

# **Merton Council Council**

**5 February 2014**

## **Addendum**

28. Councillors non-priority questions and answers: further responses

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**1 From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in Lower Morden Ward have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

**Reply**

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
Cleveland Rise - (Seymour Avenue to Kingsbridge Road)	26-03-2012	26-03-2012	Lower Morden
Dunster Avenue	24-10-2012	26-10-2012	Lower Morden
<b>2012</b>			
Lower Morden Lane - (Garth Road to Grand Drive)	22-07-2013	25-07-2013	Lower Morden
Hillcross Avenue - (Grand Drive to Churston Drive)	23-09-2013	27-09-2013	Lower Morden
Kingsbridge Road	10-10-2013	16-10-2013	Lower Morden
<b>2013</b>			

**2 From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in Ravensbury Ward have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

**Reply**

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
Florence Avenue	25-01-2010	27-01-2010	Ravensbury
Sedddon Road	17-03-2010	23-03-2010	Ravensbury
Muchelney Road	20-05-2010	21-05-2010	Ravensbury
Beeleigh Road	12-08-2010	13-08-2010	Ravensbury
Malmesbury Road - (Middleton Road to Bishopsford Road)	28-10-2010	05-11-2010	Ravensbury
Langdon Road	04-11-2010	09-11-2010	Ravensbury
Langdon Walk	04-11-2010	09-11-2010	Ravensbury
Leominster Walk	04-11-2010	09-11-2010	Ravensbury
Williams Lane	18-11-2010	19-11-2010	Ravensbury
<b>2010</b>			
Malmesbury Road - (Middleton Road to No. 28)	26-08-2011	26-08-2011	Ravensbury
Newhouse Walk	02-09-2011	02-09-2011	Ravensbury
<b>2011</b>			
The Drive, Morden	19-03-2012	24-03-2012	Ravensbury
Morden Road - (Ravensbury Grove to Morden Gardens)	23-04-2012	27-04-2012	Ravensbury
Morden Road - (Morden Gardens to London Road)	17-10-2012	19-10-2012	Ravensbury
<b>2012</b>			
Middleton Road - (St Helier Ave to Bishopsford Rd)	16-04-2013	20-04-2013	Ravensbury
Lilleshall Road	05-08-2013	08-08-2013	Ravensbury
<b>2013</b>			

**3 From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in Lavender Fields Ward have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

**Reply**

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
Ruskin Way - (j/w Brangwyn Crescent)	03-11-2010	03-11-2010	Lavender Fields
Willow View	03-11-2010	03-11-2010	Lavender Fields
<b>2010</b>			
Church Road - (Western Road to Lewis Rd)	23-05-2011	31-05-2011	Lavender Fields/Cricket Green
Liberty Avenue	10-10-2011	14-10-2011	Lavender Fields
<b>2011</b>			
Dalton Avenue	28-05-2012	29-05-2012	Lavender Fields
Windsor Avenue	16-07-2012	17-07-2012	Lavender Fields
<b>2012</b>			

**4 From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in St.Helier Ward have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

**Reply**

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
Torrington Way	18-08-2010	19-08-2010	St Helier
Rougemont Avenue	17-08-2010	25-08-2010	St Helier
<b>2010</b>			
Bristol Road	26-04-2011	28-04-2011	St Helier
<b>2011</b>			
Rutland Drive	08-05-2012	10-05-2012	St Helier
Durnsford Road, SW19 - (Revelstoke Rd to Arthur Rd)	21-05-2012	25-05-2012	St Helier
Abbotsbury Road - (Aberconway Road to Central Road)	23-07-2012	27-07-2012	St Helier
<b>2012</b>			
Darley Gardens	24-01-2013	24-01-2013	St Helier
Buckfast Road	25-03-2013	26-03-2013	St Helier
<b>2013</b>			

**5 From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in Colliers Wood Ward have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

**Reply**

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
Robinson Road, Tooting	01-02-2010	05-02-2010	Colliers Wood
Fleming Mead	15-09-2010	18-09-2010	Colliers Wood
Harewood Road	22-10-2010	22-10-2010	Colliers Wood
<b>2010</b>			
Waterfall Road	13-08-2011	14-08-2011	Colliers Wood
<b>2011</b>			
Nelson Grove Road	15-05-2012	17-05-2012	Colliers Wood
Rodney Place	18-05-2012	18-05-2012	Colliers Wood
Rutland Road	16-08-2012	16-08-2012	Colliers Wood
<b>2012</b>			

**6 From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in Longthornton have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

**Reply**

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
Avenue Road, Streatham	20-08-2010	24-08-2010	Longthornton
<b>2010</b>			
Kingsmead Avenue	22-08-2011	24-08-2011	Longthornton
Rosemead Avenue	22-08-2011	24-08-2011	Longthornton
Sunnymead Avenue	22-08-2011	24-08-2011	Longthornton
Rowan Close	05-12-2011	05-12-2011	Longthornton
Rowan Crescent	05-12-2011	06-12-2011	Longthornton
<b>2011</b>			
Crossways Road	22-10-2012	23-10-2012	Longthornton
<b>2012</b>			

Councillor non-priority questions

**7 From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in Dundonald Ward have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

**Reply**

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
Braeside Avenue	08-02-2010	09-02-2010	Dundonald
<b>2010</b>			
Dorien Road	18-05-2011	20-05-2011	Dundonald
Russell Road, SW19 - (Pelham Road to Kingston Road)	30-08-2011	02-09-2011	Dundonald / Abbey
<b>2011</b>			
Dundonald Road - (Merton Hall Road to Fairlawn Road)	29-10-2012	02-11-2012	Dundonald
Trevor Road	09-11-2012	09-11-2012	Dundonald
<b>2012</b>			
Lower Downs Road	24-07-2013	29-07-2013	Hillside/Dundonald
<b>2013</b>			

**8 From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in Graveney Ward have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

**Reply**

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
Thirsk Road	13-08-2012	14-08-2012	Graveney
<b>2012</b>			
Woodland Way	28-01-2013	29-01-2013	Graveney
Gorringe Park Avenue	30-01-2013	06-02-2013	Graveney
London Road, SW17 - (Pitcairn Road to Mitcham Road)	09-07-2013	12-07-2013	Graveney
<b>2013</b>			

**9 From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in Merton Park Ward have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

**Reply**

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
Kingston Road, SW19	22-02-2010	16-03-2010	Merton Park/Cannon Hill
Circle Gardens	24-05-2010	27-05-2010	Merton Park
Leaffield Road	21-06-2010	23-06-2010	Merton Park
Tybenham Road	23-06-2010	25-06-2010	Merton Park
The Rush	20-06-2010	02-07-2010	Merton Park
<b>2010</b>			
Bakers End	11-05-2012	11-05-2012	Merton Park
Manor Road, Merton Park	14-05-2012	14-05-2012	Merton Park
<b>2012</b>			
Dorset Road, SW19 - (Kinsgton Rd to no. 22)	27-03-2013	28-03-2013	Merton Park
Dorset Road, SW19 - (No. 22 to Erridge Road)	30-09-2013	04-10-2013	Merton Park
<b>2013</b>			

**10 From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in Figges Marsh Ward have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

**Reply**

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
Whitford Gardens	09-08-2010	10-08-2010	Figges Marsh
London Road roundabout (Figge's Marsh)	31-08-2010	03-09-2010	Figges Marsh
<b>2010</b>			
Tonstall Road	11-08-2011	12-08-2011	Figges Marsh
<b>2011</b>			
Lansdell Road	22-08-2012	25-08-2012	Figges Marsh
<b>2012</b>			
Commonside West (3 Kings Roundabout)	07-02-2013	04-03-2013	Figges Marsh
<b>2013</b>			

Councillor non-priority questions

**11 From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in Pollards Hill Ward have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

**Reply**

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
Wide Way	15-02-2010	20-02-2010	Pollards Hill
Commonside East - (Cedars Avenue to Manor Road)	06-09-2010	10-09-2010	Pollards Hill
<b>2010</b>			
Greenwood Road	31-05-2011	03-06-2011	Pollards Hill
Tavistock Crescent	25-08-2011	26-08-2011	Pollards Hill
Pentlands Close	14-12-2011	15-12-2011	Pollards Hill
<b>2011</b>			
Yorkshire Road	16-04-2012	18-04-2012	Pollards Hill
Fern Avenue	20-08-2012	21-08-2012	Pollards Hill
Manor Road jw Rowan Road	05-11-2012	07-11-2012	Pollards Hill
<b>2012</b>			

**12 From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in Trinity Ward have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

**Reply**

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
North Road - (Haydon's Road to River Wandle)	09-11-2010	14-11-2010	Trinity
<b>2010</b>			
Haydons Road, SW19 - (Gap Road to No. 205)	03-02-2014	14-02-2014	Trinity/Wimbledon Park
<b>2014</b>			



**13 From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in Wimbledon Park Ward have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

**Reply**

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
Plough Lane, SW17	07-06-2010	18-06-2010	Wimbledon Park
Gordondale Road	01-11-2010	08-11-2010	Wimbledon Park
<b>2010</b>			
Cromwell Road	03-05-2011	11-05-2011	Wimbledon Park
Haydon Park Road	11-05-2011	18-05-2011	Wimbledon Park
<b>2011</b>			
Kingsley Road	06-02-2013	06-02-2013	Wimbledon Park
Weir Road	18-03-2013	22-03-2013	Wimbledon Park
Endeavour Way	25-03-2013	27-03-2013	Wimbledon Park
Leopold Road - (Arthur Road to Lake Road)	17-10-2013	21-10-2013	Village/Wimbledon Park
<b>2013</b>			
Haydons Road, SW19 - (Gap Road to No. 205)	03-02-2014	14-02-2014	Trinity/Wimbledon Park

**14 From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in Abbey Ward have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

**Reply**

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
Pincott Road	27-01-2010	29-01-2010	Abbey
Bathurst Avenue	20-09-2010	21-09-2010	Abbey
Queensland Avenue	20-09-2010	21-09-2010	Abbey
<b>2010</b>			
Merton Road	06-06-2011	10-06-2011	Abbey
Palmerston Road	15-08-2011	20-08-2011	Abbey
Abbey Road	05-09-2011	07-09-2011	Abbey
Deer Park Road - (Lombard Road to No. 24)	24-10-2010	02-11-2011	Abbey
Dane Road	07-12-2011	08-12-2011	Abbey
Russell Road, SW19 - (Pelham Road to Kingston Road)	30-08-2011	02-09-2011	Dundonald / Abbey
<b>2011</b>			
Kingston Road, SW19 - (SGN re-instatement)	16-04-2012	16-04-2012	Abbey
Lyon Road	18-07-2012	20-07-2012	Abbey
<b>2012</b>			
Merton High Street, SW19 - (Merton Rd to Victory Rd)	11-02-2013	15-02-2013	Abbey
Haydons Road, SW19 - (Merton High Street	01-07-2013	02-07-2013	Abbey

## Councillor non-priority questions

to No. 11)			
Merton High Street - (Victory Road to Norman Road)	03-07-2013	05-07-2013	Abbey

### 15 From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in Cannon Hill Ward have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

#### Reply

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
Beaford Grove	18-01-2010	22-01-2010	Cannon Hill
Buckleigh Avenue	19-01-2010	27-01-2010	Cannon Hill
Cherrywood Lane - (Patch)	10-02-2010	12-02-2010	Cannon Hill
Kingston Road, SW19	22-02-2010	16-03-2010	Merton Park/Cannon Hill
<b>2010</b>			
Cannon Hill Lane - (249 to Martin Way)	06-04-2011	12-04-2011	Cannon Hill
Cannon Hill Lane - (273 to Churston Drive)	13-04-2011	19-04-2011	Cannon Hill
Whatley Avenue	11-09-2011	11-09-2011	Cannon Hill
<b>2011</b>			
Shaldon Drive - (Churston Drive to No. 44)	05-07-2013	08-07-2013	Cannon Hill
Ashridge Way	28-10-2013	01-11-2013	Cannon Hill
<b>2013</b>			

**16 From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in Cricket Green Ward have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

**Reply**

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
Glebe Court	24-03-2010	24-03-2010	Cricket Green
Bramcote Avenue	10-08-2010	11-08-2010	Cricket Green
Denham Crescent	10-08-2010	11-08-2010	Cricket Green
Carshalton Road roundabout - Croydon Road (to LC011)	23-08-2010	27-08-2010	Cricket Green
Goat Road	20-09-2010	23-09-2010	Cricket Green
<b>2010</b>			
Lower Green West - (London Road to Church Road)	21-03-2011	24-03-2011	Cricket Green
Church Road - (Western Road to Lewis Rd)	23-05-2011	31-05-2011	Lavender Fields/Cricket Green
Carshalton Road - (Goat Road to Cranmer Road)	21-11-2011	25-11-2011	Cricket Green
<b>2011</b>			
Lower Green West - (Church Road to London Road)	23-02-2012	24-02-2012	Cricket Green
Church Road (Hallowfield Way to Lower Green West)	29-02-2012	07-03-2012	Cricket Green
<b>2012</b>			
Willow Lane - (Carshalton Road to Wandle Way)	22-04-2013	24-04-2013	Cricket Green
<b>2013</b>			

**17 From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in West Barnes Ward have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

**Reply**

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
Phyllis Avenue	15-11-2010	19-11-2010	West Barnes
<b>2010</b>			
Burlington Road - (Claremont Ave to Shannon Corner)	31-03-2011	04-04-2011	West Barnes
<b>2011</b>			
West Barnes Lane - (Burlington Rd to Bodnant Gdns)	30-04-2012	04-05-2012	West Barnes
Heath Drive	28-08-2012	15-09-2012	West Barnes
<b>2012</b>			
Church Walk, SW20	24-01-2013	25-01-2013	West Barnes
<b>2013</b>			

**18 From Councillor Suzanne Evans to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in Hillside Ward have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

**Reply**

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
Worple Road - Raymond Road roundabout	24-01-2010	25-01-2010	Hillside
Lake Road	15-03-2010	19-03-2010	Hillside
Ridgway Place	19-03-2010	24-03-2010	Hillside
Leopold Road - (Lake Road to Woodside)	27-09-2010	30-09-2010	Wimbledon Park/Hillside
<b>2010</b>			
Rostrevor Road	20-04-2011	21-04-2011	Hillside
Nursery Road, Wimbledon	09-12-2011	09-12-2011	Hillside
Cranbrook Road	11-12-2011	11-12-2011	Hillside
Elm Grove	12-12-2011	13-12-2011	Hillside
<b>2011</b>			
Spencer Hill	19-04-2012	23-04-2012	Hillside
<b>2012</b>			
Lower Downs Road	24-07-2013	29-07-2013	Hillside/Dundonald
<b>2013</b>			

**19 From Councillor Rod Scott to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in Raynes Park Ward have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

**Reply**

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
Copse Hill /Ridgway /Woodhayes Road Roundabouts	16-08-2010	18-08-2010	Village/Raynes Park
Lambton Road	13-09-2010	15-09-2010	Raynes Park
Bushey Road Flyover	18-10-2010	20-10-2010	Raynes Park
Crescent Road	25-10-2010	27-10-2010	Raynes Park
<b>2010</b>			
Bushey Road Flyover (Expansion Joints)	18-01-2011	29-01-2011	Raynes Park
Farnham Gardens	03-06-2011	03-06-2011	Raynes Park
West Barnes Lane - Coombe Lane to Bodnant Gardens	28-11-2011	04-12-2011	Raynes Park
<b>2011</b>			
Approach Road, SW20 - (Raynes Park Bridge to opp. 5)	19-07-2013	19-07-2013	Raynes Park
<b>2013</b>			

**20 From Councillor Rod Scott to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in Village Ward have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

**Reply**

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
Belvedere Avenue - (Highbury Road to Belvedere Grove)	28-03-2010	28-03-2010	Village
Camp View	09-04-2010	09-04-2010	Village
Queensmere Road - (Sarjant Path to Bathgate Road)	16-06-2010	16-06-2010	Village
North View	26-07-2010	27-07-2010	Village
West Place	28-07-2010	29-07-2010	Village
Copse Hill /Ridgway /Woodhayes Road Roundabouts	16-08-2010	18-08-2010	Village/Raynes Park
Church Hill	30-09-2010	02-10-2010	Village
<b>2010</b>			
Church Road, SW19 - (Bathgate Road to Burghley Road)	12-03-2012	20-03-2012	Village
Cranford Close	15-08-2012	15-08-2012	Village
<b>2012</b>			
Woodhayes Road	18-02-2013	21-02-2013	Village
Leopold Road - (Arthur Road to Lake Road)	17-10-2013	21-10-2013	Village/Wimbledon Park
<b>2013</b>			

**38 From Councillor Ray Tindle to the Leader of the Council**

Does the Leader of the Council regret not taking action to build a new Morden Park Pool 4 years ago?

**Reply**

Four years ago the previous Conservative administration was in charge of Merton Council. I'm sure they regret that they did nothing to replace the pool at that time. Although they put some money aside for a new pool, their plans were unrealistic and relied on private funding which was not in place.

In contrast, this Labour administration has been careful with the council's finances and this has allowed us to put money aside in order to develop realistic, affordable and deliverable plans for a new family friendly pool that generations of Morden families can enjoy.

Consultation on the replacement pool is expected to commence shortly.

**40 From Councillor Samantha George to the Cabinet Member for Community and Culture:**

The future of the Wimbledon Greyhound site is of strategic importance for Merton and for sport in the borough. Does the council hold a preference between what appear to be rival bids for the site, from the greyhound stadium supporters and from AFC Wimbledon?

### **Reply**

The council's view has always been that the site should be allocated for sporting intensification. This approach supports the site's redevelopment for either a new greyhound stadium, or football, or other sporting uses. The Plough Lane area has a long history relating to both greyhounds and football.

#### **41 From Councillor Maurice Groves to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Cleanliness and Parking**

A number of residents have contacted me complaining about erratic deliveries of food waste caddy liner bags. Can the Cabinet Member please confirm: That the Council still intends to deliver these bags going forward? How many times a year residents are supposed to receive them? Whether there a delivery schedule so that residents have an idea when to expect them?

### **Reply**

Whilst most councils providing a food waste recycling service expect their residents to buy liners we continue to provide them free of charge. The delivery service is generally very efficient however any delivery to c70,000 households is always going to have hiccups which we seek to correct as quickly as possible. The next delivery is due to take place in February 2014 – commencing the 17th of Feb 2014 for 5 days.

The bags are delivered twice a year to all residents in the borough – 52 liners (2x rolls) delivered every six months. This is enough for up to 2 liners a week. Residents should expect to receive them at six monthly intervals - Feb/March and August/September each year.

#### **45 From Councillor David Dean to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Cleanliness and Parking**

How many a) traffic wardens and b) street sweepers are there today in Merton compared to May 2010?

### **Reply**

With more and more residents voting in favour of CPZs in their area the council needs to ensure we have adequate resources in place to firmly but fairly enforce the rights of residents to park in their street. Since May 2010 five new CPZs and 10 extensions to existing CPZs, covering an additional 32 roads, have been implemented as a result of resident requests. Accordingly we now have 35 Civil Enforcement Officers, three more than in May 2010, to assist in enforcing this expanded area and protecting residents rights.

In 2010 under the previous Conservative administration only 50% of residents were satisfied with street cleaning and the borough was judged the dirtiest in the country according to official government data. According to the latest annual residents survey, under this Labour administration, satisfaction with street cleaning has risen to 54% and government data shows streets affected by litter falling from 18% under the previous Conservative administration to 5.4% under the current administration.

## Councillor non-priority questions

This has been achieved in a context of difficult financial decisions imposed on the council due to government cuts. However, by moving away from a one size fits all model and re-organising the service to take an intelligence-led approach, with additional cleaning for problem areas, we have been able to reduce our staff costs from 112 officers to 103 whilst at the same time focusing more resources on the areas of greatest need and raising standards of cleanliness compared to 2010. Driving out efficiencies in this way, whilst simultaneously protecting standards, allows us to minimise the impact of government funding cuts in other areas of council services.

### **52 From Councillor Logie Lohendran to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Cleanliness and Parking**

Can the Cabinet Member please tell me when the additional 4 mobile CCTV vehicles were purchased by the council, and how much money in parking fines has been generated by Merton Council since this date? How much money has now been generated in total since mobile enforcement vehicles were first introduced into Merton?

### **Reply**

For a number of years there has been real and growing concern from residents about the impact of congestion. In 2012 this had risen to the third highest concern in the Annual Residents survey and was 7% points higher than the London average. In May 2012 the power to enforce directly was delegated from the police to the council. In common therefore with many other authorities across London and England we purchased four additional mobile CCTV vehicles to assist in the enforcement of Moving Traffic Offences (e.g. banned left turns, blocking yellow hatched boxes), offences which often cause delay and road traffic accidents.

The council has received approximately £13.762m in parking fines since Sept 2010, and £8.149m since May 2012, including fines from bus lane infringements, keeping vehicles from slowing bus journey times; banned turns and box blocking; and from on street parking enforcement in CPZs so that residents' right to park in their street is enforced.

### **77 From Councillor Diane Neil Mills to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Cleanliness and Parking**

- i. What studies (internal and external) have been carried out on Merton Council's Commercial Waste Service since 2010 and what was the cost of each of these studies? If external studies were commissioned, why could these studies not be carried out internally?
- ii. What changes have been introduced to the Commercial Waste Service since 2010?
- iii. What has been the (a) gross revenue (b) net profit of the Commercial Waste Service each year since 2010/11?
- iv. What savings (revenue increase or cost reduction) have been introduced into the revenue budget for the Commercial Waste Service each year since 2010/11?
- v. What investments have been introduced into the capital budget for the Commercial Waste Service each year since 2010/11?

## Councillor non-priority questions

- vi. Does Merton Council have reason to suspect that there may be fraud in the Commercial Waste Service? If so, what is the potential magnitude of this fraud? If so, what measures have been taken to address this?
- vii. What is the broader objective and strategy of Merton's Commercial Waste Collection Service?

## Reply

- i. During the end of 2010 the Council worked with Hammersmith and Fulham as they had just completed a review of their Commercial Service area. There were no costs in relation to this project.
- ii. As part of a review of its commercial waste service, the London Borough of Merton council commissioned an independent report, to examine the current financial, operational and competitive position of the service and how it might be improved. This was carried out in 2012 by Eunomia Research Consultants in 2012. The cost of this work was £24,214.39. The work could not be carried out internally since the expertise was not available and the Council relied upon expert benchmarking and industry knowledge.

Following the review completed by Eunomia Research Consultants an action plan was prepared to implement recommendations that were agreed which included;

1. Administrative improvements
2. Complete audit of Commercial waste customers
3. Separated collection of commercial waste from Domestic waste
4. Reviewed pricing structure to include two bands of charging
5. Trialing food waste collection service
6. Increased sales capacity of the service
7. Delivered sales training
8. Improved overall financial position
9. Time banded waste collections introduced in Wimbledon Town Centre

iii.

### (a) Gross revenue

- 2010-11 gross revenue £1,238,191
- 2011-12 gross revenue £1,329,543
- 2012-13 gross revenue £1,953,881 (includes a one off VAT saving payment totalling £608,431)
- 2013-14 projected gross revenue £1,495,208 and includes non-recoverable collection valuing £166,634.
- All the above include disposal related costs but excludes overheads.

### (b) Net profit

- 2010-11 net profit £33,894
- 2011-12 net profit £464,554
- 2012-13 net profit as per FMIS £959,640 includes a one off VAT saving payment totalling £608,431



## Councillor non-priority questions

- 2013-14 projected net profit £247,996 and excludes non-recoverable collection valuing £166,634.
  - All the above include disposal related costs but excludes overheads.
- iv. As a result of the work undertaken with Hammersmith and Fulham in 2010, increased income targets were set for the following years as follows; in financial year 2011-12 commercial waste services income expectancy was increased by £190,000, in 2012-13 no additional income increase. In 2013-14 further increased by £150,000 and again in 2014-15 £250,000.

Cost reduction in terms of vehicles being double shifted.

- v. None.
- vi. No, the Council has robust processes and audit programmes to manage this type of risk and remains vigilant.
- vii. To deliver a profitable, cost efficient, reliable and sustainable commercial waste collection service.

A full report regarding the Commercial Waste Collection service is being prepared and will be provided to the financial monitoring scrutiny task group for a meeting scheduled on Thursday 27 February 2014.

### **29 From Councillor Suzanne Evans to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

How can Merton's Council tax payers and the Inland Revenue be assured that officers of Merton Council comply fully with the requirements of both the Anti Money Laundering (AML) and Anti-Bribery & Corruption (ABC) legislation?

#### **Reply**

The council has a nominated Anti Money Laundering officer, the Head of Audit & Investigations. This officer ensures that the policy and procedures are up to date, that appropriate action is taken on reported cases and that any potential money laundering cases are reported to the SOCA (Serious Organised Crime Agency).

The council Anti-money laundering policy is on the council's intranet for all staff. Training has been provided to staff within the council on the anti-money laundering legislation. The cash office report instances of cash payments in excess of £5,000 which are then investigated by Internal Audit and reported to SOCA if required.

Anti Bribery legislation has been incorporated into our policies and procedures for example the following have been reviewed; members' guidance on gifts and hospitality, Employee's Code of Conduct, Whistleblowing policy, Procurement documentation.

**30 From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance:**

Please list:

The total expenditure on corporate cards by department within the last financial year and

All individual spending totalling over £500 by staff or Councillors within the last financial year.

**Reply**

The Table below summarises spend by department using “purchasing cards” for the financial year 2012/13:

<b>Department</b>	<b>2012/13</b>
	<b>£</b>
Corporate Services	97,596.75
Children Schools & Families	190,443.98
Community & Housing	119,983.71
Environment & Regeneration	105,007.23
Mitcham Common Conservators	4,310.67
Merton and Sutton Joint Cemetery Board	7,222.12
<b>Total for Merton</b>	<b>524,564.46</b>

No councillor has a procurement card.

The information on spend above £500 has been requested from the card company as spend transactions as they currently appear on the card statement sometimes include more than one transaction.

**36 From Councillor Iain Dysart to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

Whilst for understandable partisan reasons, the administration ensured that the bulk of revenue savings scheduled for the next financial year were agreed prior to this March, scrutiny has had only late opportunity to consider future savings proposed, and, but for Commission pressure, would only have seen Budget-related service plans this April. If he remains in post after May 22nd, will he undertake to allow longer for full scrutiny engagement in future processes?

**Reply**

The scrutiny of savings has not been avoided. This administration has moved to best practice in Medium Term Financial Planning. This means that the bulk of the measures to balance the 2013/14, 204/15 and 2015/16 budgets were in fact agreed at the same time as the 2012/13 budget was set. This offers a long lead time for implementation and minimises the disruption. Scrutiny this year was considering a very small number of savings for 2015/16 and more for future years. Scrutiny had its

## Councillor non-priority questions

normal ability to review these savings. The budget timetable always intended to provide draft service plans in the current financial year. The precise timing was agreed with the Commission. It is of course not possible to finalise the budgets in service plans until the Budget Council of 5th March has agreed the overall budget and the Service Plans were being brought back subsequently to Scrutiny to review.

### **63 From Councillor David Williams to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

The Audit function has been systematically downgraded since 2010. Does the Cabinet Member think that this has shown to be an unwise decision given the alleged failings in Corporate Governance?

#### **Reply**

I do not accept the premise of the question. The Internal Audit Section continues to perform an important function. It has now moved to a more risk based approach. Since 2011, the Annual Governance Statement has been co-ordinated by the Head of Audit, who as part of a working group reviews the governance arrangements in the authority and provides reports to Standards Committee and General Purpose's committee on compliance and areas for improvement.

The recommendations of the Ernst and Young review of anonymous allegations suggest that we need to tighten the rules on Contract Standing Orders that were in place at the time of the appointments concerned, which were agreed when he was Leader of the Council in February 2007. Although these rules were tightened and clarified in March 2012, I accept that they need to be reviewed again, and we will be working with Councillors to ensure the Council continues to improve.

### **64 From Councillor Diane Neil Mills to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

Does the council charge VAT on the following services (if so, at what rate) and would private sector competitors charge VAT on these same services (where they are in fact provided by the private sector)?

- i. Commercial waste collection
- ii. Translation services (internal and external)
- iii. Pest control
- iv. Parking and traffic control (pay and display, PCNs, resident permits, visitor permits, business permits)
- v. Building control
- vi. Development control (application fees, pre-app meetings, certifications)
- vii. Adult education (course fees)
- viii. Library services

#### **Reply**

The VAT treatment by this authority of these services is shown below in Table 1. This VAT treatment arises from the application of VAT rules which are common to both local government and the private sector. Where an activity which is carried out by LB Merton is classified as non business it cannot be or is unlikely to be carried out by the private sector.

## Councillor non-priority questions

Where an activity which is carried out by LB Merton is classified as business and is carried out by the private sector, the VAT rules will be the same and these will ensure that the VAT treatment is the same.

However, in the case of trade waste, the activity is non business in local government because of the special legal regime applicable to the former and the fact that currently at least, competition is deemed not to be significant whereas in the private sector trade waste will be standard rated.

There is an exception to the application of common rules in the existence of special rules which apply to local authorities in connection with classifying activities as non business.

The rules which are common to local government and the private sector and the special rules for classifying activities as non-business are both set out underneath Table 1.

### **Table 1: VAT treatment of services**

- i. Commercial waste collection (Non-Business-outside the scope. The Environmental Protection Act 1990 Section 45(1) creates a special legal regime for VAT purposes and (to date) this has not created a significant distortion of competition with the private sector)
- ii. Translation services (internal (Non-Business-outside the scope. The activities are within LB Merton) and external (Business-standard rated))
- iii. Pest control  
Pest control - charge made (Business-standard rated)  
Pest control - costs recovered in connection with non compliance with statutory notice (Non-Business-outside the scope)
- iv. Parking and traffic control (pay and display, PCNs, resident permits, visitor permits, business permits)  
Car parking fees - off street (Business-standard rated)  
Car parking fees - on street (Non-Business-outside the scope)
- v. Building control  
Building control fees - commercial premises (Business- standard rated)  
Building control fees – dwellings (Business-standard rated)
- vi. Development control (application fees, pre-app meetings, certifications)  
Local land search fees (Non Business-outside the scope)  
Planning Fees (Non Business-outside the scope)
- vii. Adult education (course fees) (Business-exempt)
- viii. Library services  
Library fines lost/damaged/overdue books (Non-Business-outside the scope)  
Library fees & fines - lost/damaged/overdue CDs, DVDs etc (Non Business-outside the scope)

### Notes

1. VAT is not added to the charge where a service is non-business or business but exempt. Where a service is business, then VAT is added to the charge at the full standard rate, currently 20%.

## Councillor non-priority questions

2. **Business Activities:** The principal criteria for a service or an activity to be classified as business are that they are concerned with making supplies to other persons for any form of payment or “consideration” and have a degree of frequency and scale. Business supplies may be standard rated, zero rated (charge at 0%) or exempt. Activities which are zero rated or exempt are set out in statute.
3. **Non-Business Activities:** The principal criteria for an activity to be non business are that they are carried out for no charge and no other form of consideration or are carried out for a charge but with no degree of frequency or scale and without continuing over any period of time or are simply outside the scope of VAT.
4. **Additional special rules:** These apply to public bodies with regard to defining non business. Local authorities can treat activities that they charge for as non business when they met certain conditions. These include whether a special legal regime applies to a particular activity and whether the application of non business would lead to a significant distortion of competition. If the conditions are not met, activities cannot be treated as non business merely because the a body is in central or local government.

### **65 From Councillor Diane Neil Mills to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

Given that we have again managed a 2% reduction in the Lee Valley Precept, will the Cabinet Member commit to ring fencing this saving for investment in the Wandale Valley Regional Park, as Wandsworth has done?

#### **Reply**

Although Lee Valley have announced an overall 2% reduction in their precept, this has resulted in an overall 2.5% reduction for Merton as the change in tax base has been smaller for us relative to the other boroughs. However, a reduction of 2.5% would equate to approximately £5,474 which to put it in context is less than the annual cost of the additional funding required for the new minority group Leader’s Special Responsibility Allowance.

### **66 From Councillor Diane Neil Mills to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Cleanliness and Parking:**

Merton Council’s 2013 to 2017 Business Plan sets out 40 key metrics that are measured on a monthly basis by the Corporate Management Team. The list includes CRP 44, “Income from off / on street parking”. The target for this metric in 2012/13 was £10,617 million; the target for 2013/14 is £11,322 million. What was the actual outcome for 2012/13? How is this target, CRP 44, used to run the business?

#### **Reply**

The outturn for 2012/13 was £11,047K against the estimate of £10,617K.

CRP44 is not a target but an estimate of the income we might expect to receive from the various sources of parking income. It is used to inform budgetary control but is not used as a target to drive performance. The operational function of the Parking

## Councillor non-priority questions

Services is to manage the demand for parking spaces through the level of pay and display tariffs and ensuring greater compliance of regulations by the motorist to reduce traffic congestion and improve traffic flow across the borough. Given that this estimate is for a significant revenue sum it is reported as part of a suite of indicators to assist in monitoring financial risk.

For 2013/14 the estimate increased to £11,322K as a result of service developments including the introduction of the enforcement of Moving traffic offences in response to the high level of resident concerns about congestion, but this estimate will clearly not be reached if, as hoped, motorists comply with traffic regulations.

### **67 From Councillor Suzanne Grocott to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

In the response eventually received to the urgent question raised at the Council meeting on 20 November 2013, Other Purchases of Supplies and Services has increased from £17.3million in 2010/11 to £58.9million in 2012/13. If Consultants expenditure has remained broadly flat over that period, what are the 3 main reasons for such a dramatic increase in costs over this period?

#### **Reply**

In hindsight, the £17.3 million figure entered into the Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) return was understated. To mirror information entered on the WGA for 2011/12 and 2012/13 the figure should be increased to £62.7 million (with contra entries being made to recharges and external receipts).

The closing process for 2010/11 was the first time the Authority had to prepare its accounts in the International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) and produce a complete set of Whole of Government Accounts. Given the specialist nature of closing, the decision was taken to cover the additional workload within the existing team. Officers spent time reviewing the outcome of the 2010/11 closing process and the lessons learned have been built into subsequent closing programmes.

Guidance and processes now correctly reflect the requirements of IFRS and WGA and regular liaison meetings and training ensure best practice is embedded within the organisation.

### **68 From Councillor Suzanne Grocott to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

Over the 3 years from 2010-11 to 2012-13, £11million has been spent on redundancies, but overall headcount (excluding teachers) has only decreased by around 250 heads. How many employees have been paid redundancy over this period of time on which £11million has been spent?

#### **Reply**

The question refers to the information provided in the table below, where the three years of redundancy related expenses total £10.959 million

**Breakdown of Employee Costs P12**

<b>Breakdown of employee costs</b>	<b>2010-11 £000s</b>	<b>2011-12 £000s</b>	<b>2012-13 £000s</b>
Payroll	78,586	74,669	72,926
Agency	10,850	9,749	11,820
Redundancy	3,334	4,836	2,789
Other	3,650	1,977	2,147
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,421</b>	<b>91,232</b>	<b>89,682</b>

In answering this question officers have focussed on analysing the spend in 2012/13.

The £2.789m from the table below is derived from the total expenditure relating to pensions. However, this includes so called “added years” payments when the cost of early years pensions was spread over a five year period. This is no longer the case. This expenditure should be excluded from the figures and the figure should be reduced to £0.935 million as quoted in our statement of accounts.

The table below provided summary redundancy information for a total 374 staff as quoted in our statement of accounts at a cost of £5.889m over the three year period.

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Total Spend £</b>	<b>Numbers Made Redundant</b>	<b>Average Cost £</b>
2012/13	935,373	91	10,279
2011/12	3,484,872	189	18,438
2010/11	1,469,154	94	15,629

**69 From Councillor David Dean to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

Before any allocations to reserves that were made throughout the financial year, what has been Merton Council’s surplus for each of the years 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 (forecast)?

**Reply**

There was a total underspend of £12.133m in 2010/11, a total underspend of £11.001m in 2011/12 and a total underspend £12.917m in 2012/13. Of these totals, £5.563m relates to schools and their use is agreed by the Schools Forum. Based on November 2013 monitoring information, it is forecast that there will be a net underspend of £4.824m in 2013/14.

**70 From Councillor David Dean to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

After allocation to ear-marked reserves, what has been Merton Council's allocation to General Fund Reserves for each of the years 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 (forecast)?

**Reply**

I am able to provide figures for the past six financial years, as well as an estimate for the current financial year. It may be helpful to a greater understanding to note that in the three years prior to April 2010 the average allocation to General Fund Reserves was £1.883m, compared to an average of £1.178m in the three years since April 2010. This indicates that allocations were more than 50% higher in the last three years of the previous administration than they have been in the first three years of the current one.

	Opening Balance £m	Transfers to/from(-) GF balances £m	Closing balance £m
2007/08	9.657	3.375	13.032
2008/09	13.032	1.940	14.972
2009/10	14.972	0.333	15.305
2010/11	15.305	-1.082	14.223
2011/12	14.223	-0.591	13.632
2012/13	13.632	5.206	18.838
2013/14 Estimate	18.838	0	18.838

Up to 2011/12 the General Fund balance and the HRA balance have been aggregated to ensure comparison on a like for like basis.

**71 From Councillor David Dean to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

Please list Merton Council's individual allocations to ear-marked reserves for each of the years 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 (forecast)?

**Reply**

I am able to provide figures for the past five financial years, as well as an estimate for the current financial year. It may be helpful to a greater understanding to note that in the two years prior to April 2010 the average allocation to ear-marked reserves was £5.91m, compared to an estimated average of £4.679m in the four years since April 2010. This indicates that allocations were more than 25% higher in the last two years of the previous administration than they have been throughout the current one.

The table below provides more detail:



Councillor non-priority questions

	<b>2008/09</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>Estimate</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>2013/14</b>
						<b>£'000</b>
Outstanding Council Programme Board Reserve	2,373	206	1,782	2,462	2,086	-1,218
Schools PFI Fund	459	618	-275	29	-125	304
Budget Funding Gap	0	0	0	2,052	7,700	-1,500
Revenue Reserves for Capital	0	2,453	1,822	2,016	-2,022	-1,650
Insurance Reserve	1,510	1,275	-368	-463	0	0
DSG Reserve	-929	308	1,880	-787	668	-523
Performance Reward Grant	0	0	1,192	464	-1,005	-385
Community Care Reserve	35	541	420	0	0	755
VAT Reserve	0	1,752	-1,752	0	0	0
LABGI Reserve	0	-1,106	-863	0	0	0
Schools Reserve	323	250	-17	-41	545	-66
Local Land Charges Reserve	0	102	307	441	225	170
Merton Business investment Fund	7	-8	-339	0	0	0
Schools single status	-428	0	-304	0	0	0
Waste & Recycling Reserve	0	0	-225	0	0	0
ICES Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Used or eliminated reserves	0	0	6,918	-5,681	-1,237	0
E&R Partnerships	207	-12	-195	0	0	0
Facilities Reserve	0	-30	-170	0	0	0
Sixth Form Reserve	281	250	-531	0	0	0
Wimbledon tennis courts Renewal Fund	50	25	-75	0	0	53
Section 117	841	-741	-100	0	0	0
Chief Executives Reserves	46	92	-138	0	0	0
Permanently Excluded Pupils	-399	0	0	0	0	0
Agency Staff	-100	0	0	0	0	0
Single Status	-1,479	0	0	0	0	0
Audit and Support Reserve	0	136	-136	0	0	0
Other	-56	-158	456	0	-338	-333
IFRS Earmarked Reserves	2,419	707	483	1,192	591	-238
Repairs and Renewals	0	0	0	2,000	-576	0
Apprenticeships Reserve	0	0	0	1,500	-500	-85
Pensions Fund Early retirement	0	0	0	1,250	-172	-1,078
Renewable energy measures	0	0	0	841	600	0
Corporate Services Reserve	0	0	0	0	0	182
Transforming Families reserve	0	0	0	0	1,318	-508
Economic Development Strategy	0	0	0	339	284	-594
Merton Action Single Homelessness	0	0	0	0	0	11
	<b>5,160</b>	<b>6,660</b>	<b>9,772</b>	<b>7,614</b>	<b>8,042</b>	<b>-6,714</b>

**72 From Councillor David Dean to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

What has been Merton Council's gross and net debt at year end for each of the years 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 (forecast)? [Please show workings for net debt calculations.]

**Reply**

Debt includes both long and short term debt.

PFI and finance leases were required to be included in the council's balance sheet as debt from 2010/11.

	Actual 2010/11 £	Actual 2011/12 £'m	Actual 2012/13 £'m	Estimate 2013/14 £'m
External Debt at 1 April (long and short term debt)	131,239	151,200	125,039	124,976
Expected change in Debt (includes long and short term )	19,961	-26,161	-63	-8,000
<b>Closing Balance Debt</b>	<b>151,200</b>	<b>125,039</b>	<b>124,976</b>	<b>116,976</b>
PFI Balance B/f	40,424	39,177	38,125	37,287
PFI in year movement	1,247	1,052	839	1,071
<b>Closing Balance PFI</b>	<b>39,177</b>	<b>38,125</b>	<b>37,287</b>	<b>36,216</b>
Leasing Balance B/f	2,537	1,269	855	615
Leasing in year movement	1,043	414	240	115
<b>Closing Balance Leasing</b>	<b>1,494</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>501</b>
<b>Total Other Long Term Liabilities</b>	<b>40,671</b>	<b>38,980</b>	<b>37,902</b>	<b>36,717</b>

**GROSS DEBT**                      **191,871**    **164,019**    **162,878**    **153,693**

Investments                      -86,000    -57,000    -67,470    -75,000

<b>Debt without other long term liabilities (PFI and finance leases)</b>	151,200	125,039	124,976	116,976
Investments	-86,000	-57,000	-67,470	-75,000
<b>Net Debt without other long term liabilities</b>	<b>65,200</b>	<b>68,039</b>	<b>57,506</b>	<b>41,976</b>

<b>Gross Debt</b>	191,871	164,019	162,878	153,693
Investments	-86,000	-57,000	-67,470	-75,000
<b>Net Debt</b>	<b>105,871</b>	<b>107,019</b>	<b>95,408</b>	<b>78,693</b>

**74 From Councillor David Dean to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

What has been the actual gross expenditure of Merton Council for each of the years 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 (forecast)?

**Reply**

As has been explained in previous questions here is not a simple definition of Council Expenditure on which trends can be compared. There are 2 major items of expenditure that pass through the council and are full reimbursed by central government, dedicated schools grant and housing benefit. Prior to 2013/14 council tax benefit also passed through the councils books.as expenditure with grant income to fund it. It is now shown as a reduction in council tax income and a un earmarked grant. This will reduce the notional headline expenditure but at the same time increase the real cost to the council as government support has been cut.

The table below shows the gross expenditure as per the councils published accounts. It should be noted that this contains a variety of technical adjustments that are reversed out below the line. The major items include the notional property transactions from the disposal of the housing stock, changes in the valuation of future pension increases and other property adjustments. A 2013/14 figure will not be available until the closure of the accounts in June as it requires complex property valuations to be undertaken which are only completed at year end. The table shows spending gross of the HRA and net of it as the HRA was closed on stock transfer in 2009/10. The large expenditure on the HRA in 2009/10 represents the writing out of the transferred stock.

<b>Actual Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>2006/7 £'000</b>	<b>2007/8 £'000</b>	<b>2008/9 £'000</b>	<b>2009/10 £'000</b>	<b>2010/11 £'000</b>	<b>2011/12 £'000</b>	<b>2012/13 £'000</b>	<b>2013/14 £'000</b>
Gross Expenditure	458,323	474,524	559,840	967,125	407,535	482,453	472,414	N/A
Less Housing Revenue Account	-29,415	-42,531	-47,928	-452,558	<b>Discontinued</b>			
Gross Expenditure exc. HRA	428,908	431,993	511,912	514,567	407,535	482,453	472,414	N/A

**75 From Councillor David Dean to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

What has been the actual total gross expenditure on employees for each of the years 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 (forecast)? [Please provide breakdown into salary, benefits, pension, other and identify teaching staff (teachers, assistants and managers) separately from other staff.]

**Reply**

## Councillor non-priority questions

The accounting system does not provide a breakdown of teaching/non teaching staff in the manner requested. The table below shows the employee costs included in the published accounts/WGA return for 2010/11 to 2012/13. This includes the consolidation of school based staff. The exercise is not carried out until year end when the accounts are prepared as the council has no budget or operational control of schools. During the year schools based spending is monitored via the allocations of dedicated schools grant which they receive. The major factor in the changes in staff spending are the increases in school spending to deal with increased pupil numbers

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
School Salaries	75,470	79,266	93,769	N/A
Other Salaries	94,641	86,188	86,845	
<b>Total Salaries</b>	<b>170,111</b>	<b>165,454</b>	<b>180,614</b>	

### 76 From Councillor David Dean to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

What were the actual employee FTE and headcount figures at the start of each of the years 2010/11, 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14 (forecast)? [Please provide breakdown for teaching staff (teachers, assistants and managers) and separate breakdown for permanent staff, temporary staff, consultants and agency staff. Please also provide number of vacant positions for each year.]

#### Reply

It should be noted that due to issues with their IT systems HR have been unable to fully extract the data to answer this question. The data available is shown below

	Merton Headcount	Merton FTE	Teachers Headcount	Teachers FTE
April 2010 (Average)	6193	4,009.40	Not Available	Not Available
April 2011 (Average)	6207	3,997.36	Not Available	Not Available
1st April 2012	6069	3,927.50	1307	1,069.85
1st April 2013	6345	4043.53	1330	1077.33

#### Agency Workers Headcount

April 2010	Not Available
April 2011	541
April 2012	412
April 2013	363

## Councillor non-priority questions

### Notes:

- 1) The reason for the increase in staffing between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 and 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 is due to the TUPE transfer of staff in to the Council's employment as a result of (i) the four-borough South West London shared legal service led by Merton and (ii) the transfer of public health staff. Without those changes, headcount would have fallen.
- 2) Given data extraction limitations from IT systems that are no longer used, HR have not been able to provide data about teachers for 2010 and 2011
- 3) An exercise is being conducted currently to centralise records about the engagement of consultants however this exercise is not yet fully complete
- 4) HR have not been able to extract vacancy data for specific historic dates from IT systems

### **22 From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration**

What is the current residency period before people can get access to social housing in Merton? Does he feel social housing is allocated fairly in Merton?

#### **Reply**

Currently people who do not live in Merton are denied access to the housing register and those who have not lived in Merton for one year are not considered for an offer of social housing. The Council's approach to the selection of prospective tenants for vacant housing association homes is considered fair. By fair, it is meant an approach based on housing need, that does not discriminate against a particular need or equality group, that is compliant with legislation and associated government guidance and is based on the real world and housing choices that are available for people. The Council's housing allocations policy is kept under regular review to ensure that it remains fair as defined in this way.

### **44 From Councillor Logie Lohendran to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health:**

Can the Cabinet Member please tell me how much training the Merton Police have in dealing with Mental Health? If they do not have any training, please let me know when this training will be in place.

#### **Reply**

The Metropolitan Police currently have basic mental health training provide by their own central operations.

In addition, the Mental Health Team has provided training for the neighbourhood teams in Merton. This took place in 2011, and may be repeated in 2014.

**47 From Councillor Ray Tindle to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health**

Could the Cabinet Member update me as to when work will begin on a Local Care Centre in Mitcham?

**Reply**

There have been delays over time in progressing the local care centre in Mitcham for a range of reasons, including organisational changes in the NHS. Whilst it is Merton Clinical Commissioning Group who lead and are in control of this process, the council has been working closely with the CCG to support looking at options for a local care centre for Mitcham. This work has included a revised needs assessment, a site appraisal, and reviewing what services might best be located in any such centre. The work will include developing a model of delivery appropriate for the health needs in East Merton. The Health and Wellbeing Board is sighted on this work and monitoring progress. A task and finish group is being established to take the work forward.

**48 From Councillor Simon Withey to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health**

Could the Cabinet Member update me on the progress of the Nelson Local Care Centre as I understand it is ahead of schedule? Could she confirm the completion timetable and the proposed opening date for when residents will be able to avail themselves of these new facilities?

**Reply**

The construction of the Nelson Local Care Centre is due for completion mid January 2015 at which stage the NHS will complete the commissioning phase. This will involve the installation and testing of clinical equipment, the receipt and placing of furniture, staff familiarisation and the actual physical move of services from their current locations into the new facility. It is anticipated that the Nelson LCC will be ready to accept patients in April 2015.

On the issue of being ahead of schedule, this was indeed the case until the recent bad weather which now means that the project is back on its original programme.