

# Merton Council

## Council meeting

### Membership

**The Mayor:** Councillor Agatha Mary Akyigyina

**The Deputy Mayor:** Councillor Laxmi Attawar

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

**Date: Wednesday 15 April 2015**

**Time: 7.15 pm**

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

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

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

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# Council meeting

## 15 April 2015

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**Note on declarations of interest**

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

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# Agenda Item 3

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

COUNCIL  
4 MARCH 2015  
(19.15 - 22.06)

PRESENT The Mayor of Merton, Councillor Agatha Mary Akyigyina,  
The Deputy Mayor of Merton, Councillor Laxmi Attawar

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

## 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

No apologies were received

## 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

No declarations were received

## 3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

## 4 BUSINESS PLAN 2015-2019 (Agenda Item 4)

The Mayor briefly explained procedure for this Budget Council meeting. She also reminded the Council that all Budget related decisions, including proposed amendments, were require to be recorded within the minutes with a list of the names of those who voted for or against the decision or who abstained from voting. To accommodate that, a 'Roll Call' would be used for each of the votes relating to the substantive budget motion or any amendments to it.

The Mayor invited the Director of Corporate Services to present the Business Plan 2015-19 to the Council. The Director of Corporate Services then responded to questions on the report from Councillors John Dehaney, Hamish Badenoch, Abigail Jones, Stephen Crowe, Peter Southgate, Peter McCabe, Brian Lewis-Lavender, Sally Kenny, David Simpson, Geraldine Stanford, Ian Munn, Janice Howard and Najeeb Latif respectively.

The Leader of the Council then addressed the Business Plan 2015-19. Councillor Stephen Alambritis moved the recommendations as detailed in the report whilst making his budget speech to Council. A copy of which is appended to the minutes as Appendix A.

Councillor Peter McCabe formally seconded the recommendations.

The Mayor then invited the oppositions Group Leaders in turn to respond to the Budget proposal and the Business Plan.

The Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Oonagh Moulton addressed the meeting and her speech is attached to the minutes, as Appendix B.

The Leader of the Merton Park Ward Independent Residents Group, Councillor Peter Southgate, addressed the meeting and his speech is attached to the minutes, as Appendix C.

Members of the Cabinet were then invited to address the meeting. The following took that opportunity:

- The Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Mark Allison
- The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, Councillor Caroline Cooper-Marbiah
- The Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Engagement and Equalities, Councillor Edith Macauley
- The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Maxi Martin

The Mayor then invited any Councillors to move proposed amendments to the Business Plan.

Councillor Suzanne Grocott moved the Conservative Amendment 1, (which can be found as Agenda Item 5), which was seconded by Councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender

Councillor David Williams moved the Conservative Amendment 2, (which can be found as Agenda Item 6), which was seconded by Councillor James Holmes.

The Mayor then opened up the general debate on the two proposed amendments and on the proposed substantive Business Plan. Councillors Jeff Hanna, Katy Neep, John Bowcott, Andrew Judge, Stan Anderson, David Dean, Russell Makin, Fidelis Gadzama, John Sargeant, Ross Garrod, Pauline Cowper, Mary-Jane Jeanes, Tobin Byers, Daniel Holden, Brenda Fraser, Marsie Skeete, Linda Taylor, Martin Whelton and Peter McCabe, all spoke in the general debate.

Following the conclusion of the general debate, the Mayor called for the Council to vote on each of the amendments in turn via a roll-call

- **Conservative Amendment 1 (Agenda Item 5)** that had been moved by Councillor Suzanne Grocott and seconded by Councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender

Voting in Favour: Councillors: Hamish Badenoch, John Bowcott, Michael Bull, Adam Bush, Charlie Chirico, Stephen Crowe, David Dean, Edward Foley, Suzanne Grocott, Daniel Holden, James Holmes, Janice Howard, Mary-Jane Jeanes, Abdul Latif, Najeeb Latif, Brian Lewis-Lavender, Gilli Lewis-Lavender, Oonagh Moulton, John Sargeant, David Simpson, Peter Southgate, Linda Taylor, Jill West, and David Williams. (24)

Voting Against: Councillors: Agatha Mary Akyigyina, Stephen Alambritis, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Tobin Byers, David Chung, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Pauline Cowper, Mary Curtin, John Dehaney, Nick Draper, Brenda Fraser, Fidelis Gadzama, Ross Garrod, Jeff Hanna, Joan Henry, Abigail Jones, Philip Jones, Andrew Judge, Sally Kenny, Linda Kirby, Edith Macauley, Russell Makin, Maxi Martin, Peter McCabe, Ian Munn, Katy Neep, Dennis Pearce, Judy Saunders, Marsie Skeete, Geraldine Stanford, Imran Uddin, Gregory Patrick Udeh, Peter Walker, and Martin Whelton. (36)

Not Voting: None (0)

The Mayor declared the amendment to be lost.

- **Conservative Amendment 2 (Agenda Item 6)** that had been moved by Councillor David Williams and seconded by Councillor James Holmes

Voting in Favour: Councillors: Hamish Badenoch, John Bowcott, Michael Bull, Adam Bush, Charlie Chirico, Stephen Crowe, David Dean, Edward Foley, Suzanne Grocott, Daniel Holden, James Holmes, Janice Howard, Mary-Jane Jeanes, Abdul Latif, Najeeb Latif, Brian Lewis-Lavender, Gilli Lewis-Lavender, Oonagh Moulton, John Sargeant, David Simpson, Peter Southgate, Linda Taylor, Jill West, and David Williams. (24)

Voting Against: Councillors: Agatha Mary Akyigyina, Stephen Alambritis, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Tobin Byers, David Chung, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Pauline Cowper, Mary Curtin, John Dehaney, Nick Draper, Brenda Fraser, Fidelis Gadzama, Ross Garrod, Jeff Hanna, Joan Henry, Abigail Jones, Philip Jones, Andrew Judge, Sally Kenny, Linda Kirby, Edith Macauley, Russell Makin, Maxi Martin, Peter McCabe, Ian Munn, Katy Neep, Dennis Pearce, Judy Saunders, Marsie Skeete, Geraldine Stanford, Imran Uddin, Gregory Patrick Udeh, Peter Walker, and Martin Whelton. (36)

Not Voting: None (0)

The Mayor declared the amendment to be lost.

Following the end of the voting on the amendments, the Mayor invited the Leader to formal move the Business Plan 2014-19 report.

- Councillor Stephen Alambritis moved the **Substantive Motion** which was seconded by Councillor Peter McCabe

A roll-call was called on the **Substantive Motion**

Voting in Favour: Councillors Agatha Mary Akyigyina, Stephen Alambritis, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Tobin Byers, David Chung, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Pauline Cowper, Mary Curtin, John Dehaney, Nick Draper, Edward Foley, Brenda Fraser, Fidelis Gadzama, Ross Garrod, Jeff Hanna, Joan Henry, Abigail Jones, Philip Jones, Andrew Judge, Sally Kenny, Linda Kirby, Edith Macauley, Russell Makin, Maxi Martin, Peter McCabe, Ian Munn, Katy Neep, Dennis Pearce, John Sargeant, Judy Saunders, Marsie Skeete, Peter Southgate, Geraldine Stanford, Imran Uddin, Gregory Patrick Udeh, Peter Walker and Martin Whelton (39)

Voting Against: Councillors: Hamish Badenoch, John Bowcott, Michael Bull, Adam Bush, Charlie Chirico, Stephen Crowe, David Dean, Suzanne Grocott, Daniel Holden, James Holmes, Janice Howard, Mary-Jane Jeanes, Abdul Latif, Najeeb Latif, Brian Lewis-Lavender, Gilli Lewis-Lavender, Oonagh Moulton, David Simpson, Linda Taylor, Jill West and David Williams (21)

Not Voting: None (0)

RESOLVED

That the Council agrees the Business Plan 2015-19 including:-

- A) the General Fund Budget;
- B) the Council Tax Strategy for 2015/16 equating to a Band D Council Tax of £1,102.25, which means that Merton qualifies for Council Tax Freeze Grant;
- C) the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2015-2019;
- D) the Capital Investment Programme (as detailed in Annex 1 to the Capital Strategy);
- E) the Capital Strategy (Section 1: Part A of the Business Plan)
- F) the Treasury Management Strategy (Section 1: Part A of the Business Plan),

including the detailed recommendations in that Section , incorporating the Prudential Indicators as set out in this report, and agrees the formal resolutions as set out in Appendix 1 to the report. (Also detailed as Annex 1 to these minutes).



**FINAL RESOLUTIONS****Revenue Report:**

1. Members consider the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission summarised in Appendix 14 of the revenue report, and approve the proposed budget for 2015/16 set out in Appendix 7 of the revenue report, together with the proposed Council Tax levy in 2015/16.
2. That it be noted that at its meeting on 8 December 2014 the Council calculated its **Council Tax Base for the year as 69,638.0** in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 2012(SI 2012: 2914).
3. That it be noted that the Council calculated the **Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators (WPCC) Tax Base for the year as 10,880.0** in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.
4. That the Council agrees 4(a) - 4(i) below, which are calculated in accordance with Section 31A to 49B of the Localism Act 2011, amending Section 32 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
  - a) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) (a) to (f) of the Act

	£m
Gross Revenue Expenditure of Service Committees	539.453
Corporate Provisions	9.410
Amounts Payable to the Levying Bodies	0.926
Contribution to/(from) Financial Reserves	(4.991)
<b>Gross Expenditure</b>	<b>544.798</b>

- b) being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (3) (a) to (d) of the Act

	£m
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>467.747</b>

- c) being the amount by which the aggregate at 4(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 4(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax Requirement for the year

	<b>£m</b>
Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2015/16 (including special expenses re WPCC)	<b>77.051</b>

- d) being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of revenue support grant, and baseline funding (NNDR) to constitute the Council's formula grant

	<b>£m</b>
Revenue Support Grant	<b>30.425</b>
Baseline funding NNDR & Section 31 Grant	<b>34.820</b>
Formula Grant	<b>65.245</b>

- e) being the amount at 4(c) above, divided by the amount for Council Tax Base at 2 above, calculated by the Council above, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including special items (WPCC)).

	<b>£</b>
<b>Merton's General Band D Council Tax Levy (including properties within Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators area)</b>	<b>1,106.45</b>

- f) being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act

	<b>£</b>
<b>Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators Special Levy</b>	<b>292,946</b>

- g) being the amount at 4(e) above, less the result given by dividing the amount at 4(f) above by the amount of the WPCC Council Tax Base at 2 above in accordance with Section 34 (2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special items (WPCC special levy) relates.

	<b>£</b>
<b>Merton's General Band D Council Tax Levy (excluding WPCC)</b>	<b>1,102.25</b>

- h) being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 4(g) above, the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in the area of Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators (WPCC) mentioned

above at 4(f) divided by the amount at 3 above, calculated in accordance with Section 34(1) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in the area of WPCC.

	<b>£</b>
<b>Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators Band D</b>	<b>1,129.18</b>

- i) being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 4(g) and 4(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

Part of the Councils Area	Valuation Bands							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Part of the Councils Area	734.83	857.31	979.78	1,102.25	1,347.19	1,592.14	1,837.08	2,204.50
Parts inc. WPCC	752.78	878.26	1,003.72	1,129.18	1,380.10	1,631.04	1,881.96	2,258.36

5. To note that the Greater London Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below, and that the Council agrees the Council Tax levy for 2015/16 by taking the aggregate of 4(i) above and the Greater London Authority precept.

Precepting Authority	Valuation Bands							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
G L A	196.67	229.44	262.22	295.00	360.56	426.11	491.67	590.00

For information purposes this would result in the following Council Tax Levy for Merton residents:-

Part of the Council's Area	Valuation Bands							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Part of the Council's Area	931.50	1,086.75	1,242.00	1,397.25	1,707.75	2,018.25	2,328.75	2,794.50
Parts inc. WPCC	949.45	1,107.70	1,265.94	1,424.18	1,740.66	2,057.15	2,373.63	2,848.36

**Speech by Cllr Stephen Alambritis the Leader of the London Borough of Merton to the Council Budget Meeting on Wednesday 4 March 2015 at 7:15pm and in the Council Chamber at the London Borough of Merton being situate at the Civic Centre on the London Road in Morden Surrey SM4 5DX**

Madam Mayor

Last year's budget was about embedding affordability

This year's budget is about providing hope while taking tough decisions

Tough decisions that we cannot afford to put off

Not taking them now would exacerbate the position for our residents

Because our residents more than ever need an efficient, well run and caring Labour council

A Labour council that can and will give hope to its residents in this budget

I therefore move the business plan and the budget proposals as set out in Recommendation 1 with particular reference to the formal Resolutions as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report before us tonight

In doing so I want to single out a few people for thanks

Cllr Mark Allison my deputy leader and cabinet member for finance and long suffering QPR fan

All councillors who chair and who sit on our scrutiny panels and thank them especially for having more scrutiny meetings about the budget than in previous years

We have listened to suggestions from scrutiny members especially the suggestion to take uncontroversial savings that do not impact on services earlier in the process

Thanks also go to

Cllr Peter Southgate the chair of scrutiny and his two colleagues in Merton Park

To the cabinet members and to all councillors on this side of the chamber

To Cllr Oonagh Moulton and her councillors for the part they have played although I note they are slightly less in number than this time last year!

It would be remiss of me not to thank the even more depleted ranks of our Liberal friends here in Merton and those thanks of course go to the one and only Cllr Mary-Jane Jeanes!

We are as always grateful to our directors and staff and we are indebted to Caroline Holland the director of corporate services

Madam Mayor

Each year we have a duty to balance the budget

We have done so in the past and will continue to do so in the future

Now we all know that councils get much of their funding from central government

But, Madam Mayor, this uncaring coalition government have decided to slash this funding by forty per cent

As a result we will have to make savings of £32million

That is not a one off £32m which would be difficult enough

It is £32m every single year by 2018/19

But this council agreed to a set of key principles

Our July Principles

Dedicating us to provide the services the residents need most

To keeping the council tax to an affordable level without being irresponsible

And

Here is the gulf between us

A prudent, business like and fair Labour council

And

The Conservatives

Coming up with a crazy uncostered manifesto pledge to reduce the council tax by ten per cent

Madam Mayor

That would have meant a further eight million pounds in cuts to services

And I am now looking at Cllr Dean when I say that this madcap idea to decimate council services was quickly consigned to the wheelie bin of history!

Madam Mayor

For the first time ever in the history of this borough we are freezing the council tax for the fifth year running

And going back to our July Principles, we are also keeping council tax down for low income households

Madam Mayor

We will always be a fair Labour council

Here in Merton we have ensured that children's services have less of a share of the cuts than other services

Thanks to my cabinet member for Children Cllr Maxi Martin for putting an extra £1m into children's services

This will help with safeguarding children in the borough including Looked After Children

But Madam Mayor

Even though we have made sure the cuts are also lower in adult social care, the sums involved are so big that sadly services will be affected

However, we are not proposing to close day centres as the Conservatives tried to do when they were in office eight years ago

When council funding was increasing

And before the global financial crisis

We all recall the failed efforts of the opposition to close All Saints Day Centre

Madam Mayor

My cabinet member for Adult Social Care and Health, Cllr Cooper-Marbiah, is keeping our day centres open

And we are not closing our libraries

To the contrary

We have a positive story of hope on our libraries

A story excellently crafted by my cabinet member for Community and Culture, Cllr Nick Draper

We have increased the opening hours in our libraries by working with volunteers and by using new technology

And we are re-developing the worn-out and expensive-to-run library in West Barnes so that we get a new modern library at no cost to the taxpayer

In fact it will actually cost us less to run and maintain

Cllr Draper is also pioneering a new leisure centre in Morden, replacing the current expensive building with a new affordable pool that will also cost less to run and to look after

Madam Mayor

Our children and their parents will look forward to that new facility

But we must also continue to give hope to parents on school places

I am pleased to report that we are on target to create 4,000 extra places in our best local primary schools by 2018

I commend the hard work of my cabinet member for Education, Cllr Martin Whelton

With this budget we are also putting aside £41m to build new classrooms in our excellent secondary schools

Madam Mayor

Before I became leader of the council I was the Chief Spokesperson for the Federation of Small Businesses

So it is a real honour that we have been named as the best all-round small business friendly borough in London

Praise for this must go to my cabinet member for Regeneration, Cllr Andrew Judge and his Future Merton team

And what a coup Cllr Judge had when Close Brothers announced they were moving into the borough and bringing with them over 600 jobs

Madam Mayor

This budget will further cement the attractiveness of this borough to the business community

By creating more jobs for our residents and apprenticeship opportunities for our young people

Our fifth year in a row council tax freeze will also mean that people living in Merton have a bit more to spend with local businesses

Madam Mayor

I see Cllr Dean is animated again so let me try and calm him down by going back to his favourite subject of wheelie bins

I know how important clean streets are to the majority of residents

So I am pleased that my cabinet member for Environmental Cleanliness, Cllr Judy Saunders is taking a zero tolerance approach to the minority who drop litter and fly tip

Cllr Saunders is also going to carry out a modest pilot to see if wheeled bins would offer residents cleaner streets and good value for money

Madam Mayor

My Cabinet member for Engagement & Equalities has ensured that this council has a budget that is fair to all through our rigorous equality impact assessments

Madam Mayor

I need to come to a conclusion

But of more importance is the conclusion of the people we serve - our residents

Their conclusions in our annual residents' survey are crystal clear for all to see

More residents than ever think the council is efficient and well run

Residents consistently agree that Merton council is doing a good job

Concern by residents about the level of the council tax is now at an all-time low

Madam Mayor

Now to my conclusion

With government cuts to councils in the order of 40% and a savings target of £32m

We are having to make some tough choices

However because we have run the council's finances in a business like way

We are able to offer hope and real benefits to residents



A record fifth consecutive council tax freeze

Thousands more school places

Day Centres open

Children's Centres open

A new library

A new swimming pool

A council that is innovative and enterprising

That is sharing services with other boroughs and saving money

That is providing services to other boroughs and bringing in money

And that has other boroughs keen to learn from it adding to our reputation

Madam Mayor

This borough famously came up with the Merton Rule

Adopted by every borough in the land

Abiding by our July Principles we have tonight come up with the Merton Way-  
business like; fair; caring and listening

That is the Merton Way under Labour

I commend this budget to the chamber

**BUDGET SPEECH BY COUNCILLOR OONAGH MOULTON  
LEADER OF MERTON CONSERVATIVE GROUP**

Thank you, Madam Mayor

'The times, they are a changing'.

I have to admit that I am no great Bob Dylan fan. Truth be told you're more likely to find me bopping to Take That!

Clearly Cllr Alambritis is a Dylan devotee as it was these words he crowed so gleefully at the 1<sup>st</sup> Council meeting of this new majority Labour administration.

He may well have been beaming like the Cheshire cat but 6 months on that's not a sentiment that is shared by all those people in their wheelchairs or with their guide dogs by their side attending this and our last Council meeting.

Times certainly are a changing for these residents. Unfortunately under this Labour council it's not for the better.

As a result of the choices made by Labour in this budget, they and their carers face losing vital services. Yet unlike Bob Dylan, these residents are not even allowed their peaceful protest. Instead they get moved on by this heavy handed Labour administration.

The truth is that Merton council is losing the confidence of some of the most vulnerable members of our community. The very people we were all elected to protect.

The latest Annual Residents' Survey shows a clear trend of falling levels of satisfaction with the Council among the borough's disabled residents. This is a Merton-specific trend, not one which is replicated across London.

This is also a problem all of Labour's own making. And it is only set to be compounded by the proposals before us tonight.

I hope that every Labour backbencher is ready to justify their support for this budget to disabled residents and their families in every part of our borough. For this is a heartless budget built on the backs of vulnerable residents.

As we have heard ad nauseam, Labour's narrative is simply to blame central government for cuts to local services. They think if they keep saying it enough times then enough people will believe it – especially with a ring fenced communications budget to support their political spin.

Yet their own national party has made clear that, even if a Labour government is elected in May, there would no more money for local government.

Let me just repeat that for the benches opposite. As Ed Balls has made clear: “there will not be additional funding for local government, which includes social services” under a Labour government.

In fact there would probably be less once the irresponsible wrecking ball of Labour’s tax and spend agenda puts Britain’s economic growth in jeopardy.

So there’ll be no Ed Miliband or Ed Balls riding to the rescue of Merton Labour like Wallace and Gromit on horseback.

Every Labour backbencher needs to consider just how they have been hoodwinked by their own leadership into supporting this budget.

A budget of Labour choices where My Merton and communications are prioritised over day care services for the vulnerable.

And where wheelie bins are prioritised over care for the elderly.

Madam Mayor, Labour back benchers must be wondering: if this is the result of just 1 year of majority Labour administration, where on earth will our axe fall next?

The reality is that whatever Labour claim, this is a budget of their own making. It is a budget built on the sands of Labour’s choices because of their mismanagement, their lack of efficiency and their lack of investment.

Whatever happened to the much feted ‘Merton 2015’ Transformation programme? Labour has failed spectacularly over the last 4 years to implement it. They have even failed to implement £2.2million of savings that have been agreed in previous budgets for this year alone.

It’s Labour’s failure to deliver long term, sustainable savings which means they are having to chop away at front line services now.

Labour in Merton are now 4 years behind the curve. That’s how long it took them to roll out the cashless parking programme alone so it’s hardly surprising that the residents of Morden are still waiting in vain for a new swimming pool.

I challenge a single Labour councillor opposite to explain to people in Morden why it was that, when at the same time as the council was stashing away millions and millions more each year in reserves , Labour were proclaiming that they couldn’t possibly afford a new pool. A new pool the money for which was in the 2010 budget.....and in reality has been there every year since.

Morden Park Pool is just once example of the financial mismanagement that is endemic of this Labour administration.

An administration which:

- Can’t tell us how many staff it has at any given time
- Can’t tell us how many vacant posts there are in the organisation
- Can’t even tell us how much would be saved by the different options it consulted on for MAE

Not to mention the gross financial mismanagement when it comes to new schools. Not only did they choose to buy back a school they had flogged off at a cut price rate several years earlier. Not only did they choose not to use the money set aside by the previous Conservative administration to build a new primary school. But to top it all they have now chased away a new Chapel Street free school ...along with the £40 million of DfE funding they would have brought with them.

And who is it that suffers from Labour mismanagement?

- The families who can't get a school place for their child near to their home
- The vulnerable and their carers who are having day care services cut
- The thousands whose life chances are enhanced by the Whatley Avenue MAE centre
- And every resident of Merton who wants to enjoy clean and well maintained streets.

However, Labour can always seem to find the money for one of their own pet projects. So £115,000 for a wheelie bin pilot can be conjured up without any problem at all.

Even their own supporters can't understand how they can contemplate spending the £7million that would be needed to roll wheelie bins out across the borough at a time when they are looking to close down Merton's youth centres and slash a further £9million from Adult Social Care.

Not surprising that one elderly lady was heard to say: 'Well, I won't be able to get anyone to come and help me get up and dressed in the morning but it will be fine because I've got a spanking new wheelie bin outside!'

Madam Mayor, there is a better way to do budgets than this. The Government has given councils more freedom than ever over how they spend money by un-ring fencing much of their funding.

Merton is spending more money every year –an extra £62million this year and another £34million more next year. What is missing is the imagination and political will to do things differently in response to the new normal of lower government funding (regardless of who is in power in Westminster).

Conservatives want a new vision for funding and delivery of our services.

One that puts residents at the heart of decision making.

One that protects front line services whilst ensuring the council lives within its means.

And one that reduces inefficiency and maximises income from the council's assets.

This was the purpose of the last Conservative administration's Transformation programme. Yet its potential has not been realised by Labour. They hijacked the idea but failed to put the policies into practice.

As a result, Merton is being left behind as - all around us – Wandsworth, Westminster, Richmond and Kingston implement new and innovative ways of working to adjust to the new realities.

But Madam Mayor, don't just take my word for it. Listen to what the council's own employees have said about working for a Labour-led Merton:

- Bureaucratic with slow processes
- Insufficiently business-like
- Lacking in urgency, clear priorities and – worst of all - lacking an overarching vision.

Fixing the economic mess left by the last Labour government requires some tough choices for local government. Yet, that's no excuse for bad decisions.

Our amendments give councillors the chance to reconsider the impact of this cynical budget on the people they represent.

Our amendments give time to develop a clear vision for the future.

A vision where residents are not left to pay the price for Labour choices and pet projects, Labour incompetence and mismanagement and Labour's lack of investment and imagination.

Madam Mayor, surely that's the least that Merton's residents deserve?

**MPWIR Budget Speech By Councillor Peter Southgate**

I came across the discussion paper for the July principles while planning for this speech. I can't remember whether it was the working title, but it was headed – Financial Reality Dominates All. That was four years ago, but for me this is really the first budget in which financial reality does in fact dominate all. There is no escaping from it any more.

No-one here can be proud of the budget we have to pass tonight. These are not cosmetic savings; they are substantial cuts that will affect our more vulnerable communities. I'm thinking particularly of the virtual cessation of our youth service, and the cuts in professional support for adults with learning and physical disabilities in our day centres. In both cases we're looking to the voluntary sector to step in to fill the gap but it's a very big ask, and I'm not convinced that we're resourcing or supporting them sufficiently to take it on.

A year ago we would probably have deferred these savings, but we've run out of road for doing this. It was made very clear to those of us involved in scrutiny that alternative savings had to be brought forward if we wanted to reject specific savings. Of course this is almost impossible to do, because we don't know what other savings might have been considered but then rejected by Cabinet, and we don't have the in depth knowledge to suggest alternative savings ourselves without the risk that they prove even more damaging.

Rather late in the day, we determined that the only scope for offsetting savings lay in the technical and corporate provisions of the budget – and it doesn't help that we received these appendices only on Monday this week. With hindsight, we should have been exploring these options during the first round of budget scrutiny in November last year, but in practice we did not make effective use of this first stage, because we were not given the proposals to scrutinise. The lesson that I take from this is that scrutiny of the assumptions underlying the budget needs to be a year round process, because as the macro economic variables change, so the assumptions determining the budget needs to change. I'm glad to say that the Financial Management Task Group is taking this on board.

If I can give an example of what I mean by changing assumptions, CPI has now dropped to 0.3% while RPI stands at 1.1% in January, yet we are still working with an assumed inflation rate of 1.5%. A 1% reduction in inflation is worth more than £1.5m on the revenue account – think about the implications of possible deflation.

Even if some of the underlying assumptions do change though, I accept that we are still going to be making difficult decisions about the future of our services. So I would encourage our scrutiny panels to do the Frank Field bit, in other words to think the unthinkable in adjusting to our straitened circumstances.

So here's a few ideas for starters. Tonight we're going to raise the council tax on properties that have been empty for two years to 150% - a move that is overdue, and one we advocated last year. How about making that 200% or even 250%? Or copy Islington or Kensington and Chelsea with their higher resident parking permit fees for diesel cars – now 40% of all cars sold? Or review our surplus buildings as the council contracts and staff consolidate into the Civic Centre, and consider how many of those surplus buildings might be suitable for residential use now that planning permission is no longer required?

In case these ideas seem fanciful or impractical, let me remind you of the situation we're now in. We are struggling to achieve in-year savings – that is, for 2014/15 – and will have to take £4.6m from the General Fund to offset the shortfall. Our outstanding debtors are rising year on year, and now total £10.2m – an increase of £1.45m over the previous year. This year we will write off £2.3m of that debt. Whichever way you look at it, our situation is deteriorating. We need all the bright ideas we can get.

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## **Committee: Council**

**Date: 15 April 2015**

Agenda item:

Wards: All

## **Subject: Strategic Objective Review - Older People**

Lead officer: Simon Williams

Lead member: Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah

Forward Plan reference number: N/A

Contact officer: Simon Williams [simon.williams@merton.gov.uk](mailto:simon.williams@merton.gov.uk)

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### **Recommendations:**

A That Council consider the content of the report

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## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To provide a strategic overview of the council's progress in meeting the needs of older people in Merton.
- 1.2 The report details the changes brought in through the Care Act, the opportunities and challenges this poses to Merton and discusses local progress in providing services for older people.

### **Financial Context and Challenges**

- 2.1 Any discussion about older people's services takes place against the backdrop of:
  - The introduction of the Care Act and the additional opportunities and burdens this places on the Local Authority (2.4 - 2.5)
  - The challenge of integration between health and social care – both practically to achieve improved outcomes for individuals and in terms of the differing funding mechanisms between the council and the NHS (2.7 – 2.9)
  - Reduced funding faced by all council services and specifically by social care services (2.12). This is reflected in the £9.103m of savings that Adult Social Care needed to find as part of the recent 2015-16 and 2018-19 MTFS; of which just over £3m is still to be identified and agreed.
  - The constrained opportunity for savings within the provider market limiting the options from where to find savings (2.12)
  - The changing demographics of Merton's population – which project an increase in population of older people of 9% and of those with dementia of 13% from 2015-20.
- 2.2 This is the wider context in which the rest of the report is set.

### **National context**

2.3 The Care Act came into force on 1 April 2015. This is the biggest change in social care legislation affecting older people for 60 years, and consolidates all previous legislation.

2.4 The major elements are:

- An overall duty to promote people's wellbeing and to prevent the need for more intensive services, a duty which extends to people before they may be eligible for services
- A duty to offer information and advice to everyone including those who fund their own support, including signposting access to financial advice
- Greater national consistency, through national eligibility criteria set at "Substantial", and through measures to ensure continuity of support if people move between local authorities
- A duty of oversight of the whole local care market, whether or not the local authority directly commissions from it, and specifically a duty to intervene to ensure continuity of support for people in the event of a provider ceasing to operate
- Setting safeguarding of adults on a statutory basis
- Offering personal budgets and direct payments where desired and appropriate
- Rights for carers to assessments and services in their own right
- Offering advocacy to those who need it
- A duty for local authorities to offer Deferred Payment Arrangements for those who request it, in order to prevent people having to enact rapid sales of their properties if they go into care homes

2.5 The Care Act also contains provisions for funding reform, on which the Department of Health is currently out to consultation and which are intended to be implemented as from 1 April 2016 subject to the guidance following this consultation. The main elements of this reform are:

- The threshold, in terms of assets, at which people may first become financially eligible for local authority support moves from £23,000 to £118,000
- A cap on what anyone may have to pay for support out of their own means set at £72,000, with any spending towards this cap starting to be counted as from 1 April 2016.
- Monitoring of this spending towards the cap through a Care Account
- A duty for local authorities to manage this process, in terms of determining whether someone is eligible to have their spend counted in this way and whether the arrangements made by the person offer reasonable value for money in terms of progress towards this cap.
- A right of appeal against decisions made by a local authority in this respect

2.6 Alongside this change in legislation, the emphasis on personalisation continues with everyone expected to have a personal budget and a right to exercise this

through a direct payment under their own control if they so choose. This is beginning to extend into healthcare, with an intention that people with long term conditions can have personal health budgets.

- 2.7 There is all party consensus that greater integration between health and social care is desirable, though divergence in the detail. In 2014 all local authorities and health bodies were required to establish Better Care Funds, funded direct from the Department of Health and via Clinical Commissioning Groups, albeit without the provision of 'new' money, and intended to promote integrated services in the community to reduce usage of acute hospitals, including some protection of social care with this objective.
- 2.8 In the winter of 2014/15 integration was also supported by local Systems Resilience Groups, made up of all partners in the catchment area of acute Trusts, and again with the explicit aim of managing the pressures on acute care.
- 2.9 Such integration is now overseen locally by Health and Wellbeing Boards, established in 2013 and with a duty to oversee and promote good integrated services, along with specific duties to produce needs assessments and a health and wellbeing strategy.
- 2.10 There has been growing concern about the quality of care offered to people, both in care homes and through home care agencies. The Care Quality Commission has restructured itself into three functions of acute hospital, primary and social care in order to offer greater regulatory expertise, and is re-introducing overall quality ratings of Outstanding/Good/Requires Improvement/Inadequate in order to make this more transparent, along with a clear process for what happens if a provider is found to be inadequate. There is greater focus on staffing arrangements and whether recruitment, deployment and payment practices enable quality care to be delivered. There have been challenges to certain local authority commissioning practices such as 15 minute visits. There is debate about whether what local authorities pay providers enables them to offer a quality service, and an upward pressure on fees partly arising from this factor and partly arising from general market forces of supply and demand.
- 2.11 In response to the need to offer people more choice and control, and to move away from micro managing people's support arrangements through "time and task" ordering of support, local authorities are being urged to move towards commissioning for outcomes rather than focussing on inputs, with learning going on across the country about how to do this while at the same time keeping control of costs.
- 2.12 Finally, all this takes place against a background of a reduction in the funding for social care, 26% in real terms between 2010-2014, and some concerns from independent reports such as the National Audit Office and Barker Commission about whether such continuing reductions can be sustained, while also recognising that local authorities have no choice but to make these reductions when adult social care forms on average 35% of controllable budgets. As there is greatly diminished scope to make any further savings through reduced fees to providers, there is increased emphasis on arranging less expensive support packages and seeking wherever possible to reduce reliance on statutory services through a "promoting independence" approach

## Local progress

- 2.13 In 2010 Merton pioneered an approach to using resources in a value based way. This approach has informed national work in this area including a self-assessment framework on whether local authorities are doing everything possible to use money to best effect.
- 2.14 The framework has six key statements on how value is offered to the customer and to the taxpayer:
- *I am not forced into using health and social care earlier than I need to. I am enabled to live an active life as a citizen for as long as possible and I am supported to manage any risks (Prevention).*
  - *When I initially need health or social care, I am enabled to achieve as full a recovery as possible and any crises are managed in a way which maximises my chances of staying at home (Recovery)*
  - *If I still need continued support, I am able to choose how this is done. I can choose from a range of services which offer value for money. The resources made available to me are kept under review (Long Term Support)*
  - *The processes to deliver these outcomes are designed to minimise waste, which is anything that does not add value to what I need (Process)*
  - *The organisations that support me work together to achieve these outcomes. These organisations include health and social care, other functions in statutory bodies such as councils or government agencies, and the independent sector (Partnership)*
  - *I and others who support me are expected and enabled to make a fair contribution to this support. These contributions may be financial according to my means, informal care and support from those close to me or from volunteers, or from me playing my own part in achieving these outcomes (Contributions)*
- 2.15 This framework has proved locally to be an effective way of designing services, and has been broadly supported by local service users and carers. The headings in the framework will be used to describe local initiatives.

## Prevention

- 2.16 The continuation of Celebrating Age, a festival every September where older people are encouraged to remain physically and mentally active through being able to try out a range of activities.
- 2.17 Commissioning of Merton-i, an interactive information and advice portal, jointly managed with the voluntary sector, and designed to enable people to find information and arrange their own support where appropriate.
- 2.18 A re-focussing of prevention for older people through Ageing Well, a programme involving around 30 local authorities in which Merton participated. This re-focussing was based on achievement of outcomes for which there is evidence that they prevent or delay the need to use formal care. The needs on which these outcomes have been designed to address are falls, incontinence, dementia, depression, and social isolation. It also involves a more personalised

approach to each older person on what would best achieve these outcomes for that individual. Examples include an incontinence advisory service offered by Age UK, a befriending service offered by several voluntary organisations working together, people spending time with professional groups in which they used to work, and the use of technology to facilitate visual communication with loved ones.

- 2.19 New initiatives for people with dementia. Merton has commissioned the Dementia Hub with the Alzheimers Society as its provider partner, with a significantly improved environment largely funded by the Department of Health and offering immediate access to support for those with a diagnosis of dementia. The Hub has attracted national attention. Merton has also formed a Dementia Action Alliance for every organisation which wishes to improve the lives of people with dementia, and recognising that such improvement goes well beyond health and social care and includes for example transport, retail and access to leisure.
- 2.20 Recognition that people are affected by the temperature of their homes. Merton Seniors Forum arranges an annual event on fuel poverty and on measures which people can take to heat their homes cost effectively. Merton's telecare service MASCOT has installed temperature sensors in hundreds of local homes so that should temperatures fall or rise to dangerous levels there can be an intervention.
- 2.21 The launch of Disabled Go, a guide to local public spaces for disabled people.

### **Recovery**

- 2.22 MASCOT continues to reach a growing number of people (1,300), and equipment is increasingly offered as a solution to promote independence. Examples are Just Checking, a cost effective way of assessing the level of someone's mobility within their own home, and devices to manage gas and water in the event of taps being left on.
- 2.23 Merton's in house re-ablement service MILES has been restructured to offer a clearer focus on recovery programmes for those who can most benefit, and led by occupational and physiotherapists.
- 2.24 Equipment and adaptations for people in their own homes continues to play a vital role. Equipment is largely procured from the Croydon equipment store and has offered reductions in cost and faster delivery times.

### **Long term support**

- 2.25 Personal budgets are made available to everyone needing long term support, and 35% of these people currently exercise this through direct payments. Merton has pioneered the use of pre-paid cards as a cost effective and efficient way of managing this area, along with Merton Managed Accounts to offer money management for those requiring it: this area won the Local Government Chronicle award for Innovation in 2014, and the service is being used as a platform by the local NHS for personal health budgets.
- 2.26 In 2012 Merton awarded contracts to preferred home care providers through a framework contract, which remains in place despite the pressure on fees referred to above. Merton is now working with providers to move to a more outcome based approach.

- 2.27 Merton's use of residential care homes has declined, whereas use of nursing homes has slightly increased. Accessing local nursing home care has become an increasing challenge. Quality of care in these homes remains a focus, and Merton Seniors Forum has led an important initiative in this area, through recruiting and training volunteers to act as Dignity in Care Champions in local homes.
- 2.28 Circle Homes Merton Priory have completed the complete re-provision of three sheltered housing complexes at Gresham Court, The Oaks and Doliffe Close, all offering significantly improved accommodation.

### **Process**

- 2.29 The brokerage service was launched in 2012, offering a way of accessing the market in a way that secures best available value for money at acceptable quality. This change to process has been all the more essential as it has become harder to find care at the prices which Merton pays and as the pressures have increased especially in terms of the dependency levels of those being discharged from hospital. We are considering how this can be best positioned for those who fund their own care.
- 2.30 Merton's safeguarding function has managed significantly increased volumes of referrals in recent years, although a slight decrease in 14/15, as people become more aware of the issue. In order to ensure a degree of independent oversight, the directors for adult social care for Kingston and Merton chair each other's Safeguarding Adult Boards on a reciprocal basis.
- 2.31 A major development in this area has been an increased recognition of self-neglect as a safeguarding issue, which in Merton was accepted as a criterion for a safeguarding intervention before this was enshrined in statute under the Care Act. In this area there has been some specific work in the area of hoarding, where people may put themselves and others at significant risk: Merton with its partners has developed a shared protocol which has enabled successful interventions to take place and which has attracted national attention for its pioneering nature.
- 2.32 The information system in use forms a significant proportion of process time, and Merton is in the process of changing to a new system for both childrens and adult social care. The system is called Mosaic and is due to go live in September 2015. Changing systems is a very significant change process, but we expect as a result to see reduced time spent on data inputting and therefore more time available to be spent with customers, which will in turn support more flexible working.
- 2.33 Merton continues to perform very well in terms of enabling discharge from hospitals in a timely way, and due to the pressure in this area needs to continue to adapt its processes. Alongside the remodelling of re-ablement referred to above, the hospital based service is also being remodelled to a "Home from Hospital" service with core objectives of facilitating timely discharge, ensuring that support packages are set at an appropriate level promoting independence, discharging to the least institutional alternative available, and ensuring that multi-disciplinary assessments for NHS continuing care are effective.

### **Partnerships**

- 2.34 In February 2013 Merton hosted an event for all local NHS organisations (CCG, 3 acute Trusts, the community provider Trust, and the mental health Trust) where the integration programme for older people and people with long term conditions was launched. 4 strategic outcomes were agreed:
- An improvement in satisfaction levels among customers
  - A reduction in emergency admissions to acute hospitals
  - A reduction in lengths of stay in acute hospitals
  - A reduction in admissions to care homes
- 2.35 This programme is based on two main areas:
- Proactive care management, where social care workers, community health workers and primary care workers work together in three geographical locality teams, offering integrated assessments and case management.
  - Reactive response services, especially focussed around avoiding hospital admissions and facilitating hospital discharge.
- 2.36 The programme turned out to anticipate the central government initiative of the Better Care Fund, where across England local partners were required to produce a plan to use a pooled budget to achieve similar outcomes and especially a reduction in admissions to hospitals. Merton's plan was judged one of the five best in the country, and the local arrangements have been praised by visiting senior civil servants and government ministers. We are achieving the fourth outcome, have reduced the level of increase in acute admissions, and are reducing lengths of stay where under the control of the partnership. We are awaiting a national metric on satisfaction levels among customers.
- 2.37 At the same time our pre-existing partnership arrangements for learning disabilities and mental health have remained effective and been refreshed through a formal review of the Section 75 agreements.
- 2.38 Partnership working with the voluntary sector has remained strong and a number of outcomes initially envisaged with the voluntary sector task group are being achieved:
- A transfer of management of small grants for carers to Carers Support Merton, which has levered in external funding to supplement what the council spends
  - A change in the pathway for those who get a visual impairment diagnosis, so that they get more rapid support from the voluntary sector
  - The launch of the community fund to support local voluntary group endeavours
  - Transfer of management of certain assets to the voluntary sector
  - The ageing well programme for prevention
  - A reduction in transport costs
- 2.39 There is also a regular forum with independent sector providers to discuss matters of quality and finance.

## **Contributions**

- 2.40 The council's charging policy has remained relatively unchanged, recognising that in comparison with many councils Merton already receives a comparatively high contribution level through charges. The charging consultation group has continued to meet in order to listen to customer experience and make changes where required.
- 2.41 There has been a re-launch of the volunteering strategy, with Merton Voluntary Service Council taking lead responsibility for implementation, which has included a merger with Volunteer Centre Merton in order to offer one place to support volunteering. The strategy has been the subject of regular reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission. Volunteering is playing an increasingly effective role in areas such as day opportunities, befriending, working with people on a short term basis in order to help them work out the right support for them, and informal get-togethers.
- 2.42 The contribution of carers continues to be seen as vital, and more investment went into Carers Support Merton under Ageing Well in order to promote a single place for carers to get information and support, supplemented by more specialist support in certain key areas.

### **Quality and performance**

- 2.43 A revised quality framework was launched in 2014, with seven key domains and overseen by a quality board. The domains are:
- Enhancing quality of life with care and support needs
  - Delaying and reducing the need for care and support
  - Ensuring that people have a positive experience of care and support
  - Safeguarding adults at risk
  - Prevention
  - Local measures
  - Workforce development
- 2.44 The aspiration is to get more feedback in real time from customers about their experience of support, alongside the usual performance metrics.
- 2.45 Merton has published a Local Account since 2011: this is not a duty for councils but is encouraged as it sets out local performance in a transparent way for local people. It can be found on the council's website. The one for 2013/14 has been delayed by the lateness of getting validated comparator data, the intention is to publish in the summer 2015 and include core data for 2014/15 as well.
- 2.46 Merton has welcomed opportunities for external challenge. It was part of the pilot programme for peer reviews for Health and Wellbeing Boards in 2013. It had a peer review for commissioning, as part of the London wide review programme, in 2013. It has had an externally supported self- assessment on its use of resources in 2013. As it becomes harder to find the savings needed to deliver quality services with less money, such external challenge and learning from best practice is increasingly important.
- 2.47 Benchmarked performance data for 2013/14 (the most recent year for which this is available) shows:



- Below average and reducing use of residential care homes
- Below average use of nursing homes
- Comparatively low spend per head of population
- Lower than average unit costs from commissioned services
- Slightly above average levels of satisfaction overall among customers
- Average rates of supporting people of working age into employment
- Below average numbers of people in the system overall
- Well below average rates of delayed discharge from hospital attributable to social care

## **Input from Overview and Scrutiny**

### Preventing Excess winter deaths

- 2.48 In June 2011 the Association of Public Health Observatories Health Profile for Merton reported that between 2006-2009 Excess Winter Deaths in the borough were higher than the England average.
- 2.49 The Panel held a special meeting to discuss this issue on 2nd November 2011 with partners including the Director of Public Health, Merton Seniors Forum, the Environmental Health officer, Age UK Merton. A reference was made to cabinet asking for the council and partners to produce a joint publication with consistent messages around keeping warm during cold weather. Also that the council and agencies identify and support the most vulnerable people in the borough and ensure they are alerted when cold spells of weather are expected, and advised how to keep warm and given relevant helpline numbers. The Panel also asked for energy saving schemes to be rolled out across the whole of Merton.
- 2.50 The Panel also invited EDF energy to a meeting in April 2012 to highlight local concerns and discuss their role in alleviating fuel poverty.

### Safeguarding Older People Task Group

- 2.51 In 2011/12 the Panel held a task group review on Safeguarding Older People, focussing in particular on those living in their own homes, given that this was the highest levels of reported abuse in Merton. As a result of the review the following recommendations have been implemented:
- Information leaflets on safeguarding adults were updated,
  - More work was done to use Preventing Elder abuse day to highlight important issues including an article in My Merton in December 2012 as well as a stall in Merton Link.
  - Information and advice was made available to those who pay for their own care through Merton Eye in November 2012.
  - A Dignity in Care conference was held in September 2013 to bring all the relevant partners together to discuss this issue.
  - Lifting and handling training is provided for carers

### Incontinence services – March 2014

- 2.52 The Panel conducted a review looked at the services available to people suffering from incontinence. The task group decided to focus on women of child

bearing age as it was felt that if services can be improved for this age group, there will be a direct knock on effect on older age groups where incontinence is more prevalent. This review also looked at how to raise awareness of incontinence and tackle the stigma that prevents people seeking help. Recommendations included developing a clear pathway for incontinence services, more work to raise the profile of continence services, more support and information to pregnant women about incontinence issues. Merton Clinical Group has developed an action plan as a result of the review; and a progress report will go the Panel in later this year.

#### End of life Care Services

- 2.53 The Panel asked for an update on end of life services and Merton Clinical Commissioning Group attended the meeting in November 2014. Panel members asked a number of questions around partnership working and learning from best practice. It was also suggested by a panel member that the terminology should be changed from 'A Good Death' to 'A Peaceful Death'. Merton Clinical Commissioning Group agreed to take the feedback on board.

#### Adult Social Care

- 2.54 The Panel receives regular updates on Adult Social Care; in September 2014 the Director of Community Housing attended the meeting to discuss the new opportunities and challenges raised by the Care Act and the increasing demand for services due to the ageing population. The panel were keen that the council maintain high standards in domiciliary care and were reassured that this takes place through monitoring contracts and feedback from customers.
- 2.55 This year the Panel were required to consider a number of savings across Adult Social Care. Panel members expressed concern about the impact on vulnerable people but many felt they were faced with no choice given that the service had been protected thus far but the council needed to make considerable savings. Some members felt that the savings should be taken from elsewhere in the council's budget. The Panel reluctantly agreed to accept the savings and asked Cabinet to ask officers to look again at the equality impact assessment of all the savings taking into consideration those all those who will be affected and particularly looking at the knock on effects on the voluntary sector.
- 2.56 In February 2015, The Panel considered the responses to the council's consultation on changes to Adult Social Care. The Panel provided an important opportunity for local residents to come along and share their views and concerns on these issues. The Panel recognised the need to make savings but expressed concern about the impact the proposals may have on disabled people, including social isolation, increased burden on carers and entry to residential care at an earlier stage.

#### Visit to Merton Dementia Hub

- 2.57 Following an invitation from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, a number of panel members visited Merton Dementia Hub in October 2014. The Panel were very impressed with the facility and will consider further work on dementia as part of their topic selection and work programming process for 2015/16.

The Panel also considered the following issues in relation to Older People:

- Integrated care
- Safeguarding Adults Annual Report
- Merton Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Improving the working relationship between Care Quality Commission and Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel
- Adult Social Care local Account
- Adult Social Care Performance Indicators

**2 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

Not applicable for the purpose of this report

**3 TIMETABLE**

Not applicable for the purpose of this report

**4 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable for the purpose of this report

**6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

Adult social care is a statutory service now largely governed by the care act 2014

**7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable for the purpose of this report

**8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable for the purpose of this report

**9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable for the purpose of this report

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

None

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## Mitcham Community Forum 18 March 2015 Chair's Report

The meeting was held at Vestry Hall, and chaired by Councillor Ian Munn. 17 residents attended, as well as five other Councillors, and officers of the council and its partners. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Dig Merton**

Michelle Kollettek from Sustainable Merton updated the meeting on the Dig Merton project. Work was taking place to improve Fieldgate Lane by removing fly tipping, and dog fouling and adding new trees, soft fruit bushes and a children's playground. Volunteers will be planting trees on Friday 20 March. There will also be a Big Dig day on Saturday at Phipps Bridge. Dig Merton have also been working with four local schools to provide gardening and cooking lessons. Sustainable Merton continues to look out for other disused public spaces that can be improved and can support communities to do so. Please see <http://www.sustainablemerton.org/> for further information.

### **Rediscover Mitcham update**

Anthony Bailey from the Future Merton team, Merton Council, updated the meeting on the works in Mitcham Town Centre. Work started in January with hoardings and signage being erected. The hoardings are there to store materials safely and securely. Works on the perimeter street were now taking place with a scheduled completion date of September. London Busses have confirmed support for the bus street and work is taking place to design the traffic lights for all the junctions.

In response to questions Anthony confirmed a commitment to a public toilet but the location is yet to be decided. Anthony confirmed that there were no plans to provide compensation for local businesses and there was no budget to do so. The team had met with all local businesses before works started and made them aware of potential impacts. Business rate relief is available for small businesses, but if companies can demonstrate evidence of hardship they can present this. There are currently no empty properties in the area.

The artwork on Iceland is a concern and has been discussed by the Mitcham Partnership. A build up of litter by the betting shop and fish shop has been reported to the enforcement team. The current maps on display aim to be a directory of businesses but the final version could include other features and will be brought back to be considered. Street lighting will largely remain as is but new posts with LED lights will be more efficient and there will be an increase in feature lighting. Landscaping will aim to include low maintenance planting but there will be new water points.

### **Planning Update**

Kris Witherington shared an update provided by colleagues.

**The Cricketers:** A new planning application has been received, 15/P0890, which is being dealt with by Leigh Harrington. This is for the demolition of existing buildings and construction of a part 2, part 3 storey building to provide 11 homes. The application is currently the subject of public consultation. Given the early stage of the application no date has yet been set at which it may be heard by Committee. Any application for this site or the old Fire station needs to take into account the relationship between these buildings, Vestry Hall and the War Memorial.

**The Burn Bullock:** A Listed Building Consent was granted for most of the works but officers were concerned about the section of the application which covers the Tudor part of the building so this was reserved for English Heritage advice and involvement. The car sales business has ceased in compliance with the requirements of a notice issued by the council. Cars have been removed from the front car park and the site tidied up but there are a significant number left in the rear car park. Prosecution will now be pursued subject to legal advice confirming that such action would satisfy the public interest requirement in light of recent developments.

**New Mitcham Fire station, Bishopsford Road:** Last condition has been discharged and the new Fire Station has opened.

**187 Commonside East (Site on corner of Cedars Avenue and Commonside East):** Council officers still in negotiation with applicant regarding improving the design of a current application for a 3 storey block of 6 flats, application number 14/P0792. Thames Water have cleared the recent damage caused to the Common by drainage issues.

**Y Cube modular housing scheme (site on corner of Clay Avenue and Woodstock Way):** Planning permission granted following the completion of a S106 planning agreement for the YMCA to deliver a 100% affordable housing scheme in the form of two inter connected three storey blocks of modular housing units. Work has now started on site.

**Sibthorpe Road Car Park:** A tendering process for the land to be developed into a cinema and restaurant has now closed.

In response to a question about planning enforcement and retrospective planning applications Councillor Munn said these issues are reported to the Planning Applications Committee.

### **Soapbox**

Residents raised concerns about the sale of land adjacent to the Ravensbury Pub; that some of the narrow footpaths in Mitcham were not appropriate for shared use with cyclists; more re-tarmacking was needed on Cricket Green; and that Cold Blows needed to be swept clean.

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 13 October 2015 at 7.15pm, at Vestry Hall.

<b>LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON</b>	
	<b><u>NOTES OF MEETING</u></b>
	<b>Subject: Morden Community Forum</b>
	<b>Date: 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015</b> <b>Time: 19.15</b>
<b>Action Needed By:</b>	
	<p>1. <b><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></b></p> <p>1.1 Cllr. Philip Jones welcomed everybody to the meeting.</p> <p>1.2 Approximately 11 residents attended, as well as seven councillors, and officers from the council and its partners.</p>
Inspector Mercer	<p>2. <b><u>Police Update</u></b></p> <p>2.1 Inspector Mercer and PS Simon Gettings attended the forum. Inspector Mercer informed residents that a MOPAC challenge was set three years ago to reduce rates in seven offences by 20%: burglary; criminal damage; robbery; theft of motor vehicles; theft from motor vehicles; theft from person; and violence. Merton has achieved this reduction.</p> <p>2.2 The borough is very safe and ranks in the lower half in terms of crimes in London compared to other London boroughs.</p> <p>2.3 Dan Cooke from Morden Hall Park asked about dog crime across the borough, as the park is being used, particularly at night time, to train dogs to fight. Inspector Mercer undertook to look into the problem of dog training in the park. He was not aware of an increase in dog bites to people and a system is in place to deal with such incidents: local A&amp;Es notify the police of any attacks and provide the necessary evidence so that control orders can be placed on the animals.</p> <p>2.4 Councillor Peter Southgate asked what could be done to streamline the protocol for dealing with traveller incursions, which keep happening. Inspector Mercer said that there is currently a joint protocol in place between the police and the council but this is being reviewed. New antisocial behaviour legislation is being considered which would allow ASBOs to be issued to repeat offenders, therefore making incursions an offence that could lead to arrest.</p>
Inspector Mercer/ Stephen Alambritis	<p>2.5 A resident asked what was happening with placing controls on the number of dogs that can be walked by individuals. The deadline for the council to introduce Dog Control Orders has now passed; and legally these can no longer be brought in. The leader, Councillor Stephen Alambritis, and Inspector Mercer both agreed to speak to the council's Leisure and Culture Greenspaces department about the matter.</p>

	<p>3. <b><u>Morden Leisure Centre</u></b></p> <p>3.1 Christine Parsloe, the Leisure and Culture Development Manager, at Merton Council provided an update on the proposed new Leisure Centre for Morden, which should be built and open by the end of 2017.</p> <p>3.2 All of the surveys relating to the planning process have now been completed, legal advisors have been appointed to take the council through the process, and a project management company called Sweett (UK) Ltd has also been appointed. Sweett (UK) Ltd who have experience and knowledge of bringing forward brand new leisure centres of a similar size to the one proposed for Morden, will hopefully attend the next forum meeting.</p> <p>3.3 The council has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Morden Park Playing Fields Community Trust to work together and to use their best endeavours to bring forward the Trust's proposals alongside the leisure centre proposals.</p> <p>3.4 A second newsletter will go out after Easter to residents who requested to be kept informed of the plans, as well as to all councillors.</p> <p>3.5 A specialist quantity surveyor, design team and main contractor are still to be appointed. The procurement processes for these roles will commence over the coming months.</p> <p>3.6 Early discussions have been held with Sport England, and discussions with the GLA and the council's planning team are also scheduled to take place.</p> <p>3.7 The council also plans to look for external funding partners so that as many of the facilities that residents requested might be provided in the new leisure centre.</p>
Dan Cooke	<p>4. <b><u>Morden Hall Park: news from the National Trust</u></b></p> <p>4.1 Dan Cooke, the Commercial and Visitor Experience Manager for Morden Hall Park, gave a presentation on the plans for the park for 2015 and beyond.</p> <p>4.2 The parent company to the company that will be running the wedding venue is an established hotelier. Dan Cooke to provide the name.</p> <p>4.3 Information about the opening of the new garden centre is available on the park's website; a soft launch will be held on 29 March. Other planned events for this year are also now up on the website at <a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/morden-hall-park/things-to-see-and-do/events/">http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/morden-hall-park/things-to-see-and-do/events/</a>. The Trust is looking at working closely with the council on events and joint initiatives; some are already in place.</p>



	<p>4.4 The number of disabled and family parking spaces in the park are being increased; the number of other spaces is being decreased to allow for this. The aim is to encourage those who can to use public transport or walk to the park. The National Trust would like to use Transport for London's interactive feature on the park's website to make it easier for visitors to access the park via public transport.</p> <p>4.5 The park is looking at encouraging minicab companies to collect shoppers from the garden centre and the Trust may also provide a delivery service.</p> <p>4.6 A consultation around parking at the site is currently being undertaken, including looking at charging for parking in order to discourage commuters and local office workers from using the car park.</p> <p>4.7 All the boroughs of the Wandle Valley Regional Park are working together to get funding for sports activities. The Trust is also working with Public Health to look at ways of encouraging isolated people in the community to use the park, for example, providing concessional rates to events.</p>
	<p>5. <b><u>Planning update</u></b></p> <p>5.1 An update on Morden's regeneration can be viewed at <a href="http://www.merton.gov.uk/mordenregennewsletter">http://www.merton.gov.uk/mordenregennewsletter</a>.</p> <p>5.2 Councillor Stephen Alambritis said that he had met with Sir Peter Hendy, the Commissioner of Transport for London, who is keen to support the plans for the regeneration of Morden Town Centre.</p>
	<p>6. <b><u>Soapbox</u></b></p> <p>6.1 Asked what will happen to Whatley Avenue and Marlborough Hall in light of changes to Merton Adult Education (MAE), Councillor Stephen Alambritis explained that adult education will continue in the borough with an improved service; and the council is consulting with residents as much as possible about the way forward for commissioning a service. No decisions have been taken on any sites.</p> <p>6.2 It was suggested that a task force should be set up to explore a similar adult education model in Morden to that of SCOLA in Sutton. Councillor Alambritis explained that SCOLA is double the size of MAE, therefore it is difficult to compare the two.</p>

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## Raynes Park Community Forum Wednesday 25 March 2015 Chair's Report

The meeting was held in Raynes Park Library Hall, and chaired by Councillor Brian Lewis-Lavender, assisted by Chris Larkman, Chair of the Raynes Park Association. More than 50 residents attended, as well as seven other Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Nelson Hospital**

Dr Andrew Murray, Chair-designate of Merton Clinical Commissioning Group updated the meeting on the opening of the Nelson Healthcare Centre, which is on schedule to open on 1 April 2015.

Two local GP practices, The Cannon Hill Lane Medical Practice and The Church Lane Practice, will relocate here and form a new single organisation. A range of outpatient clinics and diagnostics will be provided by St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Community services will be provided by Sutton and Merton Community Services and community mental health services by South West London and St George's Mental Health NHS Trust. More information can be found at <http://www.mertonccg.nhs.uk/Local-Services/the-nelson/Pages/default.aspx>

Dr Murray also described a new multi-agency team offering one-stop support to older people with multiple needs called the Holistic Assessment and Rapid Investigation (HARI). In response to questions Dr Murray confirmed that referral would be through GPs and that the new services would compliment those available at the Raynes Park practice. The number of GP appointments available will be increasing and use of telephone and online appointments will also increase. The surgery will be open 8am-8pm Monday to Wednesday, 7am to 8pm on Thursdays, 7am to 6.30pm on Fridays and 9am to 12.30pm on Saturdays.

### **Current and Anticipated Planning Applications, including the Rainbow Estate**

Neil Milligan, the Development Control Section Manager at Merton Council, provided an update on planning applications:

- Rainbow: could be considered at the Planning Applications Committee in either April or May. Still some outstanding issues to be resolved. The GLA raised issues which are not fundamental to the potential success of the scheme but further work is needed to resolve.
- 587 Kingston Road: Going to Committee on 26 March for 290 Residential units. *Please note this was approved.*
- Travelodge: the works were due to commence again very soon as a new contractor had been found
- 14-16 Coombe Lane application for ground and basement for medical use had been refused by the council under delegated powers

- Site next to Waitrose Coombe Lane. Historic planning permission for 15 flats still having conditions approved so there may be implementation still on the cards
- 1 Durham Road: Development of 8 units; the contractors progressing on site.

### **Proposals for South of the Skew Arch & Future of Morley Park.**

Andrew Judge, Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration presented an update on the Raynes Park Enhancement Plan. The presentation can be found at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/raynesparkcommunityforum.htm>

In response to questions Councillor Judge said that no road surfacing had taken place specifically for the Ride London event but all roads were investigated and then priorities set for those most in need of repair. Councillor Judge said that weekly street sweeping remained the Council's policy but with limited resources problem areas would be prioritised. At the same time the Council would be extending the pilot litter enforcement contract with Kingdom Environmental Protection Services.

### **New Malden to Raynes Park Link**

Bryn Lockwood and Maddy Gunn from Sustrans introduced plans for a new cycle link between New Malden and Raynes Park. Sustrans is working with Royal Borough of Kingston to deliver their 'mini-Holland' cycling infrastructure scheme. One of the projects is a link alongside the railway line that would offer a quiet way for cyclists and pedestrians. The land is currently owned by Thames Water so any project would need to accommodate their pipe work. The project will also need to consider the impact on the biodiversity of the land. The project is at an early stage with no designs for the route beyond West Barnes Land yet considered. Sustrans has held a number of public meetings and there would be more community engagement after the General Election.

In response to questions Bryn and Maddy explained that in their experience shared lanes between cyclists and pedestrians created better behaviour than segregated approaches as long as the lanes were wide enough. Lighting to improve safety would be important but would need to be bat friendly.

### **Local Transport Plans for CrossRail & Possible Upgrade to South West Trains.**

Stephen Hammond, MP for Wimbledon, updated the meeting on changes to the South West Trains franchise and Crossrail 2. The extension of South West Trains franchise will include eight car services at weekends; some ten car trains at peak hours by 2017; and an upgrade to Waterloo station as the old Eurostar platforms come into use. Whilst some improvements to Raynes Park station have been secured more is needed and Mr Hammond is working with others to pressurise Network Rail.

The Crossrail 2 consultation on safeguarding received only 18 responses from Merton and TfL have been asked to look into this. Mr Hammond has been pushing for the inclusion of Raynes Park and Motspur Park stations to become step-free access as part of the programme. Without Crossrail 2 step-free access at Motspur

Park is unlikely. The project will also need to address the impact on the level crossing at Motspur Park.

### **K5 Bus from Morden to Ham**

Councillor Brian Lewis-Lavender asked residents to consider signing a petition to call for the increase in frequency of this service from hourly to every 30minutes.

### **Activity Clubs for People Over 55**

Councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender informed the meeting about a number of activity clubs taking place in the area. As well as an established clubs at Motspur Park and the Pavillion, a new club is now meeting at Raynes Park Library from 11.30am to 1pm on Thursdays. A fourth club will be starting at Trinity URC on Fridays from 17 April. Please contact Gilli for more information.

### **Open Forum**

A resident raised concerns about the outsourcing of parks maintenance services. It would be important to monitor the performance of any new provider.

Hustings for the coming General Elections would be taking place on 31 March at 7pm in the Methodist Church on Worple Road.

**Dates of future meetings** all at 7.15pm, in the Library Hall:

Tuesday 30 June 2015

Thursday 1 October 2015

Tuesday 1 December 2015

Thursday 3 March 2016

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COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2015

## NOTICE OF MOTION

This Council notes with concern that it is now more than 6 months since an independent investigation was commissioned into the whistle blowing allegations of corruption and mismanagement within Circle Housing Merton Priory's (CHMP) repairs and maintenance service. Yet, despite the severity of the allegations and the number of people potentially affected, the audit report is still to be released and no firm timetable for publication has been forthcoming.

This Council takes seriously its legal responsibilities and duties to hold CHMP to account on behalf of all tenants, leaseholders and freeholders and therefore:

- a) Demands the immediate publication by CHMP of the independent audit report on alleged fraud and repeated overcharging of residents by its repairs contractor, Keepmoat Property Services;
- b) Requests that any other such investigations conducted in the future in relation to CHMP or any of its contractors, including by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), are published in a timely fashion to ensure full transparency and accountability; and
- c) Calls on the Cabinet as a matter of urgency to set out clearly how best to use the various legal powers available to the Council under the terms of the housing stock transfer agreement to safeguard the needs of residents on Merton's housing estates and hold CHMP to account on the quality of its repairs and maintenance service, particularly in light of the HCA Regulatory Notice served on Circle Anglia Limited in February 2015.

**Cllr Michael Bull**

**Cllr Janice Howard**

**Cllr Linda Taylor**

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# Agenda Item 12

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2015

## NOTICE OF MOTION

This Council recognises that cleanliness of the borough's streets is clearly the top concern for people across Merton, according to the latest Annual Residents' Survey. Over a third of residents now cite litter and dirt in the streets as their primary concern, which is a 10% increase over the last 2 years and the highest level for a decade.

This Council therefore welcomes the programme of clean up events arranged in the borough, including as part of the recent Community Clear Up Day 2015, and pays tribute to the on going efforts of local campaigning group, Merton Matters, which - together with many other local residents – is working to address the problem of litter in the borough.

This Council is however concerned that:

- Since October last year, there have been reductions made to the Sunday street cleaning service in Merton's town centres;
- The overall number of street cleaners employed in Merton has reduced from 112 in 2010 to 103 today. Yet, over the same period there has been an increase in the number of traffic wardens employed.
- A further 7 street cleaning staff are due to be cut in 2016-17 as part of the Business Plan 2015-19;
- Dog waste bins are also set to be removed across the borough in 2016-17, including from parks, despite the fact that fewer than half the residents asked in the latest Annual Residents' Survey were satisfied with the way in which Merton Council deals with dog fouling;
- According to a recent Freedom of Information request, 21,700 people contacted the Council about street scene and waste issues last year alone; and
- Concerns are consistently being raised with councillors that the Council's stated policy to 'sweep every road once a week, twice if required' whilst 'town centres and main shopping parades should be swept daily Monday to Saturday' is visibly not being adhered to.

Furthermore, this Council believes that the number of missed waste collections is also contributing to the problem, since not only do additional resources have to be deployed to rectify the service failures reported, but this uncollected waste further adds to the detritus on Merton's streets.

This Council therefore resolves to call on Cabinet to:

- a) Reverse its previous decision and reintroduce street sweeping immediately after refuse collections;
- b) Reverse its previous decision and reintroduce a full Sunday street cleaning service in Merton's town centres;
- c) Seek to identify replacement efficiency savings over the coming months that would protect Merton's street cleaning service from the further cuts planned for 2016-17 e.g. by encouraging greater use of the 'Love Clean Streets' smartphone App;
- d) Conduct a full review of the training and monitoring systems in place for frontline street cleaning staff to ensure that the Council's stated policies and agreed service levels are delivered on the ground; and
- e) Agree to join a borough-wide, cross party anti-litter campaign as proposed by the Merton Matters campaign group. **Page 45**

**Cllr Michael Bull**

**Cllr John Bowcott**

**Cllr David Dean**

**Cllr Daniel Holden**

**Cllr Abdul Latif**

**Cllr Jill West**

# Agenda Item 13

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2015

## NOTICE OF MOTION

This Council shares public concern about travellers illegally occupying public green spaces and other public areas in the Borough.

Whenever travellers are evicted by the Council from one site they move on to occupy another available site in the vicinity. This has been going on for many months at the expense of public funds.

The process of undertaking travellers' needs assessments, court orders and injunctions is not only costly and time consuming but also causes a good deal of inconvenience and anxiety to the local residents.

Subsequent cleaning up and securing of the sites after the travellers' eviction is achieved by further spending tax payers' money.

This Council therefore resolves that it should:

- Take a proactive approach to secure public parks in the borough;
- Adopt a stronger stance in order permanently to prevent travellers from illegally occupying public parks and other public spaces in the future; and
- Take full advantage of the summary of powers that public bodies, such as Merton, have to help them deal with unauthorised traveller encampments which was recently published by the Government.

**Cllr Charlie Chirico**

**Cllr James Holmes**

**Cllr Abdul Latif**

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## **Committee: Council**

**Date: 15 April 2015**

Wards: All

## **Subject: Local Pension Board**

Lead officer: Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services

Lead members: Councillor Peter McCabe Chair of General Purposes and Councillor Imran Uddin Chair of the Pension Fund Advisory Committee

Contact office: Paul Dale, Assistant Director of Resources

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- A.) To agree the establishment of a Local Pension Board and the Terms of Reference as attached at Appendix A;
  - B.) To delegate to the Director of Corporate Services the authority finalise all matters relating to the set-up of the Board including the power to make changes to the Terms of Reference in order to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and guidance; and
  - C.) To agree that the Pension Board submit an annual report to Committee summarising its work.
- 

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. The Public Service Pensions Act 2013 (“the Act”) requires each Administering Authority (“the Council) within the Local Government Pension Scheme to establish a Local Pensions Board (the Board”) by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.
- 1.2 This Report proposes the establishment of the Board as required by the Act and related Regulations and seeks approval to the terms of reference attached at Appendix A.
- 1.3 The responsibilities with regard to the Pension Fund which the Council has delegated to the Director of Corporate Services and Pensions Advisory Committee (PFAC) are not affected by these new regulations or guidance. The role of the Board is understood to be one of assisting the Council with scrutiny and compliance.
- 1.4 The matter was considered by the General Purposes Committee on 12 March 2015 and this report brings the recommendations from that meeting to the Full council meeting for approval.

## **2. DETAILS**

- 2.1. The Act requires each Administering Authority to establish a Local Pension Board by 1st April 2015. “Established” in this context means that the Council,

as the Administering Authority, must have approved the establishment of the Board, its composition and also the terms of reference, in accordance with its constitution.

Statutory Guidance provides that a Board should be operational within a reasonably practicable period after 1 April 2015 (suggested by the guidance as being no longer than 4 months), which is to be fully operational by 1 August 2015.

- 2.2. The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015 (“the Regulations”) provide that the Board shall be responsible for assisting the Administering Authority to
  - (a) secure compliance with:
    - (i) the regulations concerning Local Pension Boards,
    - (ii) any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the Pension Scheme and any connected scheme, and
    - (iii) any requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator in relation to the Scheme; and
  - (b) to ensure the effective and efficient governance and administration of the Scheme.
- 2.3. The responsibility for establishing a Board rests with the Administering Authority of each Fund. It is not optional. The Council under the Regulations is given the power to determine the procedures applicable to the Board set up in accordance with usual local government principles, acting reasonably and within the powers set out in the Regulations. This includes voting rights, the establishment of sub-committees, formation of joint committees and payment of expenses.
- 2.4. The expenses of a Board are to be regarded as part of the costs of administration of the pension fund held by the Council. Accordingly, any costs would be met from the Pension Fund as part of the costs of administration of the Fund.

The Council must have regard to the Statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State in relation to Local Pension Boards.

### **3. THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL PENSION BOARD**

- 3.1. The Statutory Guidance interprets “assisting the Administering Authority (the Council)” as covering all aspects of governance and administration of the LGPS, including funding and investments.
- 3.2. The Statutory guidance provides suggested work areas that Local Boards would become involved in. These are included in Appendix A to this report.

#### **4. MEMBERSHIP OF LOCAL PENSION BOARDS**

- 4.1. The Council is required to determine the membership of the Board (subject to statutory rules); the manner in which members of the Board may be appointed and removed and the terms of appointment of members of the Board.
- 4.2. The Regulations specify that a Board must include an equal number, which is no less than 4 in total, of employer and member representatives. For these purposes the Council as the Administering Authority must be satisfied that appropriate persons (as required by regulations) are appointed.
- 4.3. The guidance notes that since each employer or member representative will potentially represent a significant range of employers or members, it is important that the methodology for appointment ensures that representative Board members are truly representative of the Fund's membership. The Council has considered the number of members or employers that each member of the Board will be representing.
- 4.4. The Regulations also require that the Council must ensure that any person it wishes to appoint has the capacity to represent the members or employers of the Fund as appropriate. For Merton this is much less of an issue as there are very few employers other than the Council.
- 4.5. No officer or elected member of an administering authority who is responsible for the discharge of any function under the Regulations (apart from any function relating to Local Pension Boards or the Scheme Advisory Board) may be a member of a Board (effectively disbaring members PFAC and officers that undertake Pension Fund work).
- 4.6. Where an elected member of the Administering Authority is appointed as a member of the Board this can only be as either an employer or member representative
- 4.7. An individual's ability to properly represent the interests of employers or members (as appropriate) and channel information back to those persons effectively should also be a key factor in selecting members of the Board.
- 4.8. The Regulations also allow for the appointment of other members i.e. members who are not there to represent employers or scheme members, for example where an Administering Authority wishes to appoint an independent chairperson to the Board. In the initial selection process for the Board, the Council will not be appointing to this position but could do so in the future.

#### **5. APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS**

- 5.1. The method of appointing employer and member representatives is not prescribed by the Regulations. It, therefore, falls to each Administering Authority to establish an appropriate process.

However when selecting members, proper regard must be given to the obligations of the Administering Authority in relation to equal opportunities in any recruitment process. In practice, this means having an open transparent process.

Consideration will be given to the term of office to ensure continuity, stability and experience is retained on the Board. The ability of members to seek re-appointment for further term will also be considered.

## **6. REQUIREMENT**

6.1 A Local Pension Board member should be aware that their legal responsibilities begin from the date they take up their role on the Board.

6.2. Every individual who is a member of a Board must be conversant with the rules of the LGPS, any document recording policy about the administration of the Fund and have knowledge and understanding of the law relating to pensions and such other matters as may be prescribed.

The issue of knowledge and understanding is dealt with in the Pensions Regulator's Code of Practice. The knowledge and understanding requirement applies to every individual member of a Board rather than to the members of a Board as a collective group.

6.3. Members of the Board must be aware that their knowledge and understanding responsibilities technically begin from the date they take up their post.

The Council is going to make appropriate training available to the board members to assist them in undertaking their role and where possible support all members of the Board in undertaking their role.

The Local Pension Board is going to keep appropriate records of the learning activities of individual members and the Local Pension Board as a whole. This will assist members in demonstrating their compliance, if necessary, with the legal requirement

6.4. The Board shall prepare a report on an annual basis which will detail:

- (a) a summary of the work of the Local Pension Board;
- (b) details of areas of work reported to the Board to be investigated and how they have been dealt with;
- (c) details of any conflicts of interest that have arisen in respect of individual Local Pension Board members and how these have been managed;
- (d) whether there are any risks or other areas of potential concern
- (e) details of training received and future training needs; The e-Learning program provided by the Pensions Regulator will be made available to members of the Board in addition to proposed CIPFA knowledge and skill framework for Local Pension Board members and other training materials.



- (f) the work plan for the previous year and a draft of the work plan for the following year; and
  - (g) details of any expenses and other costs incurred by the Local Pension Board and anticipated expenses for the forthcoming financial year. These costs will be met as part of the administration costs of the Fund.
- 6.5. Consideration should be given by the Administering Authority to whether or not members of the Local Pension Board are paid allowances or reimbursed expenses.

Allowances for the Merton Pensions Board will be in line with the Council's expenses for officers and elected members. Officers representing the Council will not be paid allowances for Board meeting attendance.

## **7. DECISIONS FOR THE COUNCIL**

- 7.1. The approach proposed for the setting up of the Pensions Board is aimed to minimise costs, meet statutory requirements and reflect the membership of the Fund.
- 7.2. it is proposed that the Committee agree to set up the Local Pension Board with the following form and structure:
- (a) two employer representatives and two scheme member representatives should sit on the Board. The Board would also have a vacancy for one independent member which the Council could appoint to in the future.
  - (b) All appointments to the Board will be made by the Chief Executive
  - (c) The Director of Corporate Services has considered the membership of the Fund. As the Council is the largest employer (92.37% of Fund) and schools (apart from Academies) are classed as part of the Council at least one employer and member seat should be taken by a Council representatives.
  - (d) To ensure adequate representation, the proposal for Board membership is therefore set out below;
    - 2 Employer Representatives
      - One from the Council
      - One from Merton Priory Homes.
    - 2 Member Representatives
      - From Merton Council staff side or pensioner representative
      - From Merton Priory Homes or CHAS (2013) Limited
- 7.3. The above ensures that all groups in the Fund will be represented (employers, active members and pensioner members). The membership above will constitute the minimum membership, however where more nominations are received from employers, it is proposed that the Director of Corporate Services interview the candidates to see who best meets the requirements of the statutory guidance.

- 7.4. It is not proposed at this point to increase membership to 3 employers and 3 members. The Director of Corporate Services will bring an update report to the Committee should this be required.

The Committee is required to consider and accept the following proposals:

- (i.) Regulations provide the Council with the right to appoint independent members. The Council will reserve the right to appoint one independent representative of the Council as the Administering Authority. The Council will not be appointing to this position but could do so in future.
  - (ii.) It is proposed that prospective members of the board will be interviewed in line with HR practice
  - (iii.) It is proposed that terms of office be co-terminus with the Council's term of office .i.e. to the date of the next Council election.
  - (iv.) It is proposed that the basis of termination of an appointed member of the Board be one month's notice. This means that an appointed member could resign their position or the Council could terminate an appointed members role on the Local Pension Board with up to one month's notice.
  - (v.) there should be two meetings per year and that the Local Board reports details of its meetings to PFAC.
  - (vi.) A proposed terms of reference is attached as Appendix 1 and it is proposed that other procedural aspects set out below be approved:
- 7.5. Voting rights – Regulations provide that voting rights only apply to members of the Board who are either an employer or a member representative. This means no other member of the Board has a vote. In the event of a tied vote, the Chair will have the casting vote.
- 7.6. Appointment of chair/vice chair would be from the four members.
- 7.7. Quorum will be two members.
- 7.8. Attendance requirements (non-attendance at 2 consecutive meetings would result in a replacement representative being sought).

## **8.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS– JOINT PENSIONS BOARDS**

- 8.1. The Regulations provide for the establishment of a Joint Local Pension Board where the administration and management of a Scheme is wholly or mainly shared by two or more Administering Authorities. Approval for such a Board would have to be obtained from the Secretary of State. The Council will not be making an application at this time to establish a Joint Pension Board as it does not currently meet the criteria. However consideration may be given to this in future with the establishment of the London Collective Investment Vehicle (CIV).

## **ROLE OF ADVISORS**

- 9.1 The Board will primarily be supported in its role and responsibilities by officers of the Council. There may be occasions where additional advice may be required. The Board may with the approval of the Director of Corporate Services use the shared pool of existing advisors to the Council.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 The approaches proposed in this report aim to minimise cost, meet statutory requirements whilst assisting PFAC and Director of Corporate Services as officer with delegated pension function by providing oversight of the more technical aspects of Pension Fund governance

## **11. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 11.1 Both Legal and Democratic Services comments have been incorporated in this report.

## **12. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 Regulation 106(7) of the Regulations specifies that the expenses of a Local Pension Board shall be regarded as part of the costs of administration of the Fund but expected to be minimal.

## **13. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 The Council in its role as Administering Authority of the London Borough of Merton Pension Fund is required to comply with the requirements of the Public Service Pension Act 2013 and Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015.

## **14. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

- 14.1 The statutory guidance states that all employers and members within a Fund must have equal opportunity to be nominated for the role of employer or member representative through an open and transparent process. Regulation 107 of the Regulations also requires that the Administering Authority must ensure that any person it wishes to appoint as an employer or member representative has relevant experience and the capacity to represent the employers or members (as appropriate) of the Fund. An individual's ability to properly represent the interests of employers or members (as appropriate) and channel information back to those persons effectively should also be a key factor in selecting members of the Local Pension Board. This needs to take account of the wide range of membership of the Fund to ensure all employers and members are represented

**15. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

15.1 There are no crime and disorder implication to this report.

**16. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

16.1 The Council is required to set up the Local Pension Board by 1 April 2015. The Board is a requirement of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013.

**17. APPENDICES**

17.1 There are two appendices to this report. Appendix A – the Board terms of reference and appendix B – the Pension Fund membership at 31 December 2014.

**18. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- a.) Local Government Scheme Shadow Advisory Board guidance on Scheme Advisory Board
- b.) Pension Regulator Draft Code of Practice

## Appendix A

### LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON PENSIONS BOARD

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Local Pension Board (hereafter referred to as 'the Board') is established in accordance with Section 5 of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 and under regulation 106 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 (as amended). The Board is not a committee constituted under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972.

#### Functions of the Local Pension Board

The purpose of the Board is to assist the Council in its role as a scheme manager of the Scheme. Such assistance is to:

1. (a) To secure compliance with:
  - i.) Regulations made under the Public Service Pensions Act 2013 that apply to the matters referred to in sections 5 and 6 of that Act.
  - ii.) Any other legislation relating to the governance and administration of the Scheme and any connected scheme
  - iii.) Any requirements imposed by the Pensions Regulator in relation to the Scheme. These areas include but are not restricted to:
    - *Review regular compliance monitoring reports which shall include reports to and decisions made under the Regulations.*
    - *Review management, administrative and governance processes and procedures in order to ensure they remain compliant with the Regulations, relevant legislation and in particular the Code*
    - *Assist with the development of and continually review such documentation as is required by the Regulations including Governance Compliance Statement, Funding Strategy Statement and Statement of Investment Principles.*
    - *Assist with the development of and continually review scheme member and employer communications as required by the Regulations and relevant legislation.*
    - *Review the implementation of revised policies and procedures following changes to the Scheme.*
    - *Review the compliance of particular cases, projects or process on request of the Committee.*
    - *Any other area within the statement of purpose (i.e. assisting the Administering Authority) the Board deems appropriate.*

- (b) To ensure the effective and efficient and effective governance and administration of the Scheme. Including but not restricted to:
- *Assist with the development of improved customer services.*
  - *Assist with the development of improved management, administration and governance structures and policies.*
  - *Assist in the development and monitoring of process improvements on request of Committee.*
  - *Assist in the development of asset voting and engagement processes and compliance with the UK Stewardship Code.*
  - *Any other area within the statement of purpose (i.e. ensuring effective and efficient governance of the scheme) the Board deems appropriate.*

In support of its functions the Board may make recommendations to the General Purpose Committee and a response made to the Board on the outcome within a reasonable period of time.

## **Membership**

The Board shall consist of 4 voting members made of:

2 Member Representatives,

2 Employer Representatives; and

1 Further representative without voting rights to be appointed at the discretion of the Council

A chair to be appointed by the employer and member representatives of the Board on a rotating basis with the term of office shared between an employer and a member representative on an equal basis. In the event of a tied vote, the Chair will have the casting vote.

The Director of Corporate Services will determine an appropriate selection and appointment process for Board Members

### ***Termination of Membership***

Non-attendance at 2 consecutive meetings would result in a replacement representative being sought. The ability of members to seek re-appointment for further term will be considered to ensure continuity.

## **Voting Rights**

Voting rights only apply to members of a Board who are either an employer or a member representative. In the even to of a tied vote, the Chair will have the casting vote.

## **Terms of Office**

The term of office for Board members shall be co-terminus with Council's term of office. i.e. to the date of the next Council election. Extensions may be made by the Council with the agreement of the Board.

## **Conflicts of interest**

The Administering Authority must be satisfied that any person appointed to the Board and from time to time that any member of the Board does not have a conflict of interest, as defined under Section 5(5) of the Public Service Pensions Act 2013.

All members of the Board must declare to the Administering Authority on appointment and at any such time as their circumstances change, any potential conflict of interest arising as a result of their position on the Board.

## **Knowledge and understanding (including Training)**

Board members shall attend and participate in training arranged in order to meet and maintain the requirements set out in the Board's knowledge and understanding policy and framework.

## **Meetings**

The Board shall at a minimum meet twice each year and will be set in conjunction with Democratic Services.

Substitutes will not be allowed where members are unable to attend meetings.

Meetings will be services by Democratic Services and subject to the same publication rules as with a Scrutiny Committee.

Attendance requirements

Non-attendance at 2 consecutive meetings would result in a replacement representative being sought

## **Quorum**

The quorum for any meeting shall be 2 members comprising at least one employer and one member representative.

A meeting that becomes inquorate may continue but any decisions will be non-binding.

## **Reporting**

1. The Board in the first instance report its requests, recommendations or concerns to PFAC.
2. On receipt of a report PFAC should, within a reasonable period, consider and respond to the Board.

3. The appropriate internal route for escalation is to the Section 151 Officer.
4. The Board may report concerns to the LGPS Scheme Advisory Board for consideration subsequent to, but not instead of, using the appropriate internal route for escalation.
5. Board members are also subject to the requirements to report breaches of law under the Act and the Code [and the whistleblowing provisions set out in the Council's whistle blowing policy].
6. The Board will produce an annual report of its work, findings and recommendations.

### **Payment of Board Members**

An allowance will be paid to the non London Borough of Merton employees. The Council will set an allowance for these members based upon a sum of £100 per meeting, multiplied by the total number of meetings expected in each year.

### **Code of Conduct**

Members of the Board will be subject to the same Code of Conduct as members of the Council's Scrutiny Committee



**FUND MEMBERSHIP AT 31 DECEMBER 2014**

## Appendix B

<b>Employer</b>	<b>ACTIVES</b>	<b>PENSIONERS &amp; DEPENDANTS</b>	<b>DEFERREDS</b>	<b>UNDECIDEDS</b>	<b>FROZENS</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
LB Merton	3426	3227	3098	357	462	<b>10570</b>
<b>Total Administering Bodies</b>	<b>3426</b>	<b>3227</b>	<b>3098</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>462</b>	
<b>Scheduled Bodies</b>						
Merton College	0	69	56	0	16	<b>141</b>
Merton Magistrates Courts	0	9	10	0	0	<b>19</b>
Wimbledon & Putney Commons Conservators	17	24	11	2	6	<b>60</b>
Wimbledon School of Art	0	17	9	0	7	<b>33</b>
Ursuline Convent	0	4	0	0	0	<b>4</b>
St Marks Academy	30	10	23	11	2	<b>76</b>
Harris Academy (Merton)	52	6	33	7	0	<b>98</b>
Harris Academy (Morden) (ex Bishopsford)	15	4	6	5	0	<b>30</b>
CHAS	9	0	1	2	0	<b>12</b>
Benedict Primary School	24	4	3	10	0	<b>41</b>
Harris Primary Academy (Merton)	53	0	0	5	0	<b>58</b>
<b>Total Scheduled Bodies</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>31</b>	
<b>Admitted Bodies</b>						
Great Southern Group (Dignity Funerals)	0	4	1	0	0	<b>5</b>
Greater London Employers Secretariat	0	3	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
Merton Civic Theatre	0	2	0	0	1	<b>3</b>
Merton Family Trust	0	1	0	0	1	<b>2</b>
Moat Housing	0	6	7	0	0	<b>13</b>
Merton Leisure IPS	0	18	25	0	3	<b>46</b>
Central & Cecil Housing Trust	0	26	15	5	0	<b>46</b>
Greenwich Leisure Limited	5	7	13	0	0	<b>25</b>
Connaught	0	4	5	0	0	<b>9</b>
Environmental Waste Controls	0	0	0	2	0	<b>2</b>
Merton Priory Homes	84	25	32	5	0	<b>146</b>
<b>Total Administering Bodies</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>3715</b>	<b>3470</b>	<b>3348</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>11442</b>

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## Committee: Council

**Date: 15 April 2015**

## Subject: Changes to Membership of Committees and related matters

Lead officer: Ged Curran, Chief Executive

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

[democratic.services@merton.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@merton.gov.uk)

### Recommendations:

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

### 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report asks the Council to appoint a member of the Standards Committee and note the membership changes made under delegated powers since the publication of the agenda for the Council meeting held on 4 February 2015.

### 2 DETAILS

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

2.2.

Committee	Member resigning	Replaced by	Date
Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny	Councillor James Holmes	Councillor Janice Howard	9 Feb 2015
Licensing Committee	Councillor Michael Bull	Councillor John Bowcott	18 Feb 2015
Licensing Committee	Councillor John Bowcott	Councillor Michael Bull	27 Feb 2015
Overview and Scrutiny Commission	Councillor David Simpson	Councillor John Bowcott	20 March 2015
Overview and Scrutiny Commission	Councillor David Williams	Councillor James Holmes	20 March 2015
Overview and Scrutiny Commission	Councillor John Bowcott	Councillor David Simpson	31 March 2015
Overview and Scrutiny Commission	Councillor James Holmes	Councillor David Williams	31 March 2015

2.3. N/A

**3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

3.1. N/A

**4 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1. None for the purposes of this report.

**5 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

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

**6 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

6.1. None for the purposes of this report.

**7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

**8 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

8.1. N/A

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

None.

**10 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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

## **Committee: Council**

**Date: 15 April 2015**

**Subject: Petitions**

Lead officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director, Corporate Governance.

Lead member: Leader of the Council

Contact officer: Democratic Services, [democratic.services@merton.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@merton.gov.uk)

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**Recommendation:** That Council

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

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

## **2 DETAILS**

- 2.1. At the meeting held on 15 April 2015, Council received the petition detailed below. Any petitions received by Council are referred to respective departments with responsible officers asked to advise the presenting member in each case of the way in which the petition is to be progressed.

- 2.2 Petition on : 'We would love a cinema in Mitcham.'

This petition was presented by Councillors John Delaney and Peter Walker. Officers have confirmed that the Council was currently in the process of working with a development partner to deliver a cinema and restaurant development on the Sibthorpe Road Car Park site. This work should conclude over the next 6 months and updates will be provided to Councillors via Cabinet and Full Council in due course.

## **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1. None for the purpose of this report.

## **4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 4.1. None for the purpose of this report.

## **5 TIMETABLE**

- 5.1. None for the purpose of this report.

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

6.1. None for the purpose of this report.

**7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1. None for the purpose of this report.

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

8.1. None for the purpose of this report.

**9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

9.1. None for the purpose of this report.

**10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

**11 APPENDICES**

11.1. None.

**12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12.1. None.