

# Public Document Pack

Councillors non-priority questions and answers

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## **NON-PRIORITY QUESTIONS**

### **1. From Iain Dysart to the Cabinet Member for Education**

Does he agree with me that opening a new school using temporary accommodation out of necessity because a permanent site has not been confirmed by the Department of Education is far from ideal?

#### **Reply**

I think it's deeply regrettable that the Department of Education have yet to find a site - thus creating a great deal of uncertainty for many parents in choosing their school, and for Merton in planning school places. As an administration, we believe that permanent solutions are the best way forward and have strived to achieve this with our over £80m school expansion programme which has seen 2,000 additional school places provided since 2010. It's a shame that the Department of Education haven't followed the Merton Way.

### **2. From Councillor Janice Howard to the Cabinet Member for Community and Culture**

How many high earners (£100,000 and above per year) currently occupy social housing in Merton?

#### **Reply**

As a non-stock owning Council, this data is not collected and furthermore there is no statutory requirement for social housing tenants to disclose this information to their landlords.

### **3. From Councillor Logie Lohendran to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services:**

With the increase in Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) cases reported across England recently, can the Cabinet Member let me know how many cases have been reported to Children's Services in Merton in each of the last 3 years? If there are increasing numbers of cases, what plans has the council put in place to stop this practice?

#### **Reply**

There have been no cases of FGM referred to children's social care service over the last three years. Pan-London procedures exist for responding to concerns about FGM and in line with the raised profile about this practice nationally, Merton's Local Safeguarding Children's Board has established a multi-agency 'task and finish' group to review and redefine local protocols which will be widely publicised and supported by multi-agency training.

#### 4. From Councillor Maurice Groves to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health:

Can the Cabinet member tell me how the life expectancy of residents in Mitcham and Morden has changed over the last 4 years?

#### Reply

Life expectancy is the average number of years a person can expect to live, if in the future they experience the current age-specific mortality rates in the population<sup>[1]</sup>. In general male life expectancy at birth is lower than female life expectancy in developed countries, and this is specifically so in the UK. Life expectancy takes time to change and over such a short time interval as four years, unless there was a major and dramatic reason for people dying in large numbers, such as a natural disaster or a life threatening epidemic, the life expectancy would not change significantly. Health improvements take time to create such a large impact that life expectancy changes significantly. Overall in Merton the average life expectancy at birth in males and females are as follows (these are three 3 year rolling averages):

Life expectancy at birth in Merton	2008-10	2009-11	2010-12
Males	80.0	80.4	80.2
Females	83.8	84.0	84.2

Source: Office for National Statistics <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcn%3A77-326676>

The table shows the number of years male and female residents are expected to live from birth in Merton. It can be seen from the table that overall over the last four years, life expectancy has remained relatively stable, with small increases in females, while in males remaining at the 80 year mark.

The Cllr has requested the data for the last four years, 2010-2014. However this is not available as life expectancy data is best reported as rolling averages. This helps to even out any inconsistencies and reflects long-term trends better. In terms of life expectancy, yearly data is not useful as it is unlikely that it will change much by year.

The attached spread sheet breaks down the average life expectancy (LE) in males and females in five year rolling averages from 2002 to 2010 by ward. The red line denotes the female life expectancy and the blue line the male life expectancy at birth. In general the LE in females is higher than males in all wards except Lavender Fields and West Barnes. In Lavender Fields it dipped slightly in females over 2004-08 and 2005-09 and increased in males over the same period, after which both were similar and rose at the same rate. In West Barnes too the female LE dipped and in fact fell beneath that of males, which

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<sup>[1]</sup> World Health Organisation (WHO) definition [http://www.who.int/topics/life\\_expectancy/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/life_expectancy/en/)

rose at the same time. It can be seen from the graphs that in some wards the gap in female and male LE is greater and in some it is even widening, and in some it is very narrow.

**5. From Councillor Suzanne Grocott to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health:**

Can the Cabinet Member tell me what the forecast outturn as at the end of March 2014 is expected to be for Adult Social Care?

**Reply**

As predicted at the end of February 2014, there was a forecast overspend of £1.13m on adult social care placement for the year 2013-14, however this was off set by additional NHS social care income allocation of £2.67m which could not have been predicted at the time the budget was set and which cannot be relied on for next year. As a result of this additional income there is expected to be an underspend of £1.54m.

**6. 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.

**7. 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.

### **8. From Councillor Iain Dysart to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health**

Whilst acknowledging that it is an internal matter, does she share my view that all future proposals and decisions of local Clinical Commissioning Groups regarding local hospital service provision should be taken by secret ballot?

## **Reply**

Proposals and decisions are taken by CCG Governing Bodies. In my view it is important that such decisions are taken in public and that it is transparent which way members of the Governing Body have voted.

### **9. From Councillor Iain Dysart to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health**

Could she outline what Merton is doing; in its own right as well as with partners to educate residents on the health effects of tobacco, alcohol and other drug dependencies?

## **Reply**

Merton Council's Public Health team has commissioned a specialised stop smoking service, which operates under the LiveWell banner. Between April 2013 and December 2014 LiveWell has successfully supported 307 Merton residents to stop smoking.

As part of the approach to training front line workers in health messages, Public Health have trained all Fire Fighters who work in Merton (just under 100) to stop smoking level one so that they can encourage residents to stop smoking as part of their home fire safety visits. Plans are also under way to train library and Merton Adult Education staff to a similar level.

LBM has also signed the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control, which aims to ensure tobacco control is part of mainstream public health work

and was developed in response to the enormous and on-going damage smoking does to our communities. It is a commitment to take action and a statement about a local authority's dedication to protecting their local community from the harm caused by smoking.

With regards to alcohol and drug dependencies, an integrated substance misuse service has been commissioned that delivers treatment (see question 12) but also has a role in prevention. The service currently provides advice, information, education and training to potential service users, family members and professionals.

**10. From Councillor Suzanne Evans to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health**

How many adults are enrolled on English as a Second Language courses and at what cost?

**Reply**

**Response by the Cabinet Member for Education**

Merton Adult Education has provided ESOL learning for 530 learners in the current academic year 2013/14. This is funded by the Skills Funding Agency (£150,000) and by the learners themselves (£33,708).

**11. From Councillor Suzanne Evans to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health**

Hillside ward has the second highest rates of binge drinking in the borough. What is being done to reduce the problem in the ward?

**Reply**

Public Health has recently commissioned a programme of Identification and Brief Advice (IBA) that will help residents check if they are drinking at levels which may put their health at risk in the future. Innovatively, this will involve the use of scratch cards that can be used quickly and will be rolled out shortly through a number of settings including GP practices, pharmacies and workplaces. Ultimately this programme will help residents understand how they interact with alcohol, the damage that it does to health and support them to access appropriate support or treatment services.

**12. From Councillor Suzanne Evans to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health**

How many Merton residents who are drug addicts are in treatment programmes at present and at what cost? How many drug addicts have been declared 'clean' since finishing treatment within the last five years?

**Reply**

There are currently 406 residents in treatment programmes and the annual cost for the integrated drug and alcohol treatment service is £1.3 million.

We are unable to provide information on treatment completers over the last five years, as the Public Health England National Drug Treatment data measures the number of completions without representation, as a percentage of all clients in treatment over a rolling 12 month period.

Over the last 12 month rolling period there have been 31 completions out of 250 clients in treatment for Opiate users and 94 completions out of 176 clients in treatment for Non Opiate Users.

**13. From Councillor Suzanne Evans to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health**

Does the Council or CCG or other health partners recommend addicts use the services of programmes such as Alcoholics/Narcotics/Cocaine/Overeaters/Gamblers Anonymous for self-help treatment? If not, why not?

**Reply**

Yes, these programmes are recommended locally. These are not funded locally, and are by definition “anonymous” and so we do not have attendance or performance information.

**14. From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Community and Culture:**

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.

**15. From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Community and Culture:**

How many people with ‘no recourse to public funds’ has the Council housed (either on a temporary or permanent basis) since 2010?



## **Reply**

People with no recourse to public funds are not eligible for housing assistance either through the Councils housing register or as homeless. Accordingly no accommodation on either a temporary or permanent basis has been provided to no recourse to public fund cases by the housing service. However in certain circumstances some people with no recourse to public funds will be entitled to assistance by social care under the provisions of the National Assistance Act 1948 and the Children's Act 1989. Any such assistance will be for temporary support only and does not include the provision of permanent accommodation. In the case of Adult Social care numbers are historically low with support for 10 cases in 2010/11, 5 cases in 2011/12, 6 cases in 2012/13 and 6 cases in 2013/14. Support to no recourse to public fund cases from Children's social care has also been historically low and any support with accommodation is always on a temporary basis. For the period 2013/14 25 families received support which included a housing element, but on a temporary basis only. It is not possible to distinguish numbers in earlier years. This is a complex area of law and takes regards to relevant social care legislation and associated case law and guidance. The Council takes a firm but fair approach to meeting the needs of no recourse to public fund cases recognising that the welfare of dependant children remains a priority in the discharge of the Councils Children's Act duties.

### **16. From Councillor Suzanne Evans to the Cabinet Member for Community and Culture:**

How many empty homes are there currently in Merton? How many were on the same list at 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013?

## **Reply**

Records from Council Tax tell us that there are 1,226 empty homes in the borough. Of these 202 have been empty for over two years. This is a tiny percentage of the roughly 80,000 households in the borough.

Empty properties can be broken into two groups: those which are short term empty properties and those which are long term empty properties. Short term empty homes are often transitional properties that require very limited interventions if any at all, in contrast to long term properties which have been empty for over two years, which may require more detailed assessments as to their future use.

It's entirely legal for an owner to keep a property empty as long as it's in good external repair, although this administration has abolished the empty homes council tax discount previously applied to furnished empty properties. We hope this will encourage owners to bring their properties back into use.

**20. From Councillor David Williams to the 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 recent 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.

**21. From Councillor Diane Neil Mills to the 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)?

- a. Commercial waste collection
- b. Translation services (internal and external)
- c. Pest control
- d. Parking and traffic control (pay and display, PCNs, resident permits, visitor permits, business permits)
- e. Building control
- f. Development control (application fees, pre-app meetings, certifications)
- g. Adult education (course fees)
- h. 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.

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%.
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.

## **22. From Councillor Diane Neil Mills to the 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 Wandle 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.

## **23. From Councillor Suzanne Grocott to the 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.

**24. From Councillor Suzanne Grocott to the 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.

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

**25. From Councillor David Dean to the 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.

**26. From Councillor David Dean to the 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:

	2008/09 £'000	2009/10 £'000	2010/11 £'000	2011/12 £'000	2012/13 £'000	Estimate 2013/14 £'000
Outstanding Council Programme Board	2,373	206	1,782	2,462	2,086	-1,218

Reserve						
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 Homlessness	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>

## 27. From Councillor David Dean to the 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</b> (PFI and finance leases)	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>

### 28. From Councillor David Dean to the 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</b>	<b>2007/8</b>	<b>2008/9</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>	<b>2012/13</b>	<b>2013/14</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'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

### 29. From Councillor David Dean to the 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

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>	

### 30. From Councillor David Dean to the 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

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

**32. From Cllr Suzanne Evans to the 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.

**34. From Councillor Suzanne Evans to the Cabinet Member for Finance:**

How many people does Merton Council have on 'standby' for casual work, and how many of these are retained on a 'zero hours' contract?

**Reply**

The Council does not employ any casual employees who are obliged to be available on standby to work for the Council. All casual employees are able to turn down work and to work for other employers.

**56. From Councillor David Dean to the 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.

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

Local sports clubs and schools will often wish to make mass bookings of the council's sports pitches all in one go for several months ahead. There have however been complaints from some sports clubs about the changes to Merton's online booking system for pitches, which will not now accept BACS or direct online payment meaning that club members and parents often have to pay large amounts of money out of their own pocket and then reclaim the booking fees from their club or school.

What will the Cabinet Member do to ensure greater flexibility in paying for mass bookings in order to make the system more user friendly and less time consuming for sports clubs and schools?

**Reply**

The roll-out of any new IT system will always have its challenges and the new online booking and payment system is no exception. But I am pleased to say that we have been working through solutions with those clubs and sports that need to make large volumes of bookings and where payment upfront is required in order for the club to benefit from VAT relief of a 20% reduction on their costs. We have been identifying how we can best do this within the Customs & Excise Rules and Regulations. We have also sought clarification from Customs & Excise on the application of their rules and we will be working with our IT supplier to improve the system so that staged payments in advance can be made in the future. This will take a time still to establish, but in the meantime we are dealing with issues with individual clubs and organisations as they arise.

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

There is £11million that was set aside by the previous Conservative administration for the replacement of Morden Park Pool. Now that residents are finally being consulted on a new pool, can the Cabinet Member provide a breakdown of how it is proposed this funding will be spent and how much is currently envisaged for the actual build cost?

**Reply**

Sadly the previous Conservative administration failed to replace Morden Pool during all of their time in office. Their plans were unrealistic and depended on the availability of private funding which was not forthcoming. In contrast this administration, through good financial management, has been able to put forward an affordable and deliverable plan to replace the pool with a new family leisure centre. A public consultation is currently underway where we are asking residents to choose what facilities they would like to see included in the new leisure centre within a capital build cost of £10m. We are basing the consultation on Sport England's Low Cost Build Options which start from the provision of a 6 lane 25m pool, 4 badminton court sports hall, 100 station gym; dry and wet changing areas including school changing rooms and 2 studios. The cost of this Sport England option is £8.5m. We are asking the public if this is a good base to start from and what would they prioritise to be added in for a total cost of £10m. We have prudently set aside £1m for dealing with demolition of the existing facility, dealing with any abnormal ground conditions, planning and all the design phases. The total cost of this project is being developed against a total budget of £11m.

**38. From Councillor Henry Nelles to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Cleanliness and Parking:**

I understand that when the council finally gets round to introducing contactless payment for parking in Merton, it will cost residents and visitors more than if they were to pay by cash. Can the Cabinet member tell me why the Labour administration is again hitting Merton's motorists with extra charges?

## **Reply**

We are introducing a cashless service because many residents and other stakeholders have requested it and the need for this option was highlighted by residents as part of the review of town centre parking in 2012.

Motorists will have the choice of using the cashless system or the existing ticket machines. If they opt to use the new service they will pay a small additional fee on top of the parking charge. This fee does not go to the council – it goes directly to the service provider to cover the costs of providing the cashless payment option. The council is not spending any money on implementing this service, and we do not expect to raise any revenue from it.

The majority of London Boroughs operate the same payment model (i.e. where the customer pays the transaction fee rather than the Council paying for the service) and we believe that motorists will be familiar with this system and will welcome the introduction of a new payment method.

Motorists will no longer have to use the correct change to pay for their parking and will be able to extend their parking (up to the maximum stay) without returning to their vehicle. They will also be able to receive a text message or email to remind them when their parking session is due to expire.

If we were to deliver the service at no cost to motorists we would have to cover the cost ourselves - this would cost the Council at least £60,000 p.a. with no return on the investment, money that would need to be cut from other areas of the council's budget.

### **39. From Councillor Henry Nelless to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

A number of residents have contacted me to say that they have been surprised by the arrival, or removal, of a tree outside or near their property without any notification. It appears that the council does not have a policy of notifying nearby residents of these impending works.

Will the Cabinet Member please consider changing the council's policy when it comes to the proposed planting, or removal, of a tree by providing residents in the vicinity with some notice that works are going to happen and a contact point if they have any queries?

## **Reply**

The Council plants trees on the highway under the following circumstances:

- a) To replace deceased or damaged trees in existing vacant tree pits.
- b) New trees as part of a project/initiative to enhance the local environment, increase canopy cover in the borough and meet the objectives of regional and local policies

In the first instance the trees are replaced like for like with no consultation with residents. In most cases the Council is asked by residents of the road to replace the missing tree and it is not considered necessary to undertake any consultation.

Where new trees are proposed residents are advised that a new tree is proposed and given an opportunity to comment. However there have been recent occasions where unfortunately the new tree pits have been provided in advance of residents receiving the information letter. This occurred when unexpected delays occurred in a scheduled tree planting in Mitcham so the contractors moved onto Vineyard Hill Road in advance of schedule. The Council is reviewing this process to ensure that residents are given an opportunity to comment before a new tree is planted on the public highway.

**40. From Councillor Janice Howard to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

How much does the Council hope to get from the government for the repair of pot holes in the borough following the Chancellor's recent budget announcement of a new £200million government fund?

**Reply**

The DfT has asked all Local Authorities to identify roads damaged by the recent prolonged period of severe weather and to estimate the cost of this damage. In Merton this cost is estimated at £423,000. The Council is yet to receive confirmation of any decision made by the Government

**41. From Councillor Debbie Shears to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Could the Cabinet Member please tell me when the decision was taken to stop installing wooden posts, as relayed by council officers, to prevent damage to Cannon Hill Ward's grass verges?

**Reply**

A reduction in maintenance budget to meet saving targets has led to a need to target stretched maintenance budget for urgent and essential repairs. The Council will also balance the need to install new posts to prevent parking and preserve grass verges against the cost of on-going maintenance to replace grass verges when making a decision to install new posts.

**42. From Councillor Suzanne Grocott to the Cabinet Member for Finance:**

Will the Cabinet Member join me in welcoming the help being given to small businesses in Merton by this Government, including a £1,000 business rates discount for small retailers with a rateable value up to £50,000 which forms part of a raft of measures to help local high streets, as announced by the

Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Autumn Statement and funded by the Government to the tune of £1 billion nationwide in 2014-15?

### **Reply**

The Cabinet welcomes any initiatives that help to support small businesses across the borough. Since the announcement, the business rates team have actively promoted the scheme to Merton businesses and have already granted the relief to 746 businesses without requesting an application. The team have also written to a further 226 retailers to try to identify if they qualify and will continue to promote the offer to eligible businesses. This initiative sits alongside the council's own £2m business support package introduced by Cabinet on 22nd October 2012, being delivered as part of the refreshed Economic Development Strategy.

### **43. 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 has now commenced.

### **44. 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.



**45. 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 council's 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 most recent delivery took 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.

**46. 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.

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.

**47. 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.

**48. 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 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.

**49. From Councillor Suzanne Grocott to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member tell me when the drains in Hartfield Road were last replaced?

**Reply**

Drains (I assume surface water drainage into the drainage system) fall under the responsibility of Thames Water. The council is responsible for the condition of gullies and ensuring that they adequately discharge into the surface water system managed by Thames Water.

**50. From Councillor Ray Tindle to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

On behalf of the Conservative councillors in Lower Morden, I would like to thank the Director for organising the residents' meeting, which took place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at the Civic Centre to discuss the Rapid ReadyMix problem in Garth Road.

Can the Cabinet Member update the Chamber on events relating to the prosecution of the company for breaches of their permitted activity and any developments relating to the canopy, which is central to this situation being resolved for local residents?

## **Reply**

Two provisional dates were booked for the court hearing for the breach of condition prosecution. Although yet to be confirmed for definite, the 8 April is assigned for the hearing although legal advice suggests that it is more likely to be heard on 6 May. The canopy structure has now been erected on site following delays due to the weather and is now awaiting panels to be installed in the next two weeks.

### **51. 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.

### **52. From Councillor Suzanne Evans to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health**

How many smokers have been caught discarding cigarette butts in the borough in total and how many of that total have been referred into stop smoking programmes?

## **Reply**

We have issued 231 FPNs under Section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (for litter offences) since 1st April 2013.

We do not keep records distinguishing the types of offences for which FPNs are issued.

Between April 2013 and December 2014 LiveWell has successfully supported 307 Merton residents to stop smoking. One participant had been subject to an FPN for cigarette butt littering.

### **53. From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

Can the Cabinet Member list which roads in Lower Morden, Ravensbury , Lavender Fields, St. Helier, Colliers Wood, Longthornton, Dundonald, Graveney , Merton Park, Figges Marsh , Pollards Hill, Trinity Ward , Wimbledon Park, Abbey Ward , Cannon Hill, Cricket Green , West Barnes,

Hillside , Raynes Park , Village Wards have been resurfaced in each year of this Council since 2010?

## Reply

### Lower Morden

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>			

### Ravensbury

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>			

## Lavender Fields

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>			

## St.Helier

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>			

## Colliers Wood

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>			

## Longthornton

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>			

## Dundonald

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>			

## Graveney

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
Goringe 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>			

## Merton Park

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
Leafield 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 - (Kingsgton 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>			

## Figges Marsh

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>			

## Pollards Hill

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>			



## Trinity

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>			

## Wimbledon Park

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

## Abbey

Road Name	Start Date	End Date	Ward
Pincott Road	27-01-2010	29-01-2010	Abbey
Bathhurst 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

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

### Cannon Hill

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>			

### Cricket Green

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>			

## West Barnes

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>			

## Hillside

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>			

## Raynes Park

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>			

## Village

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>			

### **54. From Councillor Richard Hilton to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement:**

What are the key achievements of the Safer Merton team this year? Please answer with reference to the annual crime rates year on year on a ward by ward basis.

#### **Reply**

The latest Safer Merton partnership plan will be on our website from the end of April and will highlight the work undertaken over the past year. The annual crime rates for Merton are available on the Met's Web site and this can be interrogated to show crime types and levels throughout all parts the borough.

### **55. From Councillor Suzanne Evans to the Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration:**

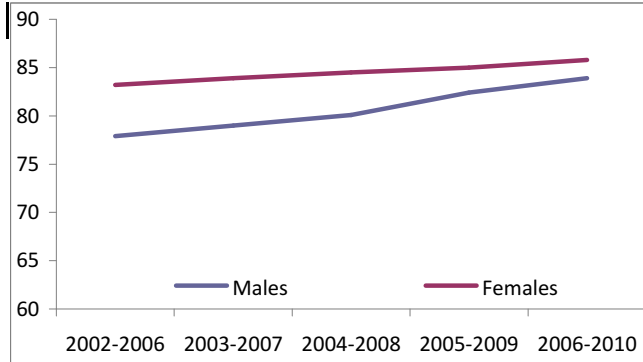
Has the Council bought or leased any new moving traffic enforcement vehicles since 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013?

#### **Reply**

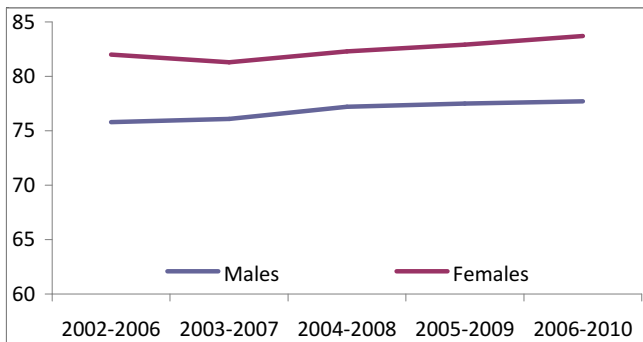
#### **Response by the Cabinet Member for Environmental Cleanliness and Parking**

No, the Council has not leased any mobile enforcement vehicles since 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

**Graveney**



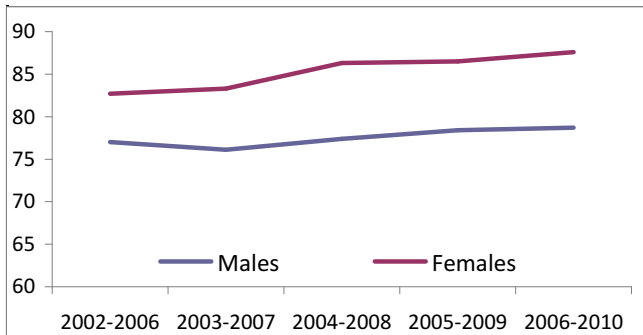
**Colliers Wood**



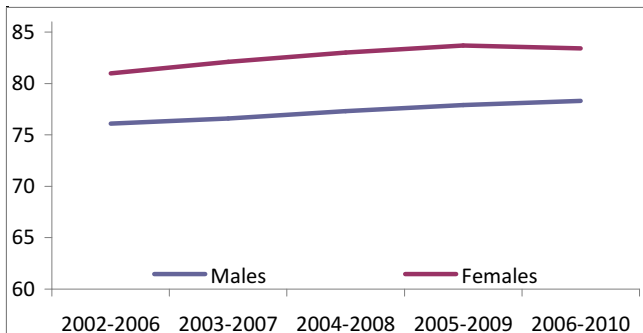
**Lavender Fields**



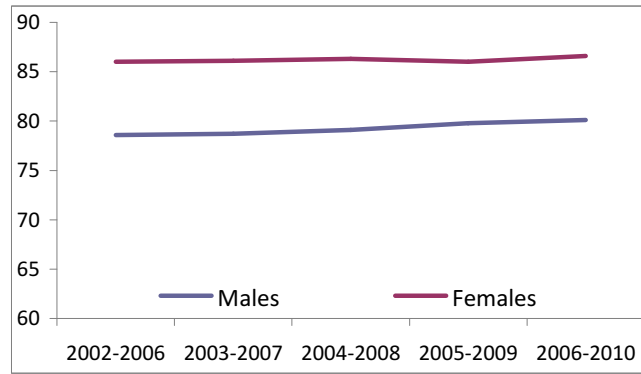
**Cricket Green**



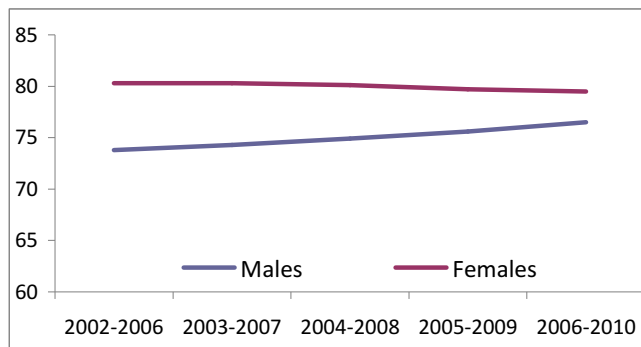
**Longthornton**



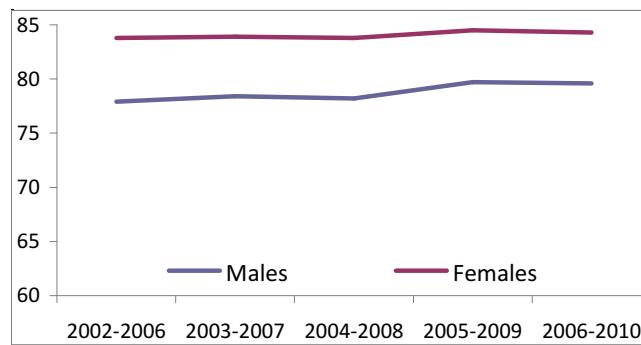
**Lower Morden**



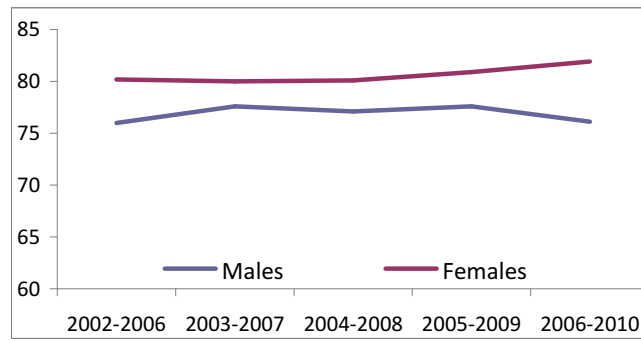
**Figges Marsh**



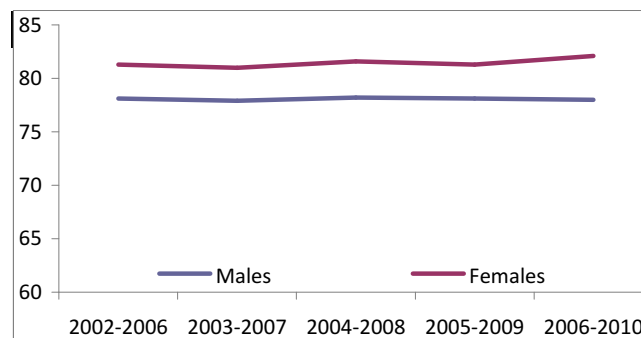
**Pollards Hill**



**Ravensbury**

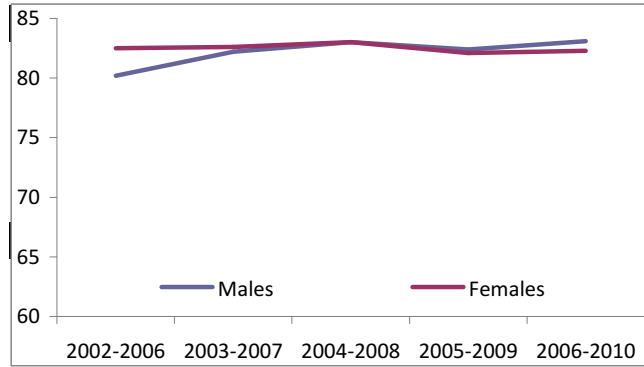


**St Helier**

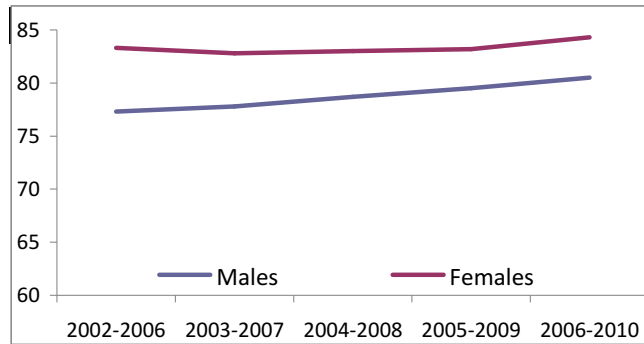


All titles - Life Expectancy Trends

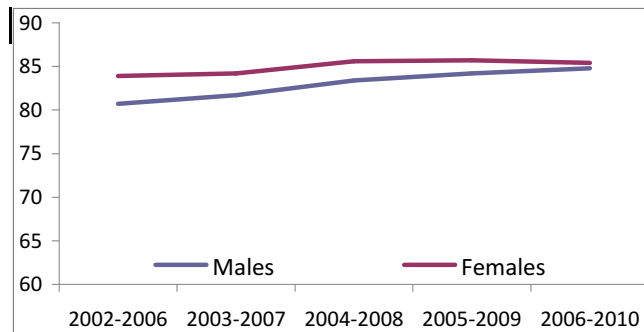
West Barnes



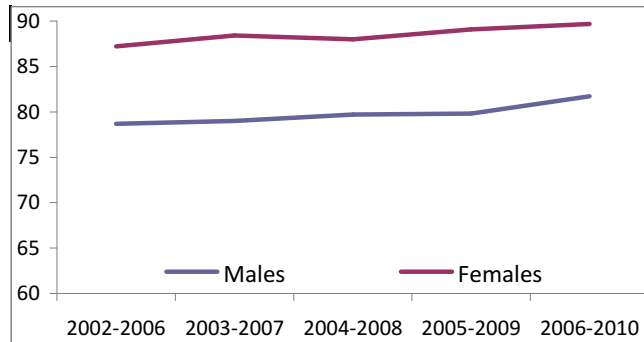
Cannon Hill



Wimbledon Park



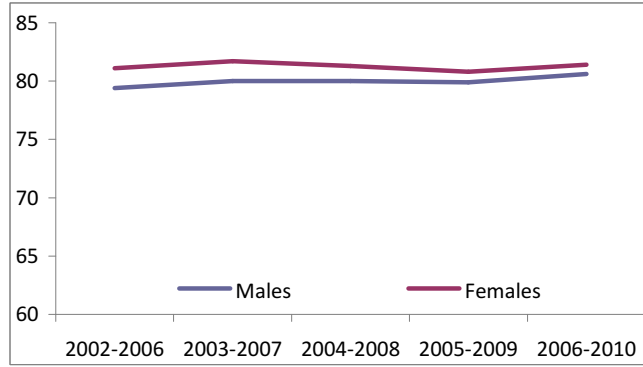
Dundonald



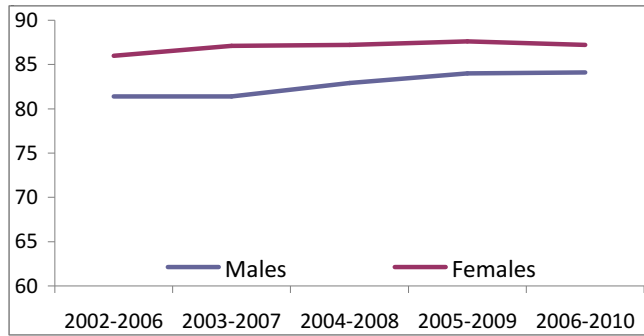
Hillside



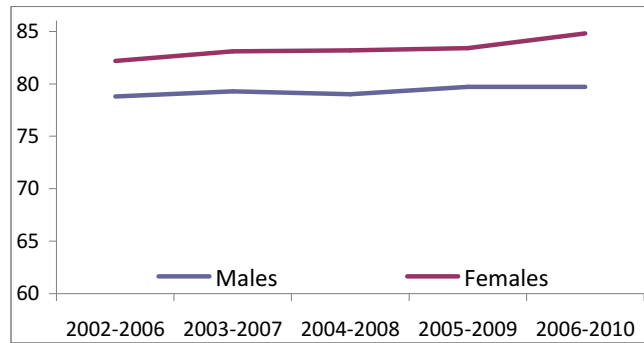
**Abbey**



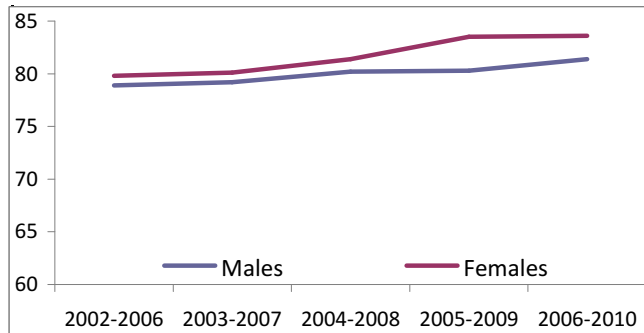
**Merton Park**



**Raynes Park**



**Trinity**



**Wimbledon Village**

