that” and in bullet point a) delete “sets” and insert “continues to set”.

Motion now to read:

This council notes Cabinet’s agreement at its meeting on 16 January 2012 that:

- “the preferred management model for Morley Park should secure the best value and best facilities and services for the community within the borough and that, in addition to any lawful requirements, the process for selecting such should also be reasonable, fair and transparent”; and
- officers should continue to “review the details, rules and implementation of the Localism Act 2011 to ensure that the Council does not frustrate the aims of the legislation and, furthermore, to explore the opportunities presented by community trusts in respect of the management of parks and open spaces and to support local groups to achieve this objective where it can be demonstrated

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that there are clear and sustainable social, environmental and/or financial benefits to be gained from doing so”.

Council reiterates these principles and notes that as yet the land has not been gifted to the Council and therefore no decisions can be made at this stage.

However further to these resolutions by cabinet and the motion passed by Full Council on 6 February 2013 welcoming the new Community Right to Bid and Community Right to Challenge, concerns continue to be raised by residents in the vicinity of the Atkinson Morley site about a lack of openness and transparency over the future management of the Metropolitan Open Land gifted to the Council under a section 106 agreement. In particular there have been concerns about:

- the Council’s position on the proposal for an umbrella lease covering the whole of the open space;
- the process for awarding a formal sub-lease to Ursuline High School for the use of the playing fields;
- the need to ensure the long term sustainability of the dowry received as part of the section 106 agreement; and
- the perceived lack of information provided by the Council to enable the Morley Park Trust or any other community group to put together a detailed business plan for management of the open space, noting however that the land has not yet come into council ownership or management and therefore many relevant details are unavailable

This Council fully recognises the importance of assisting Ursuline High School to fulfil its outdoor sport and educational needs and therefore supports the leasing of Morley Park playing fields to the school.

This Council also believes, however, that Merton needs to address the concerns highlighted by residents in a timely manner and so resolves to be much more open and transparent in its dealings with all community groups wishing to bid for local services or community assets.

The Council notes that no Community Right to Challenge could be considered at this site yet since no ‘qualifying service’ is in operation.

The Council welcomes the work being undertaken and progress made with Morley Park Trust and the Ursuline School to explore the potential of a Community Trust. A Steering Group has been established with these groups and the Council to oversee the development of a management regime and schedule of management for the site as well as a viable business plan allowing use by the school whilst maintaining public access. A work schedule and timetable is being prepared that will guide work between now and practical handover of the site to the Council.

This Council therefore requests that Cabinet:

- a) continues to set out a clear and public timeline for considering each individual submission made by a community group in Merton under the Community

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- Right to Bid or the Community Right to Challenge; and
- b) cooperates and engages closely with all such community groups, keeping both them and interested ward councillors fully informed at all stages of the process so that local assets and services can be maintained for the benefit of the whole community.

The Mayor put the amendment to the meeting and there voted for the amendment 30, 25 voting against the amendment and 3 not voting.

The Mayor declared the amendment to be carried.

The Mayor put the motion as amended to the meeting and, there being none to the contrary, it was

RESOLVED: That the motion expressed in the terms of the Labour amendment is agreed.

10 FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH (Agenda Item 21)

Reason for Urgency: The Mayor has agreed to the submission of this item as a matter of urgency in order that arrangements may be put in place to hold a meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose to admit a person to the roll of honorary freeman of the borough.

The recommendations to the submitted report were moved by Councillor Stephen Alambritis and seconded by Councillor Nick Draper.

Oral Amendment (Merton Coalition)

It was moved by Councillor Suzanne Evans and seconded by Councillor Richard Hilton that, in addition to Andy Murray, Virginia Wade, Angela Mortimer and Ann Haydon-Jones are admitted Honorary Freewomen of the London Borough of Merton with immediate effect and without the need, therefore, to refer the matter to the General Purposes Committee.

At the request of the Mayor, the Chief Executive confirmed that legislation requires that notice is given of a council meeting specially convened for the purpose of admitting persons as Freeman/Freewoman of the borough.

The Mayor put the amendment to the meeting and declared it to be lost on a vote of 6 voting for the amendment, 43 voting against the amendment and 7 not voting.

The Mayor put the recommendations to the meeting and, there being none to the contrary, declared the recommendations to be carried.

It was, therefore

RESOLVED: That

A. agreement is given to the holding of a special meeting to admit Mr Andy Murray as Honorary Freeman of the London Borough of Merton;

B. the Chief Executive is authorised to make all necessary arrangements and spend such reasonable sums as may be required to give effect to resolution A; and

C. recognising that there may be other persons deserving of consideration for the Honorary Freedom of the Borough, not least Merton residents who have made very significant contributions to our local community, but also the last British Ladies' Singles Champion at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, and therefore asks the General Purposes Committee to consider a report on this at its next meeting for recommendation to Full Council.

11 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013 (Agenda Item 10)

The recommendation to the submitted was moved by Councillor Peter Southgate and seconded by Councillor Peter McCabe.

The Mayor put the recommendation to the meeting and, there being none to the contrary, it was

RESOLVED: That the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission is received.

12 APPOINTMENT OF A CO-OPTED MEMBER OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE (Agenda Item 11)

The recommendation to the submitted report was moved by Councillor Mark Allison and seconded by Councillor Stephen Alambritis

The Mayor put the recommendation to the meeting and, there being none to the contrary, it was

RESOLVED: That agreement is given to the appointment of Sophie Bowen as a co-opted member of the Standards Committee for a three year period from 1 July 2013.

13 MERTON'S COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY – SUBMISSION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE (Agenda Item 12)

The recommendation to the submitted report was moved by Councillor Andrew Judge and seconded by Councillor Ian Munn.

The Mayor put the recommendation to the meeting and, there being none to the contrary, it was

RESOLVED: That

1. Merton's Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule is submitted to the Secretary of State for examination by a Planning Inspector; and

2. any changes to Merton's CIL charging schedule that arise between 11

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July 2013 and the receipt of the Inspector's final report are delegated to the Director of Environment and Regeneration, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration.

14 MERTON'S SITES AND POLICIES PLAN AND POLICIES MAP –
SUBMISSION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE (Agenda Item 13)

The recommendation to the submitted report was moved by Councillor Andrew Judge and seconded by Councillor Ian Munn.

Amendment (Conservative)

It was moved by Councillor David Williams and seconded by Councillor Linda Taylor that the recommendations are amended as follows:

At Recommendation (A) to add the words:

“...save that:

- at 2.17 (a) the cross party BPAC recommendation of the Allocated Use description for Wimbledon Library (Site 16) be accepted by re-inserting the word ‘ancillary’ and also adding after ‘...retained and improved...’ the words ‘with ground floor access from the Wimbledon Hill Road frontage’
- Site 01 (Hartfield Road car park), Site 28 (P4 Land adjacent to Wimbledon Theatre) and Site 41 (Kingston Road opposite Lower Downs) be removed from the Sites and Policies Plan
- Serious consideration be given to the various concerns raised by residents about the nature of the ‘supporting enabling development’ proposed for Site 37 (Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium) and its impact in terms of noise, traffic and risk of flooding; and full and early consultation be undertaken with local residents, businesses and community groups during the development of the Supplementary Planning Document proposed for this Site.”

N.B. The Wimbledon Library (Site 16) Allocated Use description would become (with additional words highlighted in italics):

Library to be retained and improved ***with ground floor access from the Wimbledon Hill Road frontage***. Remainder of the site to be considered suitable for an ***ancillary*** appropriate mix of any of the following: community (D1 Use Class), retail (A1 Use Class), financial and professional services (A2 Use Class) restaurants and cafes (A3 Use Class) offices (B1a Use Class and residential (C3 Use Class)

The amended Recommendation (A) would then read:

Recommendation A

A. Note the recommendations of Cabinet as detailed in paragraphs 2.16-2.18 of this report save that:

- at 2.17 (a) the cross party BPAC recommendation of the Allocated Use

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description for Wimbledon Library (Site 16) be accepted by re-inserting the word 'ancillary' and also adding after '...retained and improved...' the words 'with ground floor access from the Wimbledon Hill Road frontage'

- Site 01 (Hartfield Road car park), Site 28 (P4 Land adjacent to Wimbledon Theatre) and Site 41 (Kingston Road opposite Lower Downs) be removed from the Sites and Policies Plan
- Serious consideration be given to the various concerns raised by residents about the nature of the 'supporting enabling development' proposed for Site 37 (Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium) and its impact in terms of noise, traffic and risk of flooding; and full and early consultation be undertaken with local residents, businesses and community groups during the development of the Supplementary Planning Document proposed for this Site.

The Mayor put the amendment to the meeting and declared it to be lost on a vote of 23 voting for the amendment, 29 voting against the amendment and 5 not voting.

Amendment (Merton Coalition)

It was moved by Councillor Suzanne Evans and seconded by Councillor Chris Edge that the recommendations are amended as follows:

SITE PROPOSAL 16 – WIMBLEDON LIBRARY/MARLBOROUGH HALL (P332-333)

Paragraph: 'Use suggested/organisation' (p332)

First sentence: Library to be retained *at least at its current size and in its current position on the ground floor* and improved.

Then insert new following sentence: *The main entrance of the library will remain at the front of the building on Wimbledon Hill Road .*

Paragraph: 'Allocated Use' (p333)

At end of paragraph add the words: *subject to the proviso there will always be a library of at least the same size as at present on the ground floor of the current building."*

SITE PROPOSAL 28 – "P4" LAND ADJOINING WIMBLEDON THEATRE (P337-339)

Paragraph: 'Use suggested/organisation:' Business use (B1) *and Sui Generis Use (Car Park)*

Paragraph: Allocated Use:' Add additional first sentence to read:

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Current public car park capacity to be maintained on the site together with....etc

The Mayor put the amendment to the meeting and declared it to be lost on a vote of 6 voting for the amendment, 29 against the amendment and 23 not voting.

The Mayor put the recommendations to the submitted report to the meeting and declared them to be carried on a vote of 30 voting for, 25 against and 3 not voting.

It was, therefore

RESOLVED: That

A. the recommendations of Cabinet as detailed in paragraphs 2.16-2.18 of the submitted report are noted;

B. Merton's Sites and Policies Plan and Policies Map is submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination (this would be preceded by a statutory six week consultation period between July and September 2013);

C. agreement is given to the timetable for production set out in section 5 of the submitted report;

D. delegated authority is given to the Director of Environment and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration and the chair and vice-chair of the Borough Plan Advisory Committee for changes to the documents between 10 July 2013 and the receipt of the Planning Inspector's final report:

(i) to approve minor alterations to the plans for submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination and as necessary throughout the examination process

(ii) to consider and approve officers' response to comments received at the pre-submission public consultation, and associated minor alternations to the plans for their submission to the Planning Inspector via the Secretary of State

D. delegated approval of significant alterations to Merton's *Sites and Policies Plan and Policies Map* arising from matters including responses to pre-submission public consultation, national or regional policy changes, additional relevant evidence is given to the Director for Environment and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration and the chair and vice chair of the Borough Plan Advisory Committee.

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15 MERTON'S COMMUNITY PLAN REFRESH 2013 (Agenda Item 14)

It was moved by Councillor Stephen Alambritis, seconded by Councillor Mark Betteridge and, upon the Mayor putting the recommendation to the meeting

RESOLVED: That the Merton Community Plan 2013 detailed at Appendix 1 to the submitted report is endorsed.

16 DEVELOPING AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT FOR THE LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON (Agenda Item 15)

The recommendation to the submitted report was moved by Councillor Edith Macauley and seconded by Councillor Mark Betteridge.

Amendment (Merton Coalition)

It was moved by Councillor Suzanne Evans and seconded by Councillor Richard Hilton that:

Appendix 2 - Armed Forces Community Covenant action plan

Paragraph headed: "Support Veterans to find suitable housing locally"

Change the first paragraph to read:

Maintain as a minimum the current Housing Allocation quota of 8 units for the provision of housing to ex-armed forces personnel and their families providing tenancy sustainment and referrals to floating support services where required. Review this quota on a six-monthly basis and if required increase the allocation to meet demand. Between reviews, armed forces personnel with a serious injury, illness or a disability which is wholly or partly attributable to their service will be given priority.

The Mayor put the amendment to the meeting and declared the amendment to be lost on a vote of 6 voting for the amendment and 28 voting against.

The Mayor put the recommendation to the meeting and, there being none to the contrary, declared the recommendation to be carried.

It was, therefore

RESOLVED: That the Community Covenant and associated action plan set out in Appendices 1 and 2 of the submitted report are agreed.

Note:

It being 22:15, the guillotine fell and the remaining business was conducted in accordance with Part 4A and Paragraph 5.5(b) of the Council's constitution.

17 PROPORTIONALITY AND APPOINTMENT OF GROUP NOMINATIONS
(Agenda Item 16)

The Mayor confirmed that two amendments comprising a proposal received from the Conservative group (incl. nominations) and a proposal received from the Merton Coalition group had been circulated in the chamber **(the proposals are attached as appendices to these minutes)**

The Mayor advised that she would take the Conservative amendment first and this was duly moved and seconded by Councillors David Simpson and Oonagh Moulton.

The Mayor put the Conservative amendment to the vote and there voted for the amendment 19 and voting against the amendment 6.

The Mayor declared the amendment to be carried and that, consequently, the Merton Coalition amendment falls.

Legal advice was sought on the position with regard to the amendments. The legal adviser stated:

“What was put to the meeting was proposition 1 submitted by the Conservative group. Proposition 2 is also on the table. A vote was taken on proposition 1 which has been agreed by Council and, therefore, proposition 2 falls.”

The Mayor advised that she would now move to the next item of business.

18 CALL-IN AND URGENCY – AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR WINDOW
REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT THE CIVIC CENTRE (Agenda Item 17)

The report was deemed to be moved and seconded.

The Mayor put the recommendation in the submitted report to the meeting and there being none to the contrary, declared the recommendation to be carried.

It was, therefore

RESOLVED: That the taking of an urgent key decision requiring the waiving of the call-in procedure is noted.

19 CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND RELATED MATTERS
(Agenda Item 18)

The report was deemed to be moved and seconded.

Councillor David Simpson advised of a proposed membership change which was duly agreed i.e.

Local Government Association – replace Councillor Chris Edge with Councillor John Bowcott.

The Mayor put the recommendation in the submitted report to the meeting and there being none to the contrary, declared the recommendation to be carried.

It was, therefore

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RESOLVED: That the changes to the membership of committees approved under delegated powers since the last meeting of the Council are noted and that the foregoing membership change detailed above is agreed.

20 PETITIONS (Agenda Item 19)

The report was deemed to be moved and seconded.

The Mayor put the recommendation in the submitted report to the meeting and there being none to the contrary, declared the recommendation to be carried.

It was, therefore

RESOLVED: That

1. the advice given by officers in respect of the petition presented to the 27 March Council meeting is noted; and

2. petitions are received as follows:

a petition submitted by Councillor Iain Dysart on behalf of residents of Stanley Avenue and Blakes Terrace asking that their streets are resurfaced; and

a petition submitted by Councillor Mary-Jane Jeanes on behalf of residents Barnard Gardens and Errol Gardens asking the Council to enforce the 'Tree Preservation Order' on the mature ash tree at the cul de sac end of Barnard Gardens.

21 BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING (Agenda Item 20)

It was moved by Councillor Oonagh Moulton and duly agreed that the Strategic Theme to be considered at the September meeting of the Council is 'Sustainable Communities with a Focus on Transport'

Conservative Proposal – Agenda Item 16 - Proportionality

Committees subject to Statutory proportionality	Allocations actual						
	Labour	Con	MPIR	MC	LD	I	
Scrutiny committees							
OS Commission (10)	4	4	1	0	1	0	
Healthier Communities (8)	4	3	0	0	0	1	
Children and Young People (10)	4	4	1	0	1	0	
Sustainable Communities (8)	4	3	1	0	0	0	
JHSC (2)	1	0	0	1	0	0	
Committees							
Appointments (10)	5	3	0	1	0	1	
General Purposes (10)	5	4	0	1	0	0	
Licensing (12)	5	5	1	1	0	0	
Licensing misc (12)	5	5	1	1	0	0	
Planning (10)	5	3	1	1	0	0	
Standards (8)	4	2	0	1	1	0	
Appeals (6)	3	2	0	1	0	0	
Advisory Committees established by the Council							
Pension Fund AC (3)	2	1	0	0	0	0	
Borough Development Plan AC (6)	3	2	0	1	0	0	
JCC (5)	3	1	0	1	0	0	
CADAP (5)	2	2	0	1	0	0	
Member School Standards Panel (3)	1	1	0	0	1	0	

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**APPENDIX A
CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND SCRUTINY BODIES AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO GROUPS**

COMMITTEE	CONSERVATIVE
<p>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION (10 seats + 4 voting Co-opted Members) – substitutes allowed</p>	<p>4 seats</p> <p>Cllr Diane Neil Mills Cllr Samantha George Cllr Logie Lohendran Cllr Suzanne Grocott</p> <p>Substitutes: Cllr Oonagh Moulton Cllr Henry Nellless</p>
<p>HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES AND OLDER PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (8 seats) – substitutes allowed</p>	<p>3 seats inc chair</p> <p>Cllr Logie Lohendran (Chairman) Cllr Debbie Shears Cllr Maurice Groves</p> <p>Substitutes: Cllr Gilli Lewis-Lavender Cllr Suzanne Grocott</p>
<p>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (10 seats) – substitutes allowed</p>	<p>4 seats inc vice-chair</p> <p>Cllr James Holmes (Vice Chairman) Cllr Ray Tindle Cllr Linda Taylor Cllr Oonagh Moulton</p> <p>Substitutes: Cllr Simon Withey Cllr Debbie Shears</p>

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<p>SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (8 seats) – substitutes allowed</p>	<p>3 seats inc vice-chair Cllr Ray Tindle (Vice Chairman) Cllr David Dean Cllr Samantha George Substitutes: Cllr Janice Howard Cllr Miles Windsor</p>
<p>BOROUGH PLAN ADVISORY PANEL (6 seats) – substitutes allowed</p>	<p>2 seats inc vice-chair Cllr Diane Neil Mills (Vice Chairman) Cllr Henry Nelles Substitute: Cllr Maurice Groves</p>
<p>APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE (10 seats) No substitutes</p>	<p>3 seats Cllr Oonagh Moulton Cllr Debbie Shears Cllr Samantha George</p>

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<p>GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (10 seats) – substitutes allowed</p>	<p>4 seats inc vice-chair</p> <p>Cllr Janice Howard (Vice Chairman) Cllr David Williams Cllr Gilli Lewis-Lavender Cllr Debbie Shears</p> <p>Substitutes: Cllr Ray Tindle Cllr Henry Nellless</p>
<p>STANDARDS COMMITTEE (8 seats plus 3 co-opted non-voting members)</p>	<p>2 seats</p> <p>Cllr Janice Howard Cllr David Williams</p> <p>Substitutes: Cllr Oonagh Moulton Cllr Henry Nellless</p>
<p>LICENSING COMMITTEE (Licensing Act and Gambling Act purposes) (12 seats) No substitutes</p>	<p>5 seats inc chair</p> <p>Cllr David Simpson (Chairman) Cllr John Bowcott Cllr Logie Lohendran Cllr Debbie Shears Cllr Linda Taylor</p>
<p>LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (of above committee) (3 seats)</p>	

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<p>PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE (10 seats plus 1 Independent non-voting co-opted member to be appointed by the Planning Committee) Substitutes allowed</p>	<p>3 seats inc vice-chair Cllr John Bowcott (Vice Chairman) Cllr David Dean Cllr Simon Withey Substitutes: Cllr Maurice Groves Cllr Janice Howard</p>
<p>APPEALS COMMITTEE (6 seats) No substitutes</p>	<p>2 seats Cllr Margaret Brierly Cllr Oonagh Moulton</p>
<p>SOUTH WEST LONDON JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (2 SEATS) – substitutes allowed</p>	<p>0 seat</p>

CONSTITUTION OF CONSULTATIVE FORUMS AND OTHER BODIES AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO GROUPS

COMMITTEE	CONSERVATIVE
<p>CONSERVATION AND DESIGN ADVISORY PANEL (5 seats plus representatives of local conservation areas and regional/national organisations) – substitutes allowed</p> <p>Now operating as the Heritage and Design Working Group</p>	<p>2 seats inc chair</p> <p>Cllr Maurice Groves (Chairman) Cllr John Bowcott</p> <p>Substitute: Cllr Miles Windsor</p>
<p>JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH ETHNIC MINORITY ORGANISATIONS (5 seats plus representatives of Merton's ethnic minority organisations) No substitutes</p>	<p>1 seat</p> <p>Cllr Logie Lohendran</p>
<p>MEMBERS' SCHOOL STANDARDS PANEL (3 seats + 1 substitute)</p>	<p>1 seat</p> <p>Cllr James Holmes</p>
<p>PENSION FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (3 seats)</p>	<p>1 seat</p> <p>Cllr Samantha George</p>

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Agenda item 16 - Merton Coalition – Proportionality

Committees subject to Statutory proportionality	Seats	Allocations actual						
		Labour	Con	MPIR	MC	IND	LD	
Scrutiny committees								
Commission	10	4	3	1	1	0	1	
Healthier Communities	8	4	3	0	1	0	0	
Children and Young People	10	4	3	1	0	1	1	
Sustainable Communities	8	4	2	1	1	0	0	
JHSC	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Committees								
Appointments	10	5	4	0	1	0	0	
General Purposes	10	5	4	0	1	0	0	
Licensing	12	5	5	1	1	0	0	
Licensing misc	12	5	5	1	1	0	0	
Planning	10	5	3	1	1	0	0	
Standards	8	4	2	0	1	0	1	
Appeals	6	3	3	0	0	0	0	
Advisory Committees established by the Council								
Pension Fund AC	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	
Borough Development Plan AC	6	3	2	0	0	1	0	
JCC	5	3	1	0	1	0	0	
CADAP	5	2	2	0	1	0	0	
Member School Standards Panel	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	

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