

Merton Council Overview and Scrutiny Commission



Date: 26 November 2013
Time: 7.15 pm
Venue: Committee rooms D & E - Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX

AGENDA

Page Number

1	Declarations of pecuniary interest - see note overleaf	
2	Apologies for absence	
3	Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2013	1 - 8
4	Policing in Merton - Borough Commander	
5	Civil unrest - Cabinet's action plan for implementation of task group recommendations	9 - 18
6	Policy and service developments in response to demographic change	19 - 78
7	Business Plan 2014-18	79 - 104
8	Scrutiny of the Business Plan 2014-18: comments and recommendations from the overview and scrutiny panels	105 - 112
9	Note of the meeting of the financial monitoring task group, 29 October 2013	113 - 120
10	Work programme 2013/14	121 - 128

**This is a public meeting – members of the public are very welcome to attend.
The meeting room will be open to members of the public from 7.00 p.m.**

For more information about the work of this and other overview and scrutiny panels, please telephone 020 8545 3864 or e-mail scrutiny@merton.gov.uk. Alternatively, visit www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny

Press enquiries: press@merton.gov.uk or telephone 020 8545 3483 or 4093

Email alerts: Get notified when agendas are published
www.merton.gov.uk/council/committee.htm?view=emailer

Overview and Scrutiny Commission membership

Councillors:

Peter Southgate (Chair)
Peter McCabe (Vice-Chair)
Iain Dysart
Samantha George
Suzanne Grocott
Jeff Hanna
Logie Lohendran
Russell Makin
Diane Neil Mills
Dennis Pearce

Substitute Members:

John Dehaney
Brenda Fraser
Mary-Jane Jeanes
Oonagh Moulton
Henry Nelless
John Sargeant

Co-opted Representatives

Peter Connellan, Roman Catholic diocese
Colin Powell, Church of England diocese
Dr Joanne Sullivan-Lyons, Secondary school parent governor representative
Vacancy, Primary school parent governor representative

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.

What is Overview and Scrutiny?

Overview and Scrutiny describes the way Merton's scrutiny councillors hold the Council's Executive (the Cabinet) to account to make sure that they take the right decisions for the Borough. Scrutiny panels also carry out reviews of Council services or issues to identify ways the Council can improve or develop new policy to meet the needs of local people. From May 2008, the Overview & Scrutiny Commission and Panels have been restructured and the Panels renamed to reflect the Local Area Agreement strategic themes.

Scrutiny's work falls into four broad areas:

- ⇒ **Call-in:** If three (non-executive) councillors feel that a decision made by the Cabinet is inappropriate they can 'call the decision in' after it has been made to prevent the decision taking immediate effect. They can then interview the Cabinet Member or Council Officers and make recommendations to the decision-maker suggesting improvements.
- ⇒ **Policy Reviews:** The panels carry out detailed, evidence-based assessments of Council services or issues that affect the lives of local people. At the end of the review the panels issue a report setting out their findings and recommendations for improvement and present it to Cabinet and other partner agencies. During the reviews, panels will gather information, evidence and opinions from Council officers, external bodies and organisations and members of the public to help them understand the key issues relating to the review topic.
- ⇒ **One-Off Reviews:** Panels often want to have a quick, one-off review of a topic and will ask Council officers to come and speak to them about a particular service or issue before making recommendations to the Cabinet.
- ⇒ **Scrutiny of Council Documents:** Panels also examine key Council documents, such as the budget, the Business Plan and the Best Value Performance Plan.

Scrutiny panels need the help of local people, partners and community groups to make sure that Merton delivers effective services. If you think there is something that scrutiny should look at, or have views on current reviews being carried out by scrutiny, let us know.

For more information, please contact the Scrutiny Team on 020 8545 3864 or by e-mail on scrutiny@merton.gov.uk. Alternatively, visit www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny

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.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION

19 SEPTEMBER 2013

(19.15 - 22.00)

PRESENT: Councillors Peter Southgate (in the Chair), Iain Dysart, Samantha George, Suzanne Grocott, Jeff Hanna, Logie Lohendran, Russell Makin, Diane Neil Mills, Peter McCabe and Dennis Pearce.

Co-opted member Peter Connellan.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors John Dehaney, Stephen Alambritis, Suzanne Evans, Richard Hilton.

Sheila Knight.

Ged Curran (Chief Executive), Sophie Ellis (Assistant Director of Business Improvement), Simon Williams (Director, Community & Housing Department), Hayley James (Volunteering Strategy Programme Manager, Merton Voluntary Service Council) and Ian Murrell (Service Manager, EH TS and Licensing)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE NOTE OVERLEAF (Agenda Item 1)

None.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 2)

Apologies were received from co-opted members, Jo Sullivan-Lyons and Colin Powell.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 JULY 2013 (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: to agree the minutes with the addition of a further action point asking the Borough Commander to provide information on the number and roles of all police officers in the borough pre and post the move to the Local Policing Model, not just those in neighbourhood teams.

ACTION: Head of Democracy Services to contact the Borough Commander to request this information

Matters arising – the Chair announced that budget scrutiny training had been arranged for 10 October and questioning skills training for 24 October.

4 VISION, KEY PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR 2013/14 - PRESENTATION BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Agenda Item 4)

The Leader welcomed the contribution that scrutiny makes to decision making and said that Cabinet have implemented many recommendations from scrutiny. He illustrated the achievements and challenges facing the council by outlining a day in the life of a hypothetical family in Merton. The achievements cited included food and bulky waste collections, excellent schools and library services, good local parks, lunch clubs, being a safe borough, ambitious plans for regenerating Mitcham, Morden and Raynes Park and frozen levels of council tax for last three years. The Leader reminded the Commission that Merton had won the Municipal Journal's best achieving council award this year, highlighting the role that low spend, high performance and partnership working had played in this achievement. He said that one of the key challenges was to retain and expand employment opportunities in the borough.

The Chief Executive outlined some of the strategic issues facing the council:

- ensuring the energy from waste plant meets the borough's needs and to explore potential additional benefits for other waste services that could accrue from working in partnership
- improving the quality of leisure facilities in the borough
- working with the NHS and other partners to improve the health of local residents and to protect St Helier hospital
- implementing proposals in the government's care bill whereby local authorities would have responsibility for keeping track of how much each person has spent on "qualifying" care services (the government is proposing a cap on individual expenditure on adult social care)
- identifying the best provision to meet the need for additional secondary school places
- understanding the drivers behind the above national average increase in referrals to children's social care services and numbers taken into care
- Continuing to improve the speed with which adoption applications are handled
- Improving the youth justice service – currently average in comparison with other London boroughs
- Continuing to provide quality and value for local residents

The Chair of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel said that the Panel had considered a report on adoption at its last meeting and had found that the numbers in Merton are relatively small and so average performance is disproportionately influenced by delays with one or two cases. He added that the figures showed that the average time taken is already decreasing substantially.

The Chief Executive said that the borough had begun to address its funding gap prior to neighbouring authorities and had made significant changes the way services are provided as well as reducing the number of staff by 20% since 2009. A small funding

gap remains for the next two financial years but it is likely to increase again from 2017/18 if the Office of Budget Responsibility's predictions of national debt are accurate as the government will have limited room for manoeuvre in relation to local government funding. He added that recent growth projections are more hopeful so those pressures may be mitigated – the council will plan for the worst and hope for the best.

In response to a question about council tax levels, the Leader said that the administration planned to freeze these again next year if possible but recognised that this would be difficult.

Members asked what shared services were being considered, what the optimum level of aggregation of services would be and what was being done to monitor the longer term performance of the services. The Chief Executive said that a lot of conversations are currently taking place around potential shared services with other boroughs. The pension service will be shared with Wandsworth and a 4 borough shared regulatory service has been agreed plus discussion with Wandsworth on sharing social care and with other South London councils on sharing back office functions. The optimum number of partners varies according to the nature of the service. Where there are economies of scale, then the larger the better. Where the service is more complex and/or there needs to be more involvement in day to day detail of the work then a smaller shared service is better. A client monitoring officer is assigned for each shared service to keep track of performance and hold the service to account.

ACTION: the Chief Executive undertook to find out whether shared service monitoring includes mystery shopping.

In response to a Commission member's comments about Lord Rogers' thoughts, made at the recent Future Wimbledon conference, on redesigning Wimbledon Broadway, the Leader said that they would be looked at should any organisation bring any proposals forward. The Chief Executive added that the Conference had been a good example of politicians from different parties working together for the good of the borough.

The Leader and Chief Executive made further points in response to questions:

- the council could choose to give older people concessionary prices for leisure centre use but, under the terms of the contract, the provider GLL would have to be compensated for any income loss. The council's public health team could work to increase uptake to offset income loss.
- in relation to making further savings from 2017, it is likely that every approach taken to date would be used but to a greater degree as well as looking at experience from other authorities
- the management of the council's debt is ultimately a political choice, taking into account the level of debt and the cost of servicing it

- the council has introduced the London Living Wage for its directly employed staff. Contracts with external organisations are monitored to ensure that their staff are treated fairly
- targets have been set to increase the amount of waste that is recycled. In response to a question about how schools could contribute, the Leader said that some have solar panels on their roofs and Peter Connellan, co-opted member, added that schools had separate paper recycling bins .

A Commission member pointed out that lunch clubs are not funded by the council. The Leader said the Council provides grants to voluntary organisations such as FISH and the Merton and Morden Guild and these organisations decide how to spend them. He undertook to review support for lunch clubs.

5 CABINET RESPONSE TO REFERRAL ON NOISE CONTROL SERVICE (Agenda Item 5)

Ian Murrell, Service Manager - EH, TS and Licensing, introduced the report. He explained that Cabinet's response in relation to the Commission's request "to explore options for a 24/7 noise service as soon as possible", having received a report on options at its meeting on 18 February, was to defer a decision on this until it had further information on how the service worked with MASCOT and to await the outcome of discussions with neighbouring authorities on setting up a shared regulatory service that would include noise nuisance.

Ian Murrell said that Merton, Croydon and Richmond had made a formal commitment to a shared service and that Merton would be the lead borough. Other south-west London boroughs may join at a later stage. He added that Richmond's Out of Hours service is very similar to Merton's and the Croydon service has a narrower band of out of hours service but there are also dedicated officers who work a night shift.

Commission members noted that Friday and Saturday nights are the busiest periods for the service, averaging 10-12 calls per night when the out of hours service is operating compared to 3 on other nights. They commented that it would be helpful to have further information setting out how calls are spread across days of the week and for each month so that an assessment could be made of the cost effectiveness of a 24/7 service.

In response to questions on noise nuisance generally, Ian Murrell said that several callers about one incident and callers who are experiencing persistent noise nuisance (as opposed to a one-off) are prioritised as regards the deployment of monitoring equipment and other measures as appropriate. However all complaints about noise nuisance are investigated.

The Commission requested data on the number and type of legal action taken in 2013/14 so far, in a similar format to the 2012/13 data in the table in paragraph 2.11.
ACTION: Ian Murrell, Service Manager - EH, TS and Licensing

In response to a question about the costs set out in paragraph 6.2 of the report, Ian Murrell said that it would cost an additional £200k for a 24/7 service, a model similar to Croydon's would cost an additional £100k and extending the current service to all Friday nights(11pm-4am) year-round would cost an additional £20k. In response to a question about whether the Croydon service had spare capacity that could be used by Merton as a temporary measure, Ian Murrell said that this would be unlikely. Ian Murrell also indicated the shared service had a 25% savings target.

The Chair invited Councillor Suzanne Evans to address the Commission because she had been involved previously in bringing the issue to the Commission's attention. Councillor Evans said that the issue had first been raised by the Commission in February 2012 and asked the Commission to make a reference to Cabinet to register its dismay at the lack of action on an issue which has commanded cross-party support at Commission meetings.

Commission members discussed how they wished to respond to Cabinet and RESOLVED that the Commission make a reference to Cabinet stating that it:

- is not minded to accept the Cabinet's deferment without comment
- welcomes the establishment of a shared regulatory service, including Merton's role as lead borough
- regrets that so much time has elapsed since the Commission first received a report on this issue in February 2012
- recommends that Cabinet request further analysis of the pattern of calls by hour of day and day of week for 2012/13 and 2013/14
- would wish to be confident that the proposed shared service will provide an improved service in terms of coverage
- recommends that Cabinet spend £20,000 to enhance the current service. It was suggested that a pilot with increased out of hours coverage would demonstrate whether there is actual demand for such a service. Cabinet is asked to note that some members of the Commission pressed for a 24/7 service to be commenced as soon as possible.

6 PUBLIC VALUE PILOT REVIEWS (Agenda Item 6)

Sophie Ellis, Assistant Director of Business Improvement, explained the background to the reviews and said that the purpose of the public value review pilots had been as much to test the process as to get results from the pilot reviews. She said that the report was somewhat weighted towards reflecting on lessons learned rather than setting out the successes of the pilots.

When asked what she would have done differently, Sophie Ellis said that she had hoped to incorporate more external expertise and independent challenge and that there would now be a period of reflection so that a revised process could be finalised

and a new programme could start in April 2014. Simon Williams, Director of Community and Housing, added that the Corporate Management Team (CMT) had established the public value reviews in order to take a broader view of services and that the planned four year programme had been hugely ambitious. The pilot had shown that the reviews as initially envisaged focussed too much on process and CMT had therefore chosen to refocus the programme in order to take a sharper, quicker look at those services which it prioritises for a public value review

One member commented that the use of smart, sophisticated tools to understand customer needs and demands would be helpful.

In response to a question about how service managers are rewarded for improving service quality and reducing costs, Simon Williams said that such performance was expected of all managers and so was not explicitly rewarded. CMT will be introducing a new statement of management behaviour against which they will be assessed.

Sophie Ellis undertook to provide information about what a “digital newsroom” is (paragraph 6.14).

ACTION: Assistant Director of Business Improvement.

The Commission AGREED that it wishes to see the revised proposals relating to the public value reviews in due course and that it chose not to comment on the findings of the individual pilot reviews at this point in time.

7 CABINET RESPONSE TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE VOLUNTEERING SCRUTINY TASK GROUP (Agenda Item 7)

In response to a question of clarification, Simon Williams, Director of Community and Housing, said that both Merton Voluntary Service Council and Volunteer Centre Merton had entered the merger on a fully voluntary basis, agreed by both boards of trustees.

Members of the Commission made a number of observations on the response to the recommendations:

Recommendation 1

The Commission asked to see analysis of existing data on volunteers from the 2012 Annual Residents Survey. Hayley James, Volunteering Strategy Programme Manager, Merton Voluntary Service Council, undertook to send the report to members of the Commission. She said that the results showed that 80% of respondents hadn't spent any time volunteering over the past year – the main reason given was lack of time. The Volunteering Strategy therefore includes the provision of different types of volunteering opportunities for those who don't have much time to spare but would like to volunteer.

ACTION: Volunteering Strategy Programme Manager, Merton Voluntary Service Council

Recommendation 2

The Commission asked that the present system whereby the Mayor uses their own discretion as to when to give out a pin badge be retained. It was therefore AGREED to delete the last sentence of the recommendation and sections 2.2 - 2.4 of the implementation plan.

Recommendation 6

The Commission asked that the response to this recommendation be re-worded in order to demonstrate the use of My Merton and other low-tech mechanisms of communication. One member commented that he welcomed the re-print of the MVSC directory of organisations and that it was helpful to have a print copy as well as on-line access.

On behalf of the Commission, the Chair thanked Hayley James for the detailed response that had been provided to the task group's recommendations. He advised the Commission that Simon Williams and Hayley James would be attending its April meeting with a further update on task group recommendations as well as an update on the Volunteering Strategy and action taken on volunteering by the Council's Corporate Management Team

8 NOTE OF MEETING OF THE FINANCIAL MONITORING TASK GROUP, 4 SEPTEMBER 2013 (Agenda Item 8)

RESOLVED: to note the minutes of the financial monitoring task group's meeting of 4 September 2013.

9 WORK PROGRAMME 2013/14 (Agenda Item 9)

RESOLVED:

1. to agree the work programme as set out in the report
2. that the Chair and Vice Chair would prioritise items for the November meeting agenda as it is over-full

This page is intentionally left blank

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Date: 26 November 2013

Agenda item:

Wards: All

Subject: Civil unrest – Cabinet’s action plan for implementation of task group recommendations

Lead officer: Annalise Elliott, Head of Safer Merton

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

Contact officer: Annalise Elliott, Head of Safer Merton

Recommendations:

- A. That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission discusses and comments on the work undertaken in respect of the Civil Unrest Action Plan and considers the request for a number of the actions to now be closed.
-

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 A task group was set up in order to investigate and identify lessons learned from the civil unrest that took place in parts of Colliers Wood, Wimbledon and Mitcham in August 2011. This report highlights the recommendations that were made by cabinet and provides an update on progress made on these recommendations, as of November 2013.

2. DETAILS

- 2.1 Over five days in August 2011 around 15,000 people rioted, looted and damaged town centres in 66 different areas across England. The government established the Riots, Communities and Victims Panel, to investigate the causes of the riots and to consider what more could be done to build greater social and economic resilience in communities.
- 2.2 The Council, at its meeting on 23 September 2011, discussed the civil unrest that took place in parts of Colliers Wood, Wimbledon and Mitcham in August 2011. Council resolved that the Scrutiny Commission and/ or relevant Panels should receive and consider a report of events in Merton, and discuss any consequent initiatives, which might usefully be pursued for the benefit of the authority, its partners and the wider community.
- 2.3 From the outset, task group members agreed that they wished to keep the review as evidence based and focussed on Merton as possible. The task group had six meetings at which a wide range of evidence was considered including national, regional and local reports as well as discussion with the police, Safer Merton, youth service and emergency planning.

- 2.4 At Cabinet on the 22nd of October 2012 the implementation of the recommendations were agreed.
- 2.5 A preliminary update on the Action Plan was taken to Overview and Scrutiny in November 2012
- 2.6 Cabinet requested that they note the update to the action plan prior to Overview and Scrutiny, so the timetable was altered accordingly.
- 2.7 The update on the action plan was taken to Cabinet on the 10th of June. Cabinet did not request any changes, however the key message given was that criminality should not be rewarded and our response to the unrest should reflect this.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 To have not undertaken a review and monitor the action plan, however potential lessons may not be learnt to prevent similar problems in the future.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1 This report will go to Overview and Scrutiny to note the progress on the recommendations.

5. TIMETABLE

13 th Sep 2011	Council discussed the Civil Unrest and resolved that a Scrutiny Commission be provided with a report of events
11 th October 2011	Civil Unrest was discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and a task group was recommended to start in January to pull together a report.
22 nd Oct 2012	The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission presented the report at Cabinet where the recommendations were noted and Cabinet requested an action plan, which they would then formally agree, prior to being taken back to the commission.
28 th Nov 2012	Initial feedback was provided to the Commission on the actions set out in the task group report.
28 th May 2013	Progress on the Civil Unrest Task Group Actions to be taken to LSG prior to being reported back to Cabinet in June and the Commission in July
10 th June 2013	Cabinet note and formally approve the progress made in relation to action plan.

16 th July 2013	The Overview and Scrutiny Commission noted the approved action plan and progress.
Forward	
26 th Nov 2013	The Overview and Scrutiny Commission note the approved action plan and progress.

6. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None for the purposes of this report - financial, resource and property implications of implementing the agreed recommendations are met by the various council departments and the partnership and this will inform the actions taken, which will need to be delivered within an environment of financial and physical constraint.

7. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None

8. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 This report covers all sections of the community and does not discriminate against any group. It should foster better community relations between the local residents and between partner organisations.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The implications are crime and disorder specific.

10. RISK AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 None for the purposes of this report – risk management and health and safety implications of implementing the agreed recommendations have been accounted for. Reducing the opportunity for future incidents will improve the health and safety of our residents and visitors.

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

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Action Plan

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 None

Appendix 1

Updates on the recommendations for the civil unrest review

	Responsible decision making body
Recommendation 1	
We recommend that the Borough Commander provide a written statement setting out what mechanisms are available to the police locally for drawing in additional resources in an emergency and what changes have been made to those procedures in the light of the widespread unrest experienced in August 2011.	Police
<p>Action: Covered by the MPS Service Mobilisation Plan, which has been revised following the disorder and to incorporate structural changes under the One Met Model change programme. These are covered by a Standard Operating Procedure document. This is a restricted document and not for publication.</p> <p>November 2013</p> <p>The Met is currently undertaking a major change programme entitled the One Met Model. Within that model a new MetHQ command unit is being introduced. This is in the final design process and is likely to go live in February 2014. The model will incorporate Met Grip, Met Intelligence and Met Resources. This will enable a central overview at all times of what and where incidents are happening, what resources are on duty and what intelligence and risks exist. This is accompanied by three daily 'grip' meetings to review and respond to live and emerging crime and disorder issues across London. If an incident like the August Disorder occurred again, the Met will be in a far stronger position to identify emerging problems and co-ordinate resources pan London to provide a more effective policing response. The One Met Model is a centrally driven change programme, which is beyond the control and influence of individual Boroughs.</p> <p>The Police request that this action is now closed</p>	
Recommendation 2	
We recommend that the Overview and Scrutiny Commission invite the Borough Commander to attend a meeting in order to discuss the level of police resources that will be deployed in the borough after the Olympics, including the number of public order trained officers.	Overview and Scrutiny Commission Police
<p>Action: The borough commander received an invitation and clarification as to what is required from him and attended the meeting on the 28th of November.</p> <p>November 2013</p> <p>All part of centrally led Local Policing Model. The Olympics closed over a year ago and policing resources remain an area of close scrutiny by members. This has now moved beyond the</p>	

scope of this review. The Police request that this action is now closed	
Recommendation 3	
We recommend that a list of drivers who would be willing to volunteer during any future emergency is drawn up and that appropriate advice is issued to them immediately so that they understand the limits around what they may be asked to do.	Merton Transport Services (MTS)
Action: Emergency folders showing all staff and contact details are held. These are reviewed six monthly and the folders are kept off site. It was this information that enabled such a strong response previously. The team has also undertaken toolbox training to enable any one to manage any need that MTS Operations and workshops might be required to assist with. Should anyone be asked to formulate a response they would phone and request assistance from whatever staff would be of use. In addition they are now formulating an additional list of drivers who specifically wish to be considered for any emergency response. This information will be available to whoever needs it and it will also be placed in the emergency folders. November 2013 Standard operating procedures and guidance for staff are being provided to staff	
Recommendation 4	
We further recommend that no volunteer driver should be put in a position where they would not be covered by insurance.	Merton Transport Services
Action: All Council Staff who drive Council vehicles are covered by Council insurance. On occasions, like with the Civil Unrest situation, the Police Officers who drove Council vehicles were able to do so under the cover of their Police Insurance. November 2013 Merton Transport Services have no further update to provide and have asked for this action to now be closed.	
Recommendation 5	
We recommend that the council's corporate management team identify who in the council is best placed to maintain contact lists for businesses and community leaders that can be used by the police and other partners during an emergency. Officers should review existing options and identify the most suitable contact lists for future use.	Corporate Safety Services and the Policy, Partnerships and Strategy Team.

<p>Action:</p> <p>Raised at CMT and agreed that Corporate Safety Services will maintain a list of business contacts. CMT agreed that a starting point would be to use the contact list of businesses compiled by the Merton Chamber of Commerce. The Policy, Strategy and Partnerships Team will maintain a contact list of community leaders.</p> <p>November 2013</p> <p>In any future emergency, the Emergency Planning Team will use the business lists maintained by the Merton Chamber of Commerce and the Community Leaders list maintained by the Policy and Partnerships Team. The numbers for the list owners are now part of the Emergency Planning call out list</p>	
Recommendation 6	
<p>We recommend that the Head of Communications identify the best ways in which the Council could post website and social media messages during any future emergency situations to encourage positive behaviour and support from local residents.</p>	Communications Team
<p>Action: The head of communications has addressed it the media emergency plan incorporates a wide range of channels including social media now.</p> <p>November 2013</p> <p>The Communications Team have no further updates for this action and have requested that this is now closed.</p>	
Recommendation 7	
<p>We recommend that Cabinet explore with the corporate management team the scoping of new service for those 18-24 year olds at risk of anti-social behaviour, but not currently supported by any existing service, including a business case relating to the costs and benefits of commissioning such a service.</p>	Cabinet/ CSF
<p>Actions: Sits with the cabinet member for CSF and the cabinet member for community safety</p> <p>Work is already underway in supporting this group in the form of the Offender Management Panel however this only deals with a minority of 'problem' young adults. The troubled families programme now underway also looks to support relevant people within this age grouping.</p> <p>The Ending Gangs and Youth Violence Peer Review took place during the week of the 18th of March. The report outlining the findings and possible recommendations is due imminently and will then be taken forward and signed off by the partnership.</p> <p>November 2013</p> <p>Adults OMP has been reviewed and refreshed.</p> <p>EGYV review has happened and action plan agreed and is being</p>	

<p>delivered.</p> <p>Bids to MOPAC have secured additional resource for gangs work and work with at risk girls.</p> <p>CSF Children at Risk of Sexual Exploitation project in place.</p> <p>Children, Schools and Families have requested that this action is now closed.</p>	
Recommendation 8	
<p>We further recommend that Cabinet consider the role of central government, and whether the relevant Minister should be lobbied to review the need for such a service - whilst recognising the role that voluntary sector organisations might have.</p>	Cabinet
<p>The council has proactively looked for ways to develop its capacity to work with older young people 19-25. As examples we have implemented our Transforming Families Service that enables us to work with older siblings as long as the family overall meet the eligibility criteria. We have also bid to MOPAC for specific resources to undertake targeted work with young offenders in this older age range. At the time of writing we are yet to hear the outcome of the bid.</p> <p>November 2013</p> <p>Transforming Families in delivery phase.</p> <p>Mopac Bids successful (see above)</p> <p>Children, Schools and families request that this action is now closed.</p>	
Recommendation 9	
<p>We recommend that the work by the youth service to identify appropriate provision for the young people who are most in need is widened to assess need more generally and advise on resources necessary to address this, not precluding the possibility of making a growth bid.</p>	Cabinet/ Children Schools and Families (CSF)
<p>Actions: Sits with the cabinet member for CSF and discussions as part of the corporate budget setting programme have been undertaken.</p> <p>There was no process for growth, which CSF could bid into for 13/14 due to the significant budget pressures on the Council overall. A successful bid has been made to MOPAC for work with girls at risk of sexual exploitation and deterrence and diversion from gangs. The money is initially for one year only.</p> <p>November 2013</p> <p>Children Schools and Families have appointed to the position of Young Women and Girls worker which is funded by MOPAC initially for one year, but may be extended to three. The</p>	

<p>successful candidate should start work this month. The post will sit within CSF and more specifically Family and Adolescent Services. The gang's worker (MOPAC funded) commenced work at the beginning of November and this post also sits within Family and Adolescent strand of CSF.</p>	
Recommendation 10	
<p>We recommend that the police continue to review how the way in which stop and search is carried out locally and the information provided at the time could be changed to minimise the perception of unfair treatment. This could include a clearly written flyer (with a phone number for feedback), visiting youth clubs and taking other opportunities for positive interactions that will build good relationships with young people.</p>	Police
<p>Action: This has been driven centrally as a response to both the disorder and the Commissioner's concerns that Stop and Search powers to not engender public confidence. The review has been conducted under the 'Stop It' project. Locally numbers of stop and search have fallen dramatically and performance has improved. The uses of s.60 and s.44 terrorism searches have all but ceased. Stop and search continues to be monitored locally by an effective stop and search-monitoring group.</p> <p>November 2013</p> <p>'Stop It' is now embedded. The use of Stop and Search has been reduced significantly with a much-improved ratio of positive searches. This continues to be monitored through the borough Stop and Search Monitoring Group.</p> <p>The Police request that this action is now closed</p>	
Recommendation 11	
<p>We recommend that there is a discussion at the head teachers group, to which the police are invited, on whether it would be helpful to ask the school based police officers (or another police officer) to talk to pupils about stop and search.</p>	CSF/ Head Teachers Group
<p>Actions: The police to set up meetings via the schools officers to meet head teachers and formulate an offer that can be delivered across the school environment (and other youth provision).</p> <p>The Safer Schools Partnership has continued to meet and to respond innovatively to this issue. Initial feedback from the recent Home Office peer review commended the Partnership for their work, which they felt included good practice.</p> <p>November 2013</p> <p>Growing Against Gangs and Violence programme rolled out amongst most schools in the Borough with an element of Stop Search.</p>	

New SLA between MOPAC and Merton Secondary schools to maintain schools based police agreed.	
---	--

It is now requested that this action is closed

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Date: 26 November 2013

Wards: All

Subject: Policy and service developments in response to demographic change

Lead officer: Yvette Stanley, Director of Children, Schools and Families

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

Contact officer: John Dimmer, Head of Policy, Strategy and Partnerships

Recommendations:

- A. That the Commission discuss and comment on the service and policy changes that are planned in response to demographic changes in the borough.
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The attached report sets out what service and policy changes are planned in response to demographic changes arising from the Census 2011.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1 The attached report sets out:

- a forecast for what Merton will look like in 2017
- key demographic shifts and implications for service delivery
- how departments are planning ahead for these changes.

- 2.2 The Executive Summary of the report summarises the key demographic shifts that will have a significant impact for service planning, in particular:

- the overall population increase is likely to increase demand for most services
- the increase in the proportion of older and younger people will increase demand for a number of universal and specialist services, in particular education and social care
- demographic changes are not consistent across all wards: wards in the east and the north are changing faster, with a shift towards a more inner London profile than wards to the south and west of the borough.

- 2.3 A summary of the service and policy changes that are planned in response to these changes can be found at the front of chapters 5, 6 and 7,

- 2.4 Chapter 8 of the report looks at the financial implications of these changes, the pressure on budget lines at service level and likely available resources.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. N/A

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1. Internal discussions only.

5 TIMETABLE

5.1. N/A

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. The demographic changes outlined in the attached report will increase demand for a number of Council services, however, resources to meet this demand are reducing. This report provides useful context to inform the Medium Term Financial Strategy going forward.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. None

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1. None

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. None

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

- Merton 2017 – an analysis of key demographic trends and their likely impact on service delivery.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None



Merton 2017

An analysis of key demographic trends and their likely impact on service delivery

Report prepared by the Policy Network

London Borough of Merton

November 2013

Contents

1. Executive Summary	3
2. Introduction	6
3. Key policy and legislative drivers	7
4. Merton population forecast 2017	9
5. Service implications for children, young people, education and families	17
6. Service implications for public health and adult social care	31
7. Service implications for housing, environment, transport and economic development	41
8. Financial implications	56

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction

This report considers what Merton might look like in 2017, how demographic changes could impact on the services the Council provides and how the Council is planning ahead for changes in demand for its services. Demographic pressures also need to be considered alongside the resources available to deliver services. There have already been significant reductions in public sector resources and further reductions are inevitable. As well as demographic and financial factors, there are significant legislative changes in the pipeline, in particular the government's welfare reform changes and changes to health and social care.

1.2 Merton in 2017

The GLA forecasts that Merton's population will increase between 6,000 and 16,000 people by 2017. This is a growth of between 3% and 8%. Whilst slightly lower than the rest of London this increase will put further pressure on public services and infrastructure in the borough.

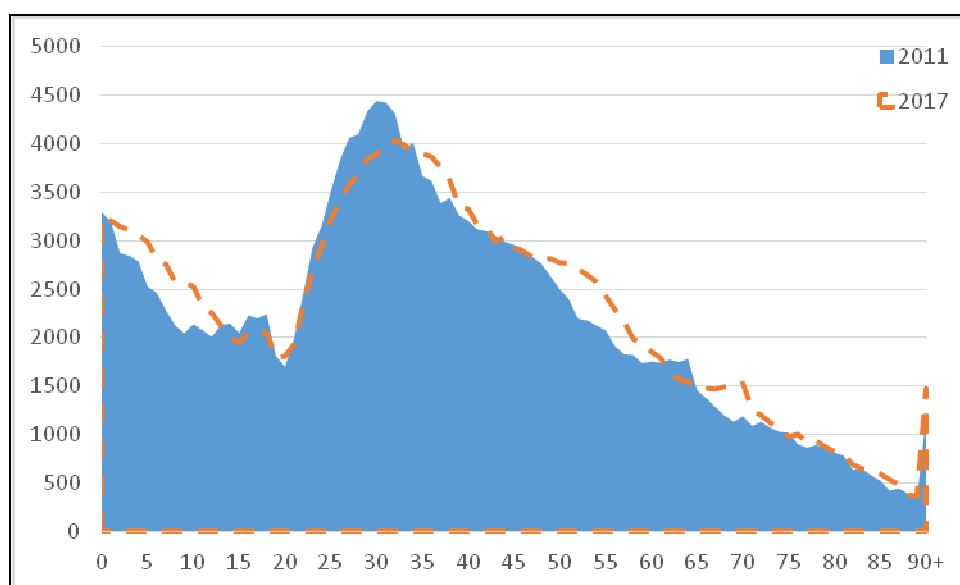


Figure 1.1: Age profile for Merton 2011 and 2017

A significant feature of Merton's population in 2017 is the changing age profile of the borough's residents with an increase in the proportion of older and younger age groups. The number of children and young people aged 0-19 is forecast to increase by around 3,180 (7%) over this period. In particular, there is forecast to be an increase of 2,270 (20%) in the number of children aged 5 to 9. It is notable that the 20 to 35 age group is forecast to fall by 2017, perhaps reflecting the lack of affordable housing in the borough. There is also forecast to be an increase of around 2,900 people (11%) in the over 65 age group with an increase of around 1,500 (25%) in the over 90 age group. These changes are likely to result in demand pressures in three key areas of service provision – education, children's social care and adult social care.

The ethnic composition of the borough is also forecast to change significantly, with the proportion of people from a BAME background increasing from 35% in 2011 to 39% in 2017. The largest increases are in the Other Asian, Black African and Pakistani ethnic groups. The ethnic composition of the

borough's residents also differs across age groups with a forecast increase in the proportion of BAME people in the 0-19 age group from 44% in 2011 to 47% in 2017.

Population growth is fastest in the east of the borough which already has a higher population density, higher levels of deprivation, higher levels of population churn and a more diverse population than the west of the borough. The proportion of the population of non working age is forecast to increase in wards to the west and south of the borough. These changes have implications for community cohesion and a range of services including social care, education and health.

1.3 Implications for children, families and young people

The key implications for children, families and young people include:

- the high birth rate and increase in children under 5 will place additional demands on health services in particular new born and child screening, immunisations and 6 week checks
- the increase in the 0-4 age group will increase demand for affordable childcare and nursery provision
- the rapid increase in the primary school age group will increase demand for primary places and subsequently for secondary places, also the demand for SEN provision will also increase
- the increase in the number of children living in areas of deprivation to the east of Merton will increase the number of pupils experiencing factors that could affect educational attainment e.g. low income, poor housing etc.
- this increase in the 0-19 age group is likely to increase demand for children's social care services.

Further detail on the implications of these demographic changes and how the Council is responding to them is set out in chapter 5.

1.4 Implications for adult social care and public health

The key implications for adult social care and public health include:

- the increase in the older population coupled with people living longer will increase demand for adult social care and health services
- the increase in the BAME population has implications for public health where risks for specific diseases, lifestyle risks and lower awareness of prevention services result in higher prevalence of disease amongst the BAME population
- without changes in lifestyle the increase in the number of people aged over 45 suggests disease prevalence in Merton will also increase, with implications for both health and social care services.

Further detail on the implications of these demographic changes and how the Council is responding to them is set out in chapter 6.

1.5 Implications for housing, environment, libraries, transport and economic development

The key implications for housing, environment, libraries, transport and economic development include:

- the increase in the number of households combined with rising house prices and growth in the private rented sector is likely to result in lower income households living in poorer quality accommodation and rising homelessness
- the increase in the number of households and the number of larger households could result in more waste going to the South London Waste Partnership's 'energy from waste' plant unless recycling levels increase
- the increase in households with children and population growth focused in wards to the east with poorer public transport links could increase the number of cars on the road and congestion
- an increasing number of school leavers and an increase in the number of jobs in Merton requires a co-ordinated approach to improving pathways into work.

Further detail on the implications of these demographic changes and how the Council is responding to them is set out in chapter 7.

1.6 Financial implications

If future expenditure on social care services and education were to increase in line with demand then all other Council services, with the exception of waste management, would have to cease – an impossible scenario. Given the resources available to the Council this means that any increase in demand caused by demographic changes must be contained within existing budgets though either efficiency savings or ceasing to deliver some services.

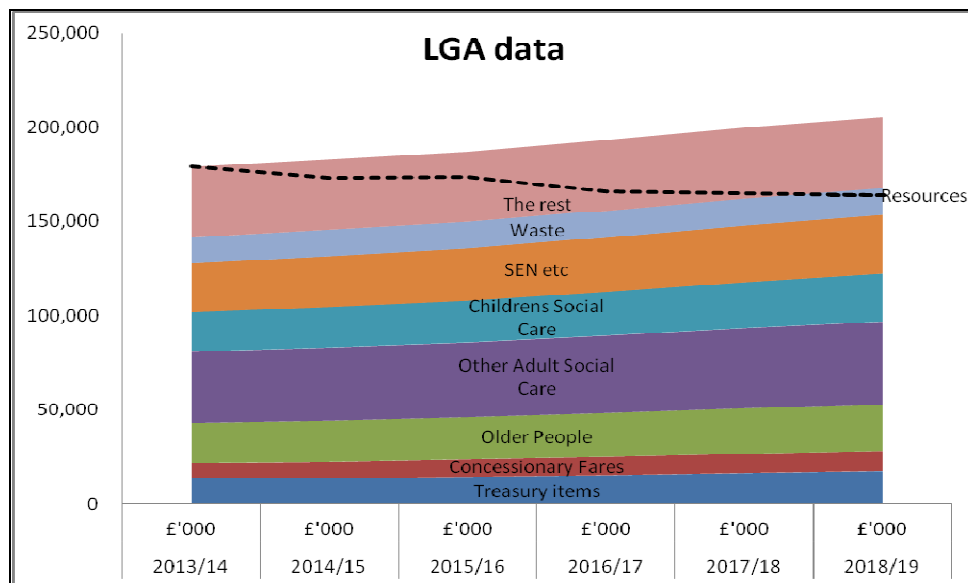


Figure 1.2: LGA modelling of service demand, expenditure requirements and likely resources 2013/14 - 2018/19

2. Introduction

2.1 Purpose

This report models what Merton's demography could look like in 2017 and considers the potential implications for services, set alongside the Council's financial strategy and future legislative changes that will impact on local government in the coming years. The report also looks at how the Council is planning to respond to these changes.

2.2 Methodology

This report has been prepared by the Council's Policy Network. This is a group of policy experts within the Council drawn together to model and analyse how demographic changes will impact on Council services. This project was sponsored by the Chief Executive and the project was led by the Director of Children, Schools and Families.

2.3 Data

The basis of the demographic forecast of what Merton will look like in 2017 is the Greater London Authority (GLA) population projections. These are based on births, deaths and migration and use population data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) which is largely based on the Census 2011.

The GLA publish two projections models (SHLAA and Trend-based) based on 2011 Census data. The SHLAA forecast is the GLA population projection model which is linked to development trajectories from the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). The Trend-based projection does not take dwellings into account but considers births, population (by single year of age), migration (outflows and inflows), total fertility rates and life expectancy at birth. In general, forecasts in this report refer to the SHLAA based projection but the Trend based forecast is also referred to from time to time and this is made clear in the relevant section.

Where possible we have sought to use internal data sources alongside the GLA forecasts in order to provide a secondary source for modelling. In many cases forecasts are based on regression analysis – examining trends and forecasting them forward. Where other data sources have been used these are referenced in the report.

In most cases the starting point for comparison will be 2011 (the date of the last Census). Where this is not the case e.g. if 2013 data has been used, this is stated in the report.

In most cases we have rounded numbers to the nearest 100 and percentages to the nearest whole number.

3. Key policy and legislative drivers

3.1 Introduction

The main purpose of this report is to consider the impact of demographic change on the demand for Council services. However, demographic change is only one of a number of factors that the Council must consider when planning future service provision. The impact of the latest Comprehensive Spending Review on the resources that the Council has available to provide services is profound. In addition there are some significant legislative changes at a national level that will impact on what and how services are provided by local government. The main changes are set out below.

Policy/legislative driver	Possible impact on council/partners
<p>Comprehensive Spending Review - the latest Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) fiscal outlook predicts the total amount of discretionary spending allocated to government departments will fall by 11% between 2011/12 and 2016/17.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding available to local authorities through the Local Government Finance Settlement is expected to continue to decrease in line with the overall reduction in departmental allocations placing further pressures on council services.
<p>Welfare Reform – a suite of changes to the current welfare benefits system which will see the streamlining of core benefits with the roll out of Universal Credit (UC) from late 2013 and the introduction of the Benefits Cap which will limit the total amount of benefit working-age claimants can receive to £500 per week. New claimants applying for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) will be moved to the Personalised Independence Payment (PIP) system with tighter eligibility criteria and more frequent assessments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit cap likely to result in increased pressure on services from low-income and unemployed households moving into the borough from high-rent areas in neighbouring boroughs. • Move to direct payments likely to have a negative impact on collection of rents. • Increased pressure on Housing Needs and assessment teams to provide suitable accommodation for residents deemed to be under-occupying. • 20% budget cut in DLA budget will mean that a large number of new claimants applying for PIP will be turned down. Likely to have an impact on Council support and assessment services. •
<p>Care and Support Bill - due to become law by 2016, the Care Bill addresses three key areas of health and social care: Part 1: the major reform of adult social care law; Part 2: health reforms in response to the Francis Inquiry; Part 3: arrangements for Health Education and Health Research. Changes under Part 1 of the Bill are likely to have the greatest impact on how the Council and local partners develop and deliver services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wellbeing, prevention and information and advice - current “signposting services” will not be enough and it is likely that the council will need to commission a range of services from basic online information to advocacy services for all customers. ▪ Self funding individuals will also become the responsibility of the council. This could potentially double the adult social care customer base. ▪ Charging – the council will be able to charge for services, but a financial cap of £72,000 on an individual’s liability for care costs will be introduced.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Needs assessment and eligibility - duty on the council to carry out a needs assessment where it appears that there is a need for care and support for all individuals. Where the threshold for eligibility for services will lie is a matter for debate but is currently placed at “significant” in the Bill. A lower threshold could have significant resource implications for the Council and local health partners. ▪ Integration – the Council will have a duty to promote integration with the NHS and other health-related services but the Bill does not specify how other services, such as housing, should support integration. ▪ Diversity of provider – the council must also promote diversity by promoting and building an effective market by shaping services which people use. This will include not just care and support but shaping services to enable individuals to undertake work, training and education.
<p>Children and Families Bill – due to become law by 2016, the Children and Families Bill seeks to reform the systems for adoption, looked after children, family justice and special educational needs (SEN). It will reform childcare provision and introduce a new system of shared parental leave.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adoption – provision to allow the Secretary of State to enforce a local authority to outsource adoption services could cause significant disruption to services and damage relationships with families, parents and children engaged in the adoption process. ▪ SEN – likely to have a financial impact on the council as the Bill extends the current definitions of special educational needs and special educational provision to include young persons in education or training under the age of 25. The Bill also places greater demand on the Council to engage parents and children in the design and delivery of SEN services.
<p>Planning reforms - Since the Coalition Agreement, major reforms to the planning system have taken place with the introduction of the Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New legislation could allow planning applications to be decided by the Planning Inspectorate, if it is decided that a council has a track record of consistently poor performance. Such loss of control could impact on a council’s ability to place-shape in the future. • Existing permitted development rights have also been increased to allow shops to be converted into homes. More households will mean a greater pressure on infrastructure and services. • New flexibilities and restrictions on how funding raised via the Community Infrastructure Levy can be used will bring opportunities and challenges.

4. Merton 2017 population forecast

4.1 Introduction

This chapter sets out the main demographic changes forecast for Merton by 2017 in terms of the overall population, age and ethnicity. It also sets out how these changes are reflected at individual ward level. The chapters that follow look at what we think are the main service implications for the Council arising from these demographic shifts and how the Council is responding to these changes.

4.2 Population

Based on current trends Merton's population would increase by 16,000 people between 2011 and 2017. If we look at the GLA's SHLAA forecast that factors in housing availability this suggests an increase of 6000 additional people living in Merton. Therefore Merton's population is likely to grow by between 3% and 8% over this period. Looking at the SHLAA forecast the projected growth is less than Outer London (6%) and Greater London (7%).

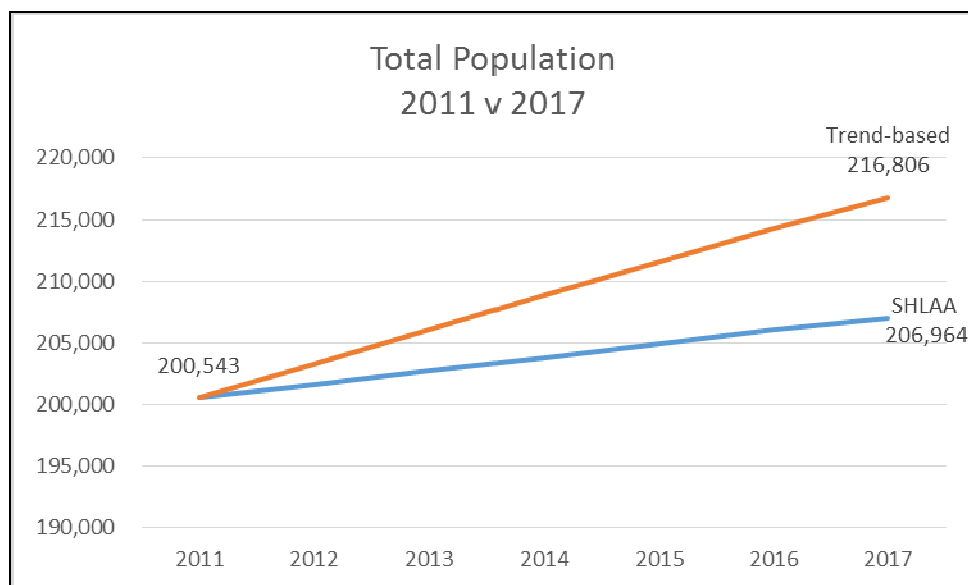


Figure 4.1: population in Merton 2011 to 2017

4.3 Age structure

The number of children and young people aged 0-19 is forecast to increase by 3,180 (7%) between 2011 and 2017. The number of people aged over 65 is also forecast to increase significantly over this period, rising by 2,900 people (11%). The number of people aged between 20 and 35 is forecast to decrease. These trends are significant in terms of service implications, in particular for education and social care, which are explored further in the next chapters. These demographic shifts are similar to what is happening in London as a whole, except for the decrease in the 20 to 35 age group.

Looking at the ratio between the working age and non-working age populations (the age dependency ratio) we see a decrease in the proportion of the working age population from 69% to 67%. This reflects the fall in the number of people aged between 20 and 35, and the increase in the younger and older cohorts. The reason for the fall in the 20 to 35 age group is not clear. It could reflect people moving away from Merton to seek work or because of the cost of housing in the borough.

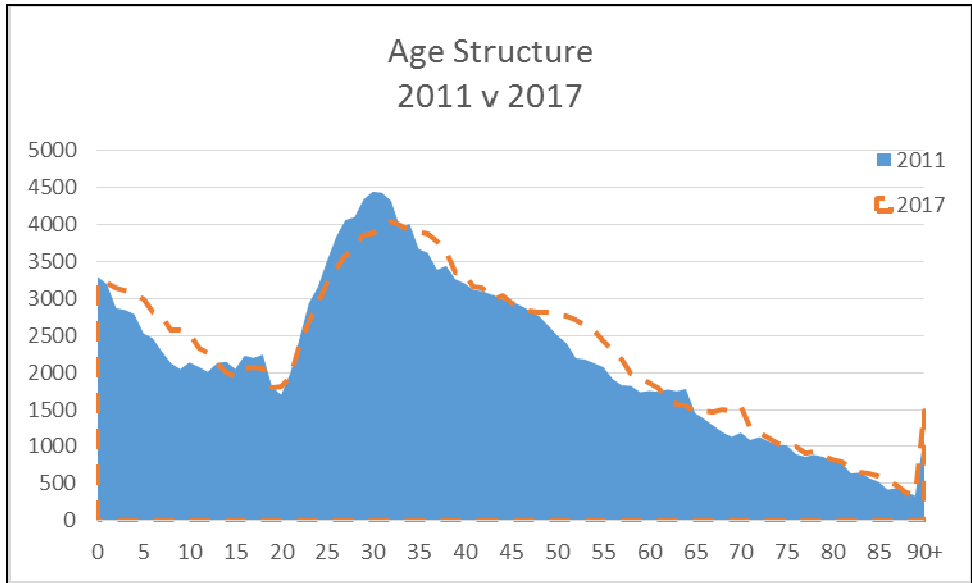


Figure 4.2: age profile for Merton 2011 and 2017

The forecast increase in the overall population is the product of the number of births forecast to be significantly higher than deaths: around 3,500 births a year over this period.

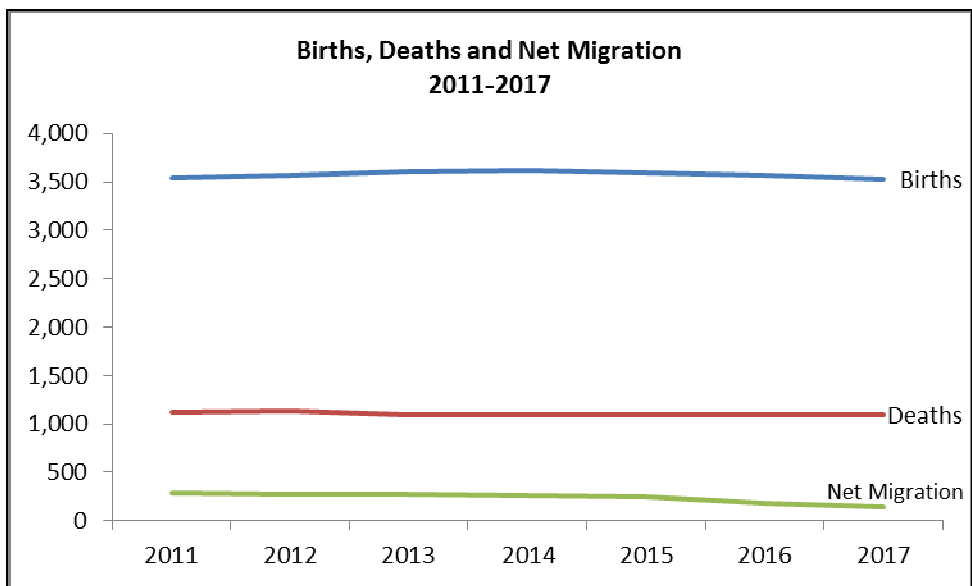


Figure 4.3 Births, deaths and net migration 2011 to 2017

4.4 Ethnicity

Merton's ethnic profile is forecast to change significantly by 2017. The proportion of Merton's Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) population is expected to increase from 35% in 2011 to 39% in 2017. However, this is still lower than the forecast BAME population in 2017 for London as a whole (45%) and Outer London (44%).

Looking at the breakdown of the BAME population, the largest increases are in Other Asian (notably Sri Lankan), Black African and Pakistani groups. In Outer London, the largest growth groups are forecasted to be Other Asian, Black African and Black Other. In Greater London, the BAME population is forecast to increase by 19%, with Other Asian (30%), Black Other (28%) and Other (28%) ethnic groups the biggest increases.

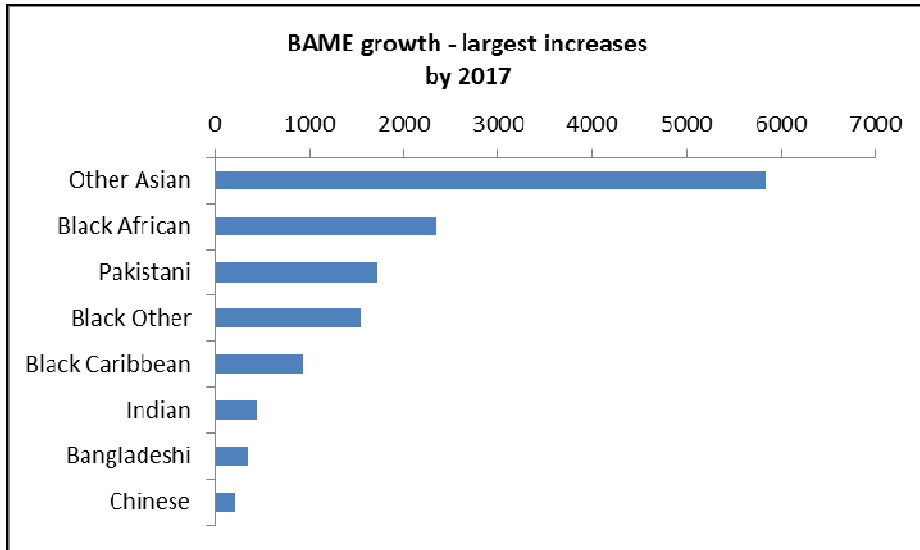


Fig.re 4.4: BAME population growth by 2017

The increase in the proportion of people from BAME groups is across all age groups. However, the proportion of younger BAME people is considerably higher than for older people.



Figure 4.5: Ethnic profile 0 to 19 age group 2011 and 2017

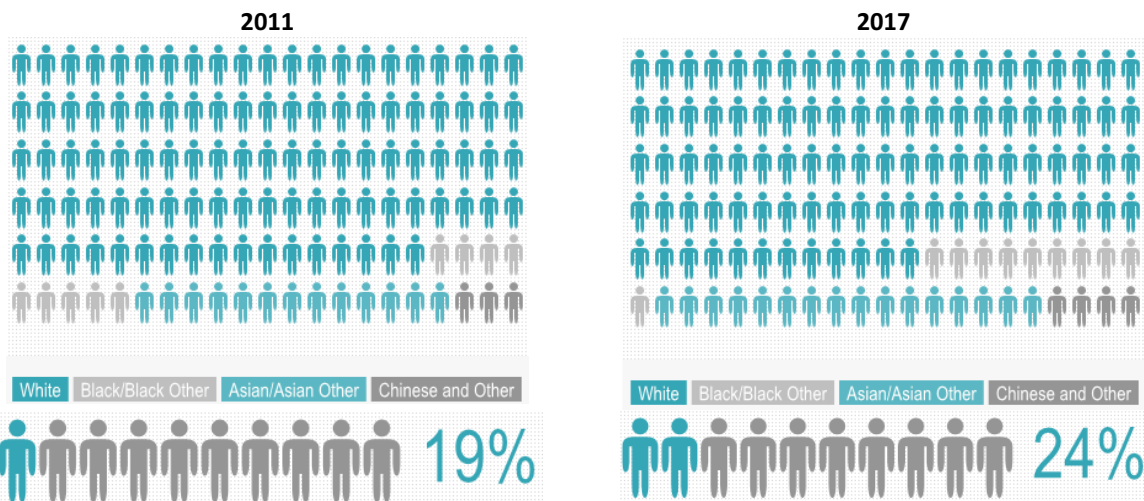


Figure 4.6: ethnic profile over 65s 2011 and 2017

4.5 Migration

As detailed in figure 4.3 above, the overall levels of net migration in Merton are low. However, this masks a significant population churn. The GLA forecast suggests that in the region of 20,000 people a year will move in and out of Merton each year. Data from the 2011 Census shows that 43% of residents were born outside the UK with the largest proportion born in Poland. This profile may change in future as EU working restrictions for residents of Romania and Bulgaria are lifted at the end of 2013.

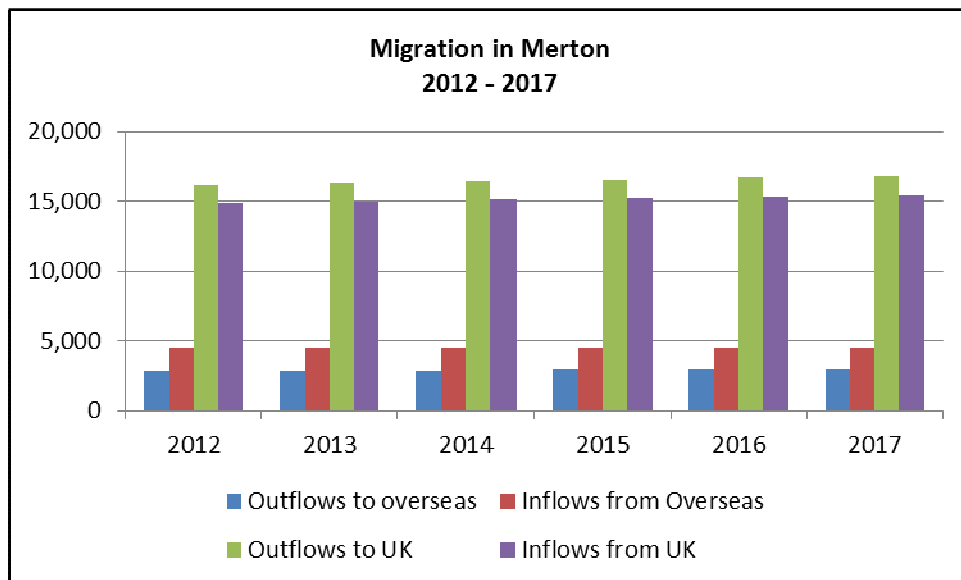


Figure 4.7 Migration 2012 to 2017

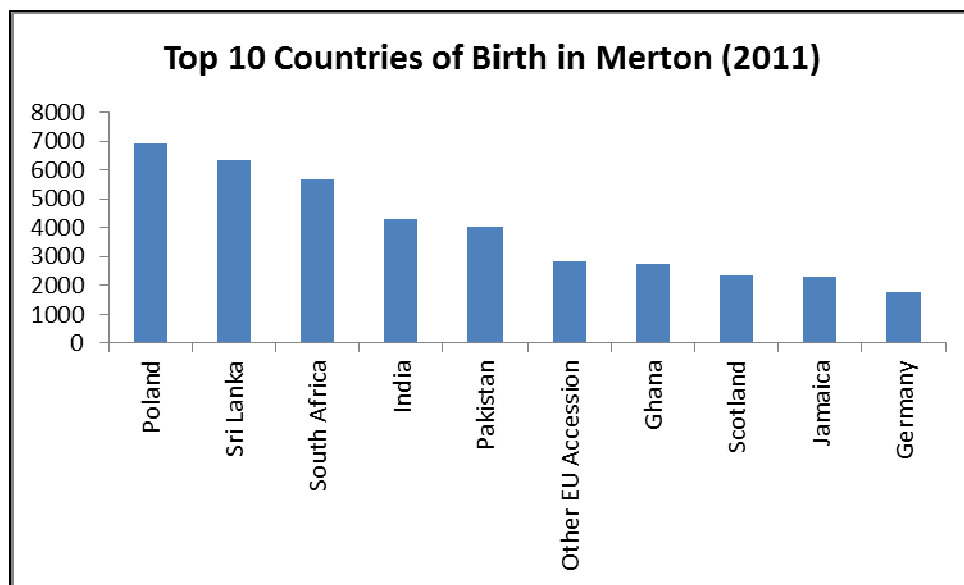


Figure 4.8: Merton residents born overseas

4.6 Ward level forecasts

4.6.1 Population

Wards to the east, in particular, Longthornton, Pollards Hill and Colliers Wood, are forecast to see the largest increases in population between 2011 and 2017. The populations in these wards are expected to increase by over 4% (460+ people).

- 1 Abbey
- 2 Cannon Hill
- 3 Colliers Wood
- 4 Cricket Green
- 5 Dundonald
- 6 Figge's Marsh
- 7 Graveney
- 8 Hillside
- 9 Lavender Fields
- 10 Longthornton
- 11 Lower Morden
- 12 Merton Park
- 13 Pollards Hill
- 14 Ravensbury
- 15 Raynes Park
- 16 St. Helier
- 17 Trinity
- 18 Village
- 19 West Barnes
- 20 Wimbledon Park

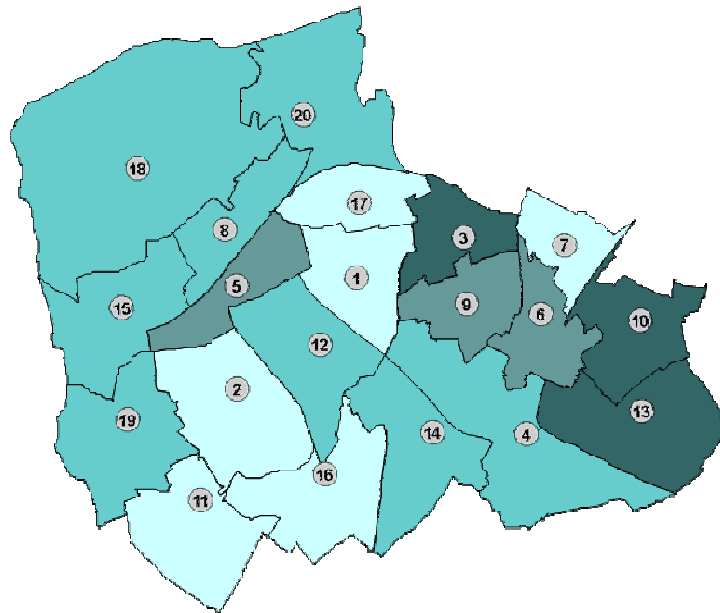


Figure 4.9: Population growth (darkest is highest growth and lightest is lowest)

In terms of population density overall, Cricket Green, Figges Marsh, Wimbledon Park and Colliers Wood are forecast to remain the most populous wards in Merton in 2017. However, the forecast 4.6% population growth in Pollards Hill, the second largest growth, will see it become the fifth most populous ward (from seventh).

- 1 Abbey
- 2 Cannon Hill
- 3 Colliers Wood
- 4 Cricket Green
- 5 Dundonald
- 6 Figges Marsh
- 7 Graveney
- 8 Hillside
- 9 Lavender Fields
- 10 Longthornton
- 11 Lower Morden
- 12 Merton Park
- 13 Pollards Hill
- 14 Ravensbury
- 15 Raynes Park
- 16 St. Helier
- 17 Trinity
- 18 Village
- 19 West Barnes
- 20 Wimbledon Park

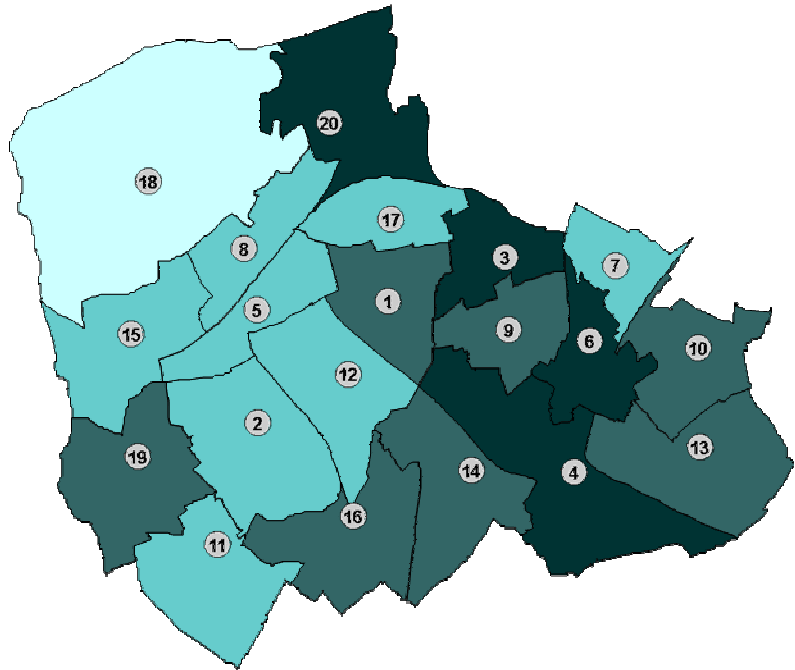


Figure 4.10: Population density (darker equates to highest population and lightest, lowest)

If we overlay deprivation data from the Index of Multiple Deprivation¹ we can see that population growth and highest density is in wards toward the east of the borough which currently have higher levels of deprivation compared to the east of the borough.

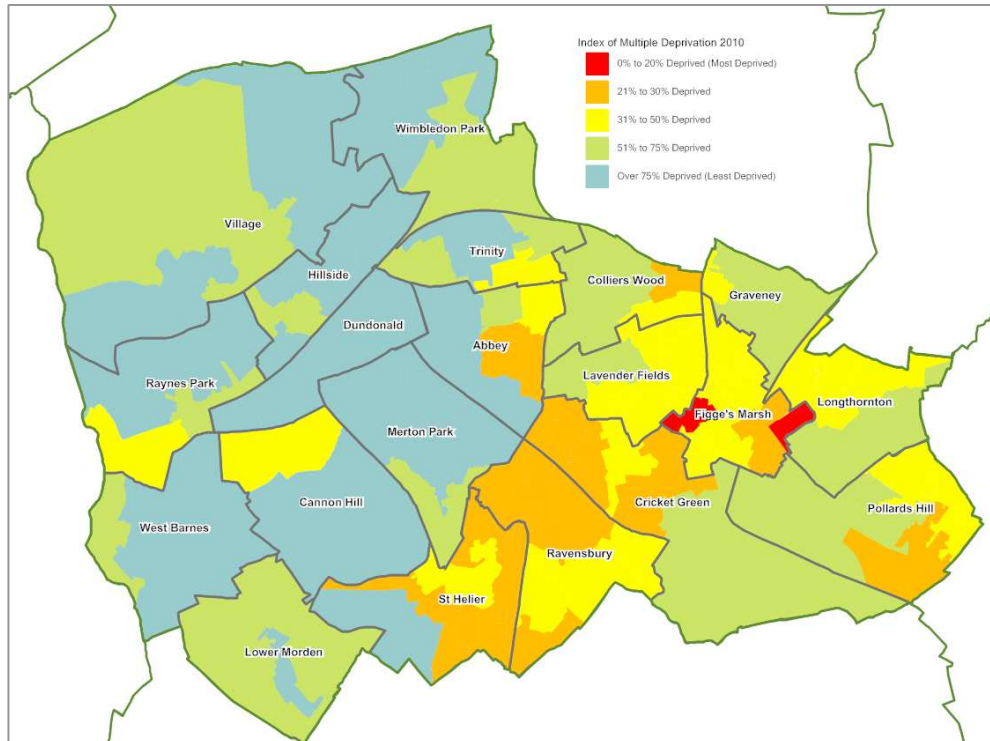


Figure 4.11: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2010

¹ It should be noted that the IMD has not been updated since 2010

4.6.2 Age structure

Population growth in Pollards Hill ward is forecast to be driven by the population aged over-20, in particular those aged 65 and over, with a growth of around 205 people in this age group.

Similarly, in Longthornton ward, population growth will be driven by the over-20 age group. The 45-64 age range in particular is forecast to grow by 209 people. Both wards will see decreases in the children and young people population, driven mainly by a decrease in the 10-19 age range.

Colliers Wood is forecast to have large increases in the 0-19 age group and the 45-64 age group, 327 and 256 people respectively. The 20-44 population is projected to see a fall of 257 people. This suggests that population growth in Colliers Wood will be driven by an increase in families with children.

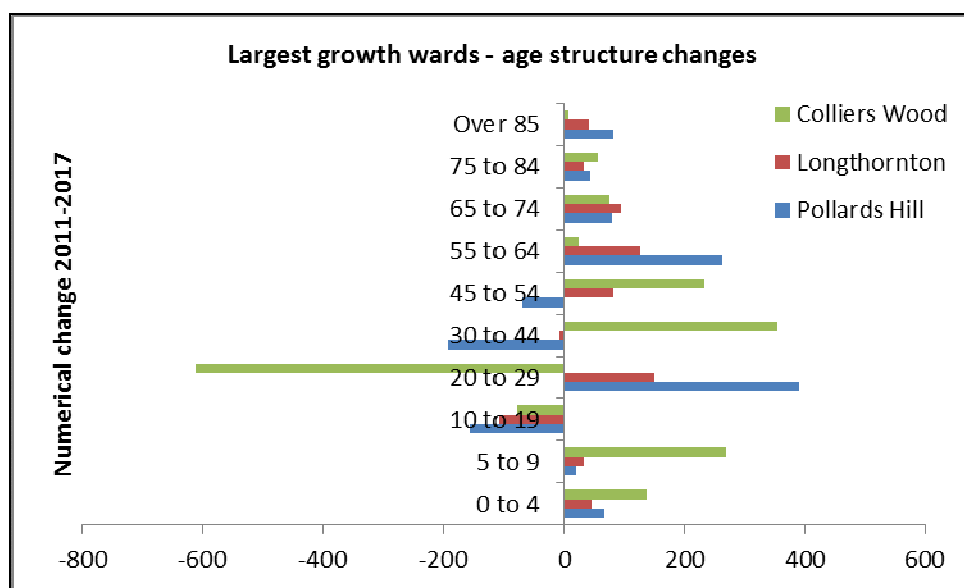


Figure 4.12: Age structure changes in Merton's three fastest growing wards

We have also looked at the forecast age dependency ratio for 2017 (the proportion of the working age population compared to the non working age population). The lighter shading in the diagram below indicates a higher proportion of working age residents. There is an overall increase in the non-working (dependent) population between 2011 and 2017 in a number of wards.

- 1 Abbey
- 2 Cannon Hill
- 3 Colliers Wood
- 4 Cricket Green
- 5 Dundonald
- 6 Figges Marsh
- 7 Graveney
- 8 Hillside
- 9 Lavender Fields
- 10 Longthornton
- 11 Lower Morden
- 12 Merton Park
- 13 Pollards Hill
- 14 Ravensbury
- 15 Raynes Park
- 16 St. Helier
- 17 Trinity
- 18 Village
- 19 West Barnes
- 20 Wimbledon Park

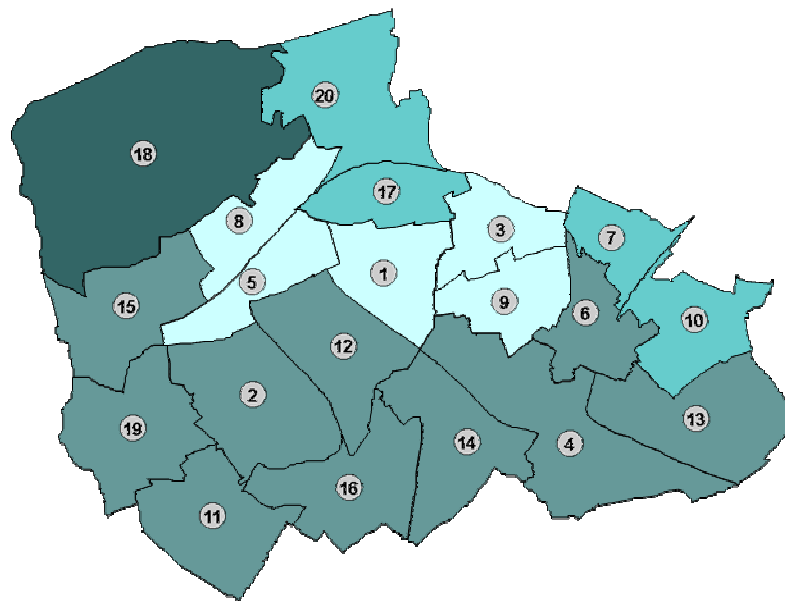


Figure 4.13: the age dependency ratio in 2017

4.6.3 Ethnicity

The proportion of people from BAME groups also varies significantly by ward with those wards to the east of Merton having a higher proportion of people from BAME groups. Data is not available to forecast ethnicity in 2017.

- 1 Abbey
- 2 Cannon Hill
- 3 Colliers Wood
- 4 Cricket Green
- 5 Dundonald
- 6 Figges Marsh
- 7 Graveney
- 8 Hillside
- 9 Lavender Fields
- 10 Longthornton
- 11 Lower Morden
- 12 Merton Park
- 13 Pollards Hill
- 14 Ravensbury
- 15 Raynes Park
- 16 St. Helier
- 17 Trinity
- 18 Village
- 19 West Barnes
- 20 Wimbledon Park

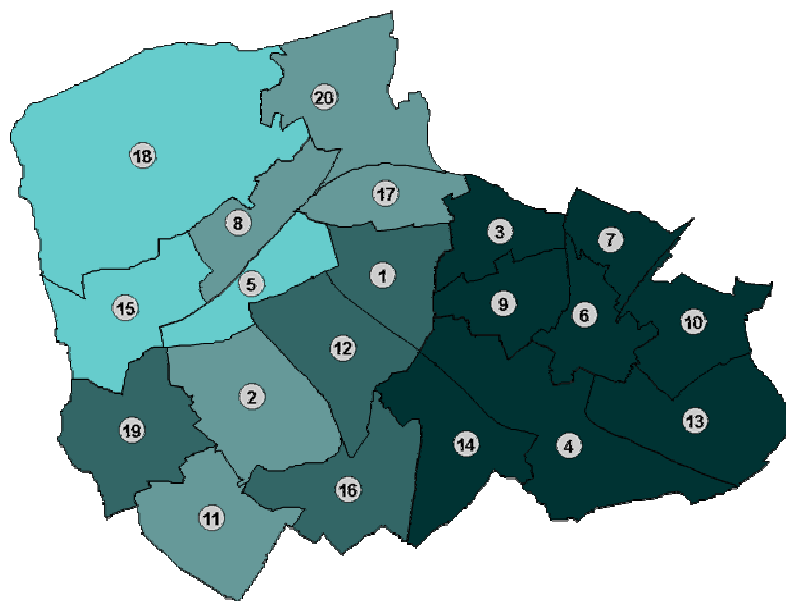


Figure 4.14: White to BAME ratio 2011 (darkest is highest proportion of BAME residents)

5. Service implications for children, young people and families, health, education and care

Summary

Potential impact of demographic change	Examples of how the Council is responding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of 780 children aged 0-4 • Population growth in Merton's most deprived wards <p>Increase in demand for childcare and nursery places.</p> <p>Additional pressure on the Healthy Child programme (new born and child screening, immunisations, 6-week checks) delivered by midwives, health visitors and GPs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver free education and childcare statutory entitlement in most economic and cost effective way. • Continue to work with private, voluntary and independent childcare providers to stimulate the market including through provision of 2 year old places. • Continuing to invest in early child development through children's centres • Working with primary care to integrate childhood immunisations with school entry • Continue the Healthy Schools programme to help children develop healthy habits for later in life
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of 2,270 children aged 5-9 • Population growth in Merton's most deprived wards <p>Increase in demand for school places including those with SEN and educational welfare needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to implement school expansion programme through primarily expanding existing schools and maximising use of existing council assets. • Develop options for additional forms of entry at secondary level including SEN provision. • Develop special and specialist provision for children with complex needs in locality to maximise use of existing outstanding and good local provision and to keep children with their families and communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the proportion of young people from BAME groups • 45% of children living in an area of deprivation • Population growth in Merton's most deprived wards <p>Increase in the number of pupils with factors that could detrimentally affect educational attainment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School improvement strategy will maintain focus on underperforming groups and on narrowing outcome gaps: free school meals, ethnicity and gender. • Focus on keeping SEN provision local to Merton. • Merton Education Partnership to support sharing of good practice and evidence bases programmes to narrow gaps.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of 3,180 children and young people aged 0-19 • Increase in the number of children living in an area of deprivation <p>Additional pressure on children's social care and SEN services due to demographic and national policy changes i.e. C& F Bill 0-25 services for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children in Need aged under 5 targeted through the early years offer. • Enhanced Supporting Families and Vulnerable Children's team now in place. • Merton's Transforming Families programme. • Commissioned services focused on higher needs delivered through appropriate agencies.

<p>children with complex needs, transfer of responsibilities to local authorities for remand costs, Zambrano and Clue case law in relation to accommodating families with no recourse to public funds and case law on UASC university fees and costs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub to identify families at highest risk and co-ordinate services from different agencies. • Early Intervention Services designed to prevent problems escalating requiring costlier forms of intervention.
---	---

5.1 Introduction

Social and demographic changes in Merton continue to increase pressure on universal, enhanced and specialist services. The significant increase in the younger population will increase demand for a range of services including early years provision, schools, health services, specialist services and children’s social care services.

5.2 Projections and implications

The variability of forecasting is particularly relevant due specifically to the exacting implications of school places. As mentioned in the Introduction to this report the GLA publish two projections models (SHLAA and Trend-based) based on 2011 Census data.

The GLA previously only provided the SHLAA model, but found in recent years that it severely underestimated the growth in child population as it did not take account of the rising child per dwelling ratio. The Trend-based is an alternative model produced by the GLA for the first time (2012); the GLA feel it may be more accurate for councils without significant new builds.

The SHLAA model projects a minimum of a 7% increase in Merton’s child population (0 to 19) whilst the trend based model predicts a 12% increase by 2017. These two forecast models alone provide a range of growth which makes planning for universal or specialist services more complex. The Council therefore reviews GLA data alongside local data and intelligence such as the School Census.

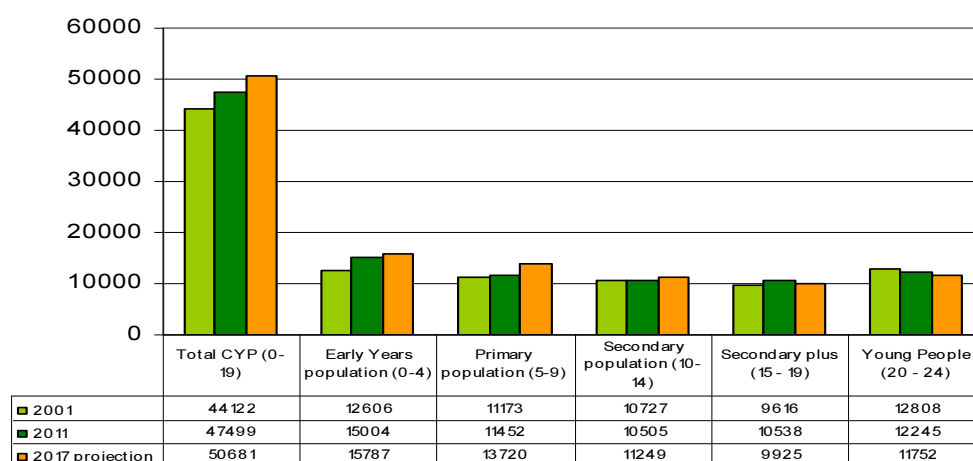


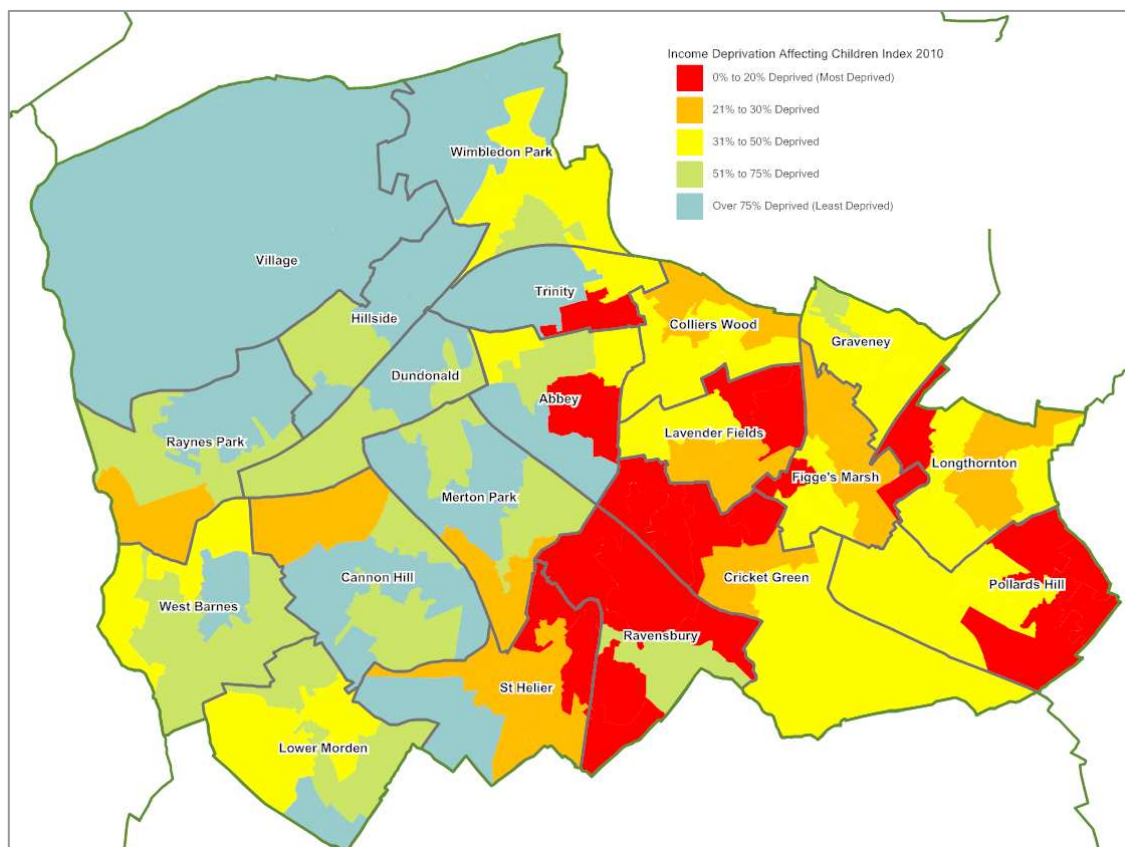
Figure 5.1: 2017 GLA 2012 Round SHLAA Borough Population Projections incorporating DCLG 2011 household formation rates, (June 2013).

As noted previously the proportion of residents from a BAME background has increased significantly since 2001 and is forecast to increase further by 2017. The east of the borough is more diverse than

the west. In addition, pupils in Merton schools also come from a more diverse background, with 63% from BAME groups, and over 120 languages spoken. The borough has concentrations of Urdu speaking communities, Sri Lankan, South African and Polish residents. The proportion of pupils with a first language other than English is 40%.

A characteristic of the borough is the difference between the poorer, more deprived east (Mitcham), and the wealthier, more prosperous west (Wimbledon). There are a number of pockets of deprivation within the borough mainly in the eastern wards and some smaller pockets in the western wards. These wards have multiple deprivation having high scores on income deprivation, unemployment and lack of educational attainment. Merton is less deprived than the national average, but 39 Super Output Areas (out of 124) are amongst the 30% most deprived Super Output Areas across England for children².

The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) comprises the percentage of children aged under 16 in each Super Output Area living in families who are in receipt of certain means tested benefits. 45% of Merton school pupils are living in an area of deprivation (30% most deprived, IDACI 2010). The proportion of children and young people entitled to free school meals is 17.4%. This is an increase of 21% of children and young people eligible for free school meals in Merton schools since 2010.



Figures 5.2 IDACI 2010

² (Source: Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2010).

According to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2010 which combines the IDACI and Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI), a wide range of measures not specifically related to children, Merton is ranked 208th most deprived local authority district in the country (out of 326) local authorities, 4th least deprived authority in London (out of 33). In terms of income deprivation, it is the 17th most income deprived outer London borough (out of 20). However, this masks the widespread disadvantages and pockets of deprivation within the borough, and polarisation between the most deprived wards.

5.3 Education and Early years

The Council is responsible for maintaining schools including primary, secondary and special education school and services for schools such as school meals, education welfare and support for those with special educational needs. Local Authority education functions are funded by both the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) based on the number of pupils across maintained schools and General Fund. The DSG will grow if pupil numbers rise, however, the ability to top slice funding for support services is limited due to the range of service pressures including Special Educational Needs (SEN). The Council's ability to fund these services would be further limited should a significant numbers of schools convert to academies due to decreasing economies of scale and grant loss.

The council also has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in the borough. Various school places reports have been considered by the Council over the past three years. A report in February 2012 outlined in detail the likely demand for primary, secondary and special school places over the next 5 to 10 years. The Council uses GLA population projections and their school roll projection service, in addition to other information such as school admissions preferences, to plan school places.

In 2013 the GLA provided updated population and school projection forecasts. The GLA projections in 2013 strengthened the case that increased demand for primary school places will continue from 2014/15, and a substantial rise in demand for secondary school places will commence from 2015/16. The long range forecasts from the GLA are subject to a number of variables. The Council is currently undertaking its annual review of supply and demand for the school places strategy which will be published later in 2013. High level figures based on GLA SHLAA are provided below.

5.3.1 Early Years and Children Centres

The GLA forecast that by 2017 there will be a 5% increase in the overall number of children aged between 0 and 4. The number of children in this age range will increase by 780 to 15,790.

The council has a statutory duty to work in partnership with childcare providers to influence the market place, in as far as is reasonably practicable, to ensure that there is sufficient childcare to enable parents to work, study or seek employment. A Childcare Sufficiency Assessment is published annually to review Merton's childcare market.

Sufficient, high quality childcare is a vital component of the local economy and can support regeneration and employment. In addition, a market that can offer high quality, accessible and affordable childcare has the potential to contribute to the reduction of child poverty. There is a large body of research that supports the impact on children's outcomes when they attend high quality childcare, especially those from vulnerable backgrounds.

Wimbledon's children are relatively younger than elsewhere in Merton and the proportion of children aged under 5 in Wimbledon is higher than the rest of the borough. Morden has an older child demographic, with the percentage of Morden's children who are over 8 being higher than in other areas of the borough.

The pressure on Merton's early years offer to 2 year olds from vulnerable and disadvantaged families is likely to increase in-line with our predicted demographic changes. There are higher levels of worklessness and deprivation among families with dependent children in Mitcham than elsewhere in Merton. This suggests that this area is where the largest proportion of two-year-olds could be eligible for free childcare places. The lowest level of availability is in the Morden area. Take-up of available free places for 3 and 4-year-olds in maintained school nursery classes is highest in Wimbledon, but proportionately fewer families choose maintained school nursery classes for their children in this area and more take-up free places with private nurseries than elsewhere. There is also a vibrant independent school sector in Wimbledon which wealthier local families can tap into. Childcare costs vary across the borough and by type of provision, but are much higher in Wimbledon, particularly in comparison to Mitcham. For example, an average childcare place for 8 hours a day for 5 days a week would cost £87 more per week in Wimbledon than in Mitcham.

Attainment current and risks

Within the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) a child who achieves a scale score of 6 points or more is working securely within the early learning goals. Children, who achieve a score of 78 points or more across the 13 assessment scales, score an average of 6 points per scale. When a child who achieves this overall score also achieves a score of 6 or more in each of the Personal, Social and Emotional development (PSE) and Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL) areas of learning, that child is deemed to be reaching a good level of development.

Merton's performance at EYFSP is above the national average for all key measures. Children achieving 6 or more in all PSE development scales, and 6 or more in all CLL scales, and a total 78 points or more, increased 4% from 2009/2010 and at 66% is 2% above the national average.

79% of childcare provision in Merton is good or outstanding. Mitcham has the lowest level of average childcare quality, with 76% of providers being graded Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. Quality is lowest in Mitcham among child-minders, with only two thirds being graded Good or Outstanding.

5.3.2 Primary phase

An increase is forecast in the number of children aged 5 to 9 living in Merton. Forecasts indicate an increase of 20% in this age group which is an increase of 2,270 children by 2017 to 13,720.

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in the borough. The cost of school expansion is met from the Council's capital programme and therefore the predicted growth in child population is likely to have a significant impact on the Council's capital expenditure.

The two forecasting models supplied by the GLA suggest an increase on 2013 levels 176 to 207 additional children aged 4 years in 2014, rising to an additional 315 to 441 children by 2017. The

school roll projections that are based on this shows similar increases - the standard and trend models show 138 to 207 extra reception children on roll in 2014, and 248 to 428 by 2017.

Attainment current and risks

Key Stage 2 is completed for most pupils between year 3 and 6 of the primary phase. National Curriculum standards have been designed so that most pupils will progress by approximately one level every two years. Pupils are expected to achieve level 4 by the end of Key Stage 2 and to make two levels of progress between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Merton's performance is in line with the national average for the level 4 and above attainment indicators. The percentile rankings for value added ranks Merton 10, therefore Merton primary pupils have made more progress than pupils in 90% of other local authorities nationally. In English value added ranks Merton 9 and Maths a rank of 14.

84% of Merton's primary schools are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted. However some of our weaker primary schools are towards the east of the borough these schools also tend to have higher levels of Free School Meal children registered.

5.3.3 Secondary school years

It is forecast there will be a slight increase in this age group by 2017. However, demand for secondary school places is likely to increase further post 2017 as the increase in the 5 to 9 primary population reaches secondary school age.

Attainment current and risks

At Key Stage 4 GCSEs are the main qualifications studied by pupils in years 10 and 11. GCSEs are studied in a wide range of academic and 'applied' (work related) subjects. At 5+ GCSEs A*-C Merton has made a 36% improvement over 5 years. For 5+ GCSEs A*-C including English and maths a 19% improvement.

Percentile rankings for value added ranks Merton 14, therefore Merton secondary pupils have made more progress than pupils in 86% of other local authorities nationally. In English value added ranks Merton 18 and maths a rank of 5. Expected progress in English and maths from key stage 2 to key stage 4 is significantly above the national averages. Expected progress in maths is 10% above national progress.

For pupils in Merton eligible for Free School Meals for the key attainment measures, 5+A*-C including English and maths GCSE's, and the capped average point score are significantly above that of the national groups. Expected progress for this cohort in English and maths is also significantly above the national average. The gap between those eligible for free school meals and their peers is narrower than both London and national averages.

The increases in secondary school age should also be considered in the context of the national Raising the Participation Age strategy which has increased the statutory school leaving age to 17 and which will increase to 18 in 2015. The additional statutory duty on local authorities will be to ensure a sufficiency of places, eventually up to aged 18. The market for post 16 is increasingly flexible and not local authority led although we are required to take a partnership co-ordination role.

5.3.4 Special Educational Needs (SEN) school places

The need for a range of local provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) is likely to increase as a minimum proportionately in line with the overall population growth. No specific forecasting models exist to predict changes in SEN cohorts. In the last 2 years the overall number of statemented children has increased by 19% from 668 in 2011 to 796 in 2013. If this trend continues this will mean that additional school places will be needed in our existing special schools and in our additionally resourced provision in our main-stream schools. These factors will need to be carefully considered whether schools are expanded or new provision created.

We would wish to maintain as many places as possible locally for pupils with additional needs but recognise that it will not be possible to meet all needs in local schools. Detailed work based on current predictions of the range of provision likely to be needed in the future is underway. Keeping pupils close to home wherever possible is desirable both in terms of pupil outcomes and value for money

National policy changes in the Children and Families Bill will have significant implications for SEN children and young people. The Bill includes creating a single system for children and young people identified with SEN from birth to age 25. Extension of duties for Children with Disabilities/SEN to age 25 and requirement for integrate education, health and care plan. These new requirements may be unfunded, officers are reviewing implications and developing proposals and plans as appropriate.

5.4 Infant mortality and higher risk births

The increase in the number of children aged 0 to 5 will put pressure on our Healthy Child programme (newborn and child screening, child immunisations, 6-week checks) delivered by midwives, health visitors and GPs. Budgets for maternity and midwives sit with the Clinical Commissioning Group, while immunisations sit with NHS England. Health visiting is to move from NHS England responsibility to Public Health in local government in 2015.

Deprivation is a significant driver of infant mortality. A higher percentage of BAME groups live in deprived areas; for example Pakistani and Caribbean groups have particularly high infant mortality rates, 8.9 and 8.1 deaths per 1,000 live births respectively. This is more than double the rate of babies born in the White British group which is 3.7 deaths per 1,000 live births (ONS, 2010). This is of particular significance in Merton, where some wards in the east of the borough have ethnic minority populations exceeding 30% of the ward population. Other risk factors for infant mortality include lack of childhood immunisations, smoking during pregnancy, lack of breastfeeding, low or very low birth weight babies, for example.

In general BME female populations have lower levels of smoking and higher levels of breastfeeding. Low or very low weight babies is a predictor of future health; these babies are at higher risk of poorer health and poorer life chances, which may call on specialist health and social care services.

In addition, some ethnic groups have higher risks for specific diseases; with increasing numbers of these groups, we can expect increased demand for specialist health care services. For example Black Africans are at risk of Sickle cell disease and the Other Asian and Pakistani groups are at higher risk of children born with disabilities and ill health resulting from the practice of consanguineous (close

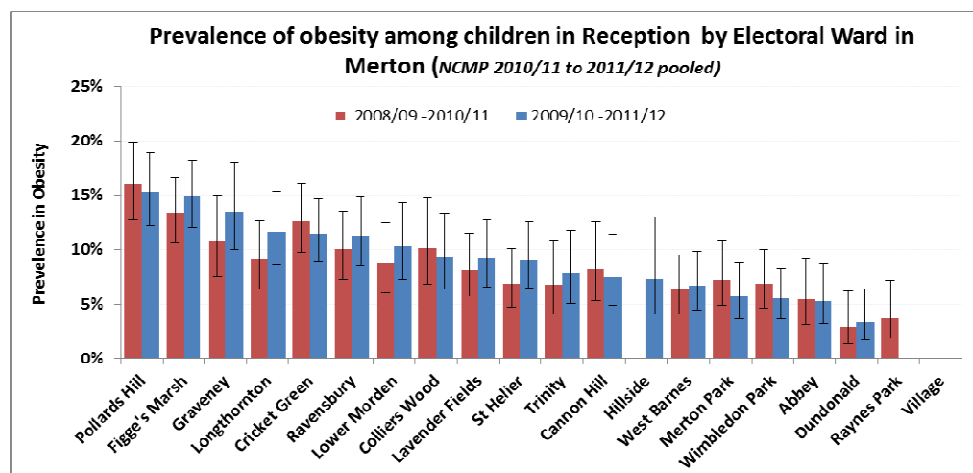
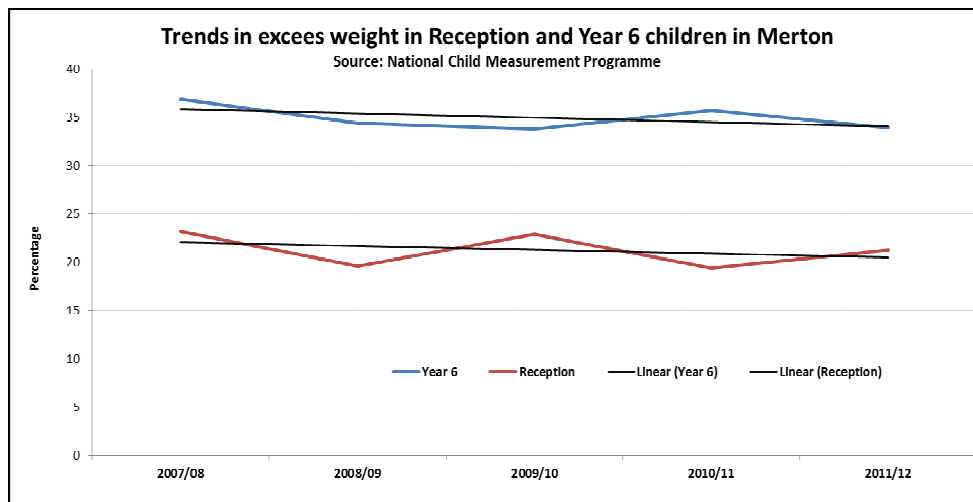
relative) marriages. Both of these health conditions can mean that children live with life threatening illness and disability.

Early childhood development is a marker for future success in life and better health outcomes. Merton achieves significantly better results on children achieving a good level of development at age 5. This masks variations between the east and west of Merton, which may worsen if the BAME population continues to increase.

In response to these challenges we are looking to increase prevention by investing in early child development through children’s centres. We are examining the potential for child public health nurses (midwives, health visitors, school nurses) to work in a more integrated manner to detect problems early when they can be managed. Also, we are looking to integrate work in primary care around childhood immunisations with school entry to ensure children are fully immunised

5.5 Health and well-being for children and young people

Although the trend is declining, overweight and obese children represent a significant proportion of our children (21% and 34%, Reception and Year 6 respectively). There is a strong relationship between childhood obesity, deprivation and minority ethnic groups making childhood obesity both a health and inequality issue as illustrated by the ward level chart below. An increase in BAME groups living in the deprived east of Merton is likely to lead to an increase in prevalence of childhood obesity.



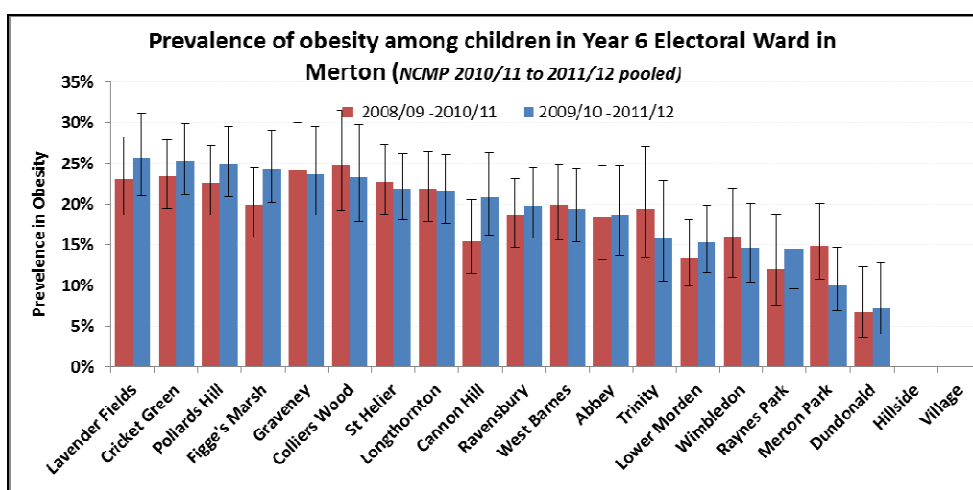


Figure 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5: levels of childhood obesity

This will require increased effort on two fronts: individual and family diet and exercise sessions and concerted effort on the part of the Council to ensure availability of healthy choices in our built environment. We are looking to build on the success of the Healthy Schools programme to help children develop healthy habits for later in life. We are also looking to target services for diet, exercise and cooking to overweight and obese children and their families.

Overall, an increase in the secondary school population is likely to impact on demand for sexual health and contraception services.

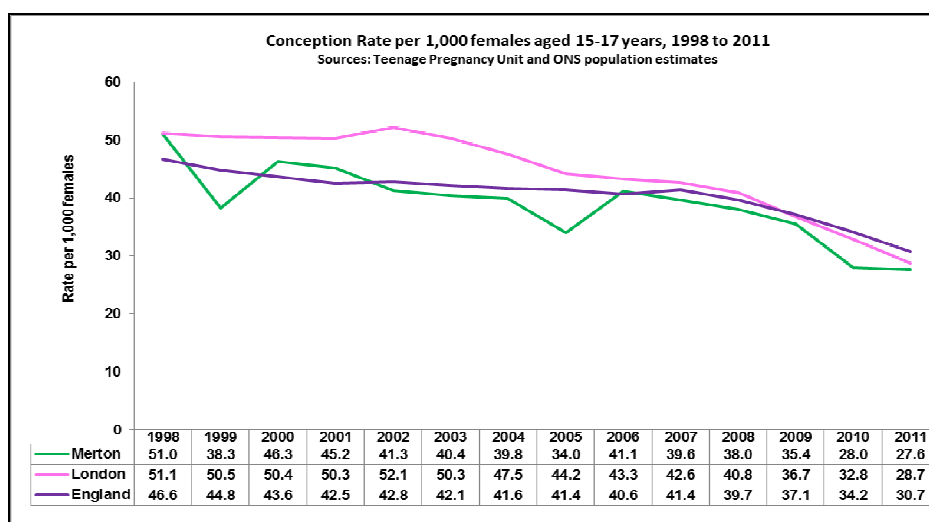


Figure 5.6: Conception rate per 1,000 females aged 15-17 1998 to 2011

5.6 Children's social care and early intervention prevention

The social and demographic pressure on Children Social Care (CSC) and our Early Intervention Services remain. A proportion of the borough's children will need specialist support and in some cases safeguarding services from children's social care. Merton's Child and Young Person Well Being

Model (MWBM) 2013 has been revised as a 3-band spectrum, 'universal, enhanced and specialist' services, replacing the former 5-band spectrum.

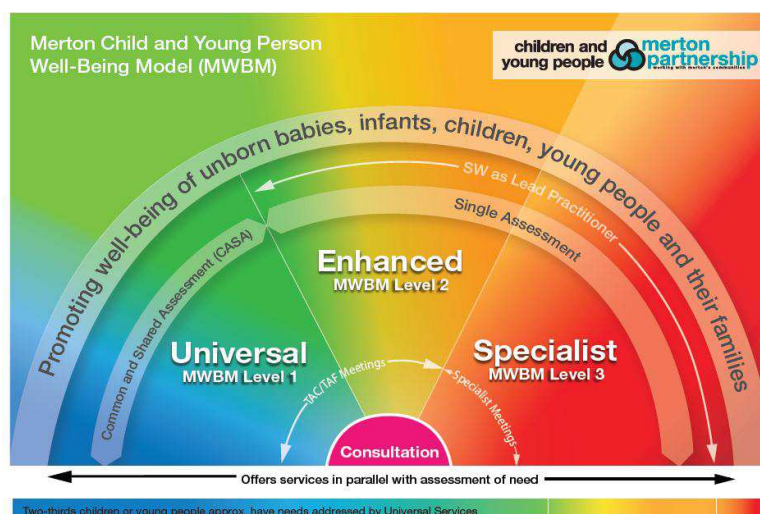


Figure 5.7: Merton Child and Young Person Well Being Model

There are no specific forecast models that allow us to predict the likely changes to the cohorts of children supported by our universal, enhanced or specialist services. Nor are there forecasting models which predict the likely numbers of children on a child protection plan or to be taken into care. We do have past data that we analyse and an understanding of the range of factors which influence changes in these cohorts. For example nationally and locally numbers of children in care and on a child protection plan have risen. This has been attributed to an increased general awareness of child protection and safeguarding issues, as well as pressures on families due to the financial context of the country, combined this is resulting in higher numbers of children coming to the attention of CSC services.

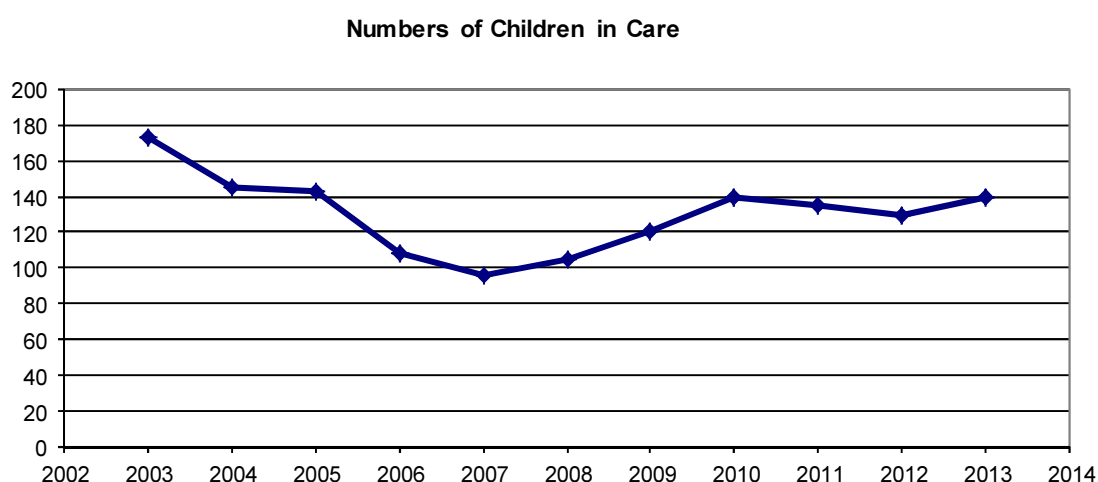


Figure 5.8: Numbers of children in care in Merton between 2003 and 2013

In addition a range of public policy initiatives from the government have expressly impacted on the CSF services these include: introduction of a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH); The Family

Justice Review with a particular focus on speeding up care proceedings; Children and Families Bill with implications for SEN children and young people aged 0 - 25, as well as a new Safeguarding and Looked After Children's inspection regimes which include a very strong focus on early intervention services as well enhanced and specialist children social care services.

Another key public policy initiative is the Troubled Families programme (known as Transforming Families in Merton). The Government used previous Family and Children Survey data to identify the numbers of troubled families per local authority. That survey estimated that in England there are 120,000 families facing multiple problems. These estimates have been calculated using population data and indices of deprivation and child well-being. Using this methodology, Merton has a total of 370 of the families identified. Our forecasting suggests that the number of 'troubled families' may increase post 2015.

A third key influencer has been the financial context and the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), resulting in the need to create capacity to deal with the larger volume of activity in a nil growth situation and to deliver our MTFS savings. This has resulted in the need to make larger savings over and above the MTFS targets in universal and open access services to ensure sufficient resources to carer, enhanced and specialised functions.

Key volume factors over and above the mentioned national factors include our 40% increase in the child birth since 2002 working its way through the system as well as changes in the composition of the local community. As an example we also are seeing increasing numbers of families with 3, 4, 5 or more children on a child protection plan. The increase in demand for services as a result of past demographic and legislative changes is reflected in a number of key performance measures including:

- initial contacts have risen from 3,594 in 2006-7 to 4,912 in 2012-13 (increase of 36%)
- initial assessments have risen from c.500 in 2010 to c.900 per annum in 2012-13
- Section 47 (urgent child protection investigations) have increased from 192 in 2006-7 to 361 in 2012-13 (88% increase)
- the number of children on a child protection plan has continued to rise from an average of 120 in 2008-9 to a peak of 180 in 2012 and ending March 2013 at 162
- in the last 2 years the overall number of statemented children has increased by 19% from 668 in 2011 to 796 in 2013.

To continue to deliver effectively to these sustained volume changes we will need to imbed Munro recommendations, changes relating to the Children and Families Bill, the Family Justice Review and new statutory requirements for adoption and permanency. We must also take responsibility of new statutory ex-Youth Justice Board historic functions and support children in custody as looked after young people and imbed the Transforming Families programme and MASH working practices.

Recognising the need to manage and deliver these changes in a highly constrained financial context CSC has been restructured to:

- redesign our entry point to incorporate the MASH and its wider responsibilities
- configure a range of services into our Transforming Families service which will operate at both a statutory and preventative level for older children and young people

- redesign our looked after children and permanency services to deliver permanency more quickly and accommodate the Family Justice Review and Children and Families Bill requirements
- strengthen our quality assurance and develop systems to ensure purposeful, timely and appropriate intervention following the move away from initial and core assessments to a single assessment process
- as part of the restructure the Youth Inclusion portfolio transferred to the Education division to deliver the new requirements for commissioning and quality assuring alternative education as well as the education inclusion aspects of the role.

5.6.1 Early intervention prevention services reducing escalation of need

Alongside this restructure to effectively address the pressure on CSC we have continued to strengthen our Early Intervention Services (EIS) services to prevent more families escalating up the hierarchy of risk and need and to work purposely with them to secure sustainable change. EIS services also act as a “step down service” to children exiting a child protection plan so that we can test the effectiveness and resilience of changes.

Currently we have a range of services working with families just below the Child Protection Plan (CPP) threshold - the most significant being the Vulnerable Children’s Team based in CSC and the Supporting Families Team based in Early Years. We have also been commissioning what we have broadly called EIS services from the voluntary sector. A revised EIS Strategy was developed in January 2012 and subsequently endorsed by the Children’s Trust Board. For 2012/13 services were commissioned on a short term basis on the understanding future commissioning was likely to be reduced and refocused on a higher level of risk/need interventions. Work has continued since then to develop the strategy into operational structures and revised commissioning plans.

We have refined our existing common assessment to achieve a stronger “whole family focus” and accommodate requirements from Munro. We are enabling services that provide an age appropriate response to children in different age groups through the Supporting Families team (aged 0-5), Vulnerable Children’s team (aged 5-16) and Transforming Families team.

We have refocused resources from lower level needs – closer to universal – to an enhanced offer at Children In Need level and just below this threshold. We are improving the co-ordination of our multi-agency response including allocating lead practitioners. We have adopted a more robust approach to assessments and case management. We are providing advice and support to practitioners working at the universal level who often provide step down services and support to families leaving specialist services but still requiring intervention. In order to fund the enhanced prevention services, all service and commissioning budgets have been reviewed and aligned to the appropriate service needs.

Nationally there is recognition that threshold decisions about whether to look after children are influenced by a range of factors: the prevailing culture and direction from the government of the day; the local political context; the differing population make-up and local cultures, including differences in family and extended family patterns; and the shared value base adopted within the department (London Councils LAC in London analysis, 2012). Merton has had a longstanding approach to preventing children becoming looked after involving purposeful work with families to build capacity and resilience. Our Child and Young People Well Being Model is well used and

understood by partners and our recent SLAC inspection endorsed our preventative model and our self-awareness and drive for continuous improvement. Our services have improved significantly and our positive impact is reflected in our continued low rates of looked after children. However overall our services are under severe volume pressures and this has, at peak times, impacted on timeliness and caseloads.

5.6.2 Funding implications children social care

Inner London budgets tend to be larger than those in Outer London, while this is justified in relation to levels of deprivation, arguably larger totals enable more flexibility in prioritising spend on additional services. The complexity of Merton’s demographic makeup means that part of our Borough is comparable to Outer London whereas the other half is similar to Inner London. In Inner London larger budgets translate to a higher rate of spend per child. For example according to CIPFA figures 2011-12, Outer London gross expenditure on Looked After Children (LAC) ranged from £65,783 per LAC head to £34,244. By comparison, in Inner London the range was £49,328 to £27,480 (excluding Bexley as an outlier). Merton’s gross looked after children expenditure per LAC population in 2011-12 was £36,036.

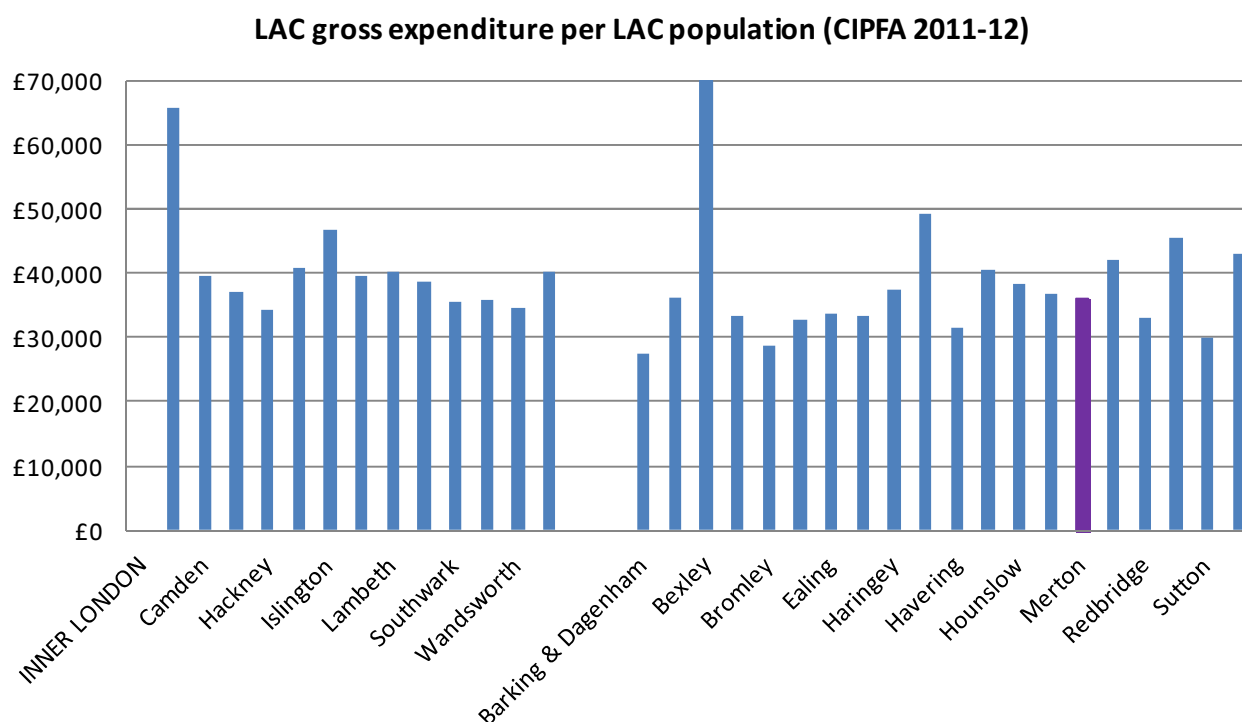


Figure 5.9: Looked after Children gross expenditure per LAC population

To further highlight this spending differential, there is some evidence that social workers’ caseloads in Inner London are smaller than those in Outer London. Routine comparative data is not collated about caseloads nationally, but a snapshot, from data gathered in 2009, shows that indicative caseloads in Outer London were close to 21 children per social worker, while those in Inner London were closer to 17 children per social worker. Merton’s average caseload as at the end of July 2013 was 21.1. Undoubtedly, a smaller number of allocated children will contribute to social workers being more effective, both in preventing children becoming looked after and also in ensuring those

that could return home safely, can do so with social work support. Secondly, Outer London boroughs have historically had more difficulty in filling social work vacancies. Merton's vacancy rate this year has ranged between 8% and 15%; the department has been supported by equivalent agency workers. A more stable workforce and continuity of social worker for families will be more likely to help children return home speedily. As the population grows and thus impacts on the numbers of children needing specialist social care support, capacity will become a greater problem.

Looking at the overall budget for children's social care, there is a clear connection between a well-resourced, stable children's social care department and effective management of the number of children supported by the authority. Within the context of the austerity measures currently facing Merton, it is worth highlighting that a reduction in social work capacity risks producing a rise in the number of looked after children which may in fact cost more in the long run. It is not simply about having more money to spend, but spending it in a focused way on services that will benefit children, which may or may not include being in care.

6. Service implications for public health and adult social care

Summary

Potential impact of demographic change	Examples of how the Council is responding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increase of 2,900 people aged over 65 An increase of 1,500 people aged over 90 <p>The increase in the number of people over 65 and living longer will increase the demand for Adult Social Care and health services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council's new 'Aging Well' programme in partnership with the voluntary sector aims to support older people to live in their own homes and reduce the need for costly residential care. The Merton-i online portal offers easy access to a comprehensive database of support and advice. Established a pilot with health partners offering integrated care for older people with long term conditions. Developing a Market Position Statement as a mechanism to facilitate the social care market.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proportion of BAME residents increases from 35% to 39% A higher proportion of BAME residents live in the east of Merton where there are higher levels of deprivation <p>Some BAME groups have higher risks for specific diseases e.g. sickle cell, are more likely to have life style risks e.g. smoking, obesity and have lower awareness of prevention services e.g. breast screening.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established a community health and wellbeing fund to deliver sustainable health improvement activity to reduce health inequalities in the east. Working with the voluntary sector to raise awareness of healthy living and prevention services for BAME communities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increase of 2,295 in people aged 45 to 54 <p>There is a wide variation in prevalence of disease identified in primary care and disease prevalence is projected to increase.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Live Well programme offers free health improvement advice. Joint work between public health and regulatory services to reduce the number of fast food outlets, alcohol and betting shops. As a major employer the Council is leading by example by establishing a Healthy Workplace scheme.

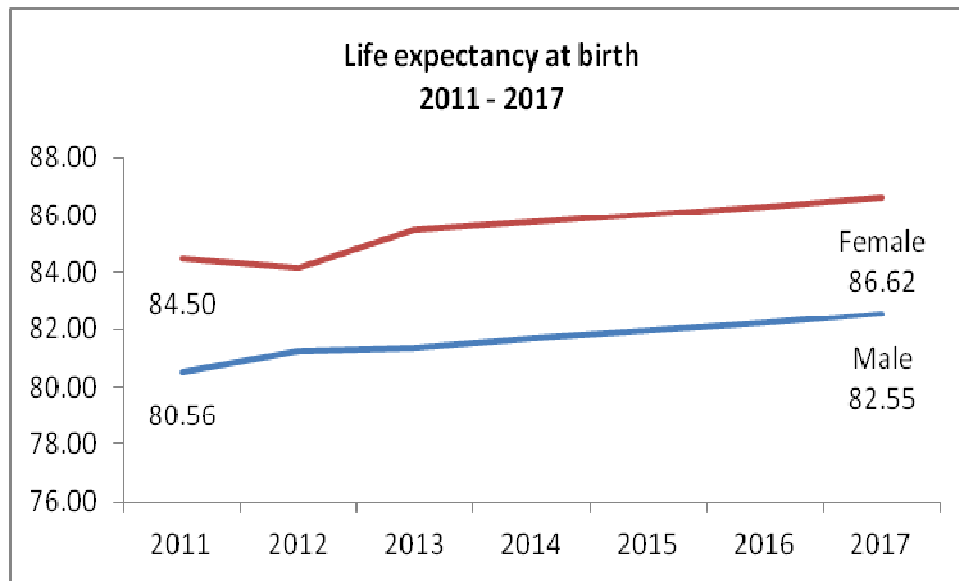
6.1 Introduction

This chapter considers the implications of Merton's changing demographic profile for public health and adult social care services. It also sets out how the Council and its partners are working together to plan ahead for the likely increase in demand for health and adult social care services.

6.2 Health inequalities

Whilst life expectancy at birth is expected to increase by 2017, the gap in life expectancy between males and females is forecast to widen by around 4%, from 3.94 years to 4.07 years. The charts

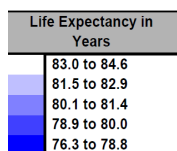
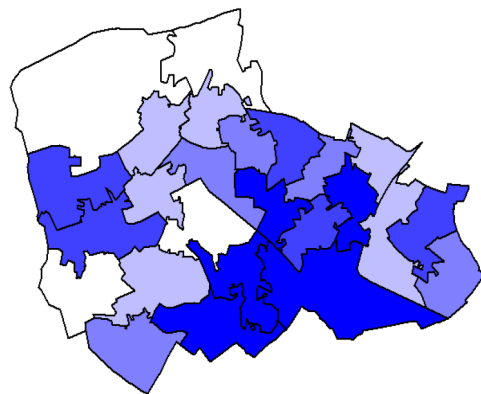
below show gender variations between wards in Merton, showing the clear inequalities in life expectancy between the east and west of the borough.



Source: 2012 Round of Demographic Projections – TREND, © Greater London Authority, 2012

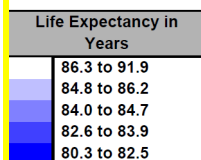
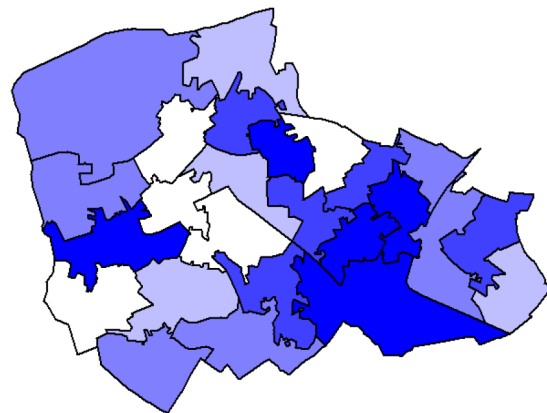
Figure 6.1: Life expectancy at birth 2011 to 2017

Male Life expectancy at birth, 2006 to 2010 inclusive, by MSOA
Source: PHOs JSNAs Datasets, March 2012



©Crown copyright 2012. All rights reserved. ©1994-2012 ACTIVE Solutions Europe Ltd.

Female Life expectancy at birth, 2006 to 2010 inclusive, Merton, by MSOA
Source: PHOs JSNAs Datasets, March 2012



©Crown copyright 2012. All rights reserved. ©1994-2012 ACTIVE Solutions Europe Ltd.

Figure 6.2 & 6.3: Life expectancy for men and women

6.3 Health and well-being for adults aged 20 to 64

There is wide variation in prevalence of disease identified in primary care and disease prevalence is projected to increase according to modelled estimates. Without significant improvements, this,

coupled with increases in those aged 45-54 years is likely to impact on demand for prevention and life style interventions through programmes such as Live Well. Primary care will experience increasing demand for NHS health check services (a public health service), early diagnosis and management of conditions.

There is evidence that an increasing number of young people with multiple and profound disabilities and with autistic spectrum disorders are living longer and are therefore making the transition into Adult Social Care from Children’s Services. This group of young people can often require very specialist services to support their independence and reduce risks.

Women from Black and other minority groups are more likely to present with more advanced breast cancers and have poorer survival rates than white women which may be explained by late presentation. This is particularly the case for Indian, Pakistani, Black Caribbean and Black African. The increase in BAME groups is likely to lead to increased poor screening rates and cancer survival rates if no intervention is tailored to the needs of this population.

Pakistani and Black Afro- Caribbean women are more likely to be obese than women from the general population. Obesity is a risk factor for cardiovascular diseases as well as Type 2 diabetes. A projected increase in this population is likely to lead to an increased prevalence of obesity and the diseases associated with obesity.

Smoking in Black and other minority groups is highest among the 16-34 year olds, except in the Black-Caribbean and South Asian men where prevalence is highest in those aged 35-54.

Merton is categorised as a high HIV prevalence area (3.8/1000 where 2.0 and higher is considered high). Late diagnosis of HIV affects Black African women disproportionately. With increasing numbers of Black African residents, this rate is likely to increase, placing pressure on sexual health and HIV services.

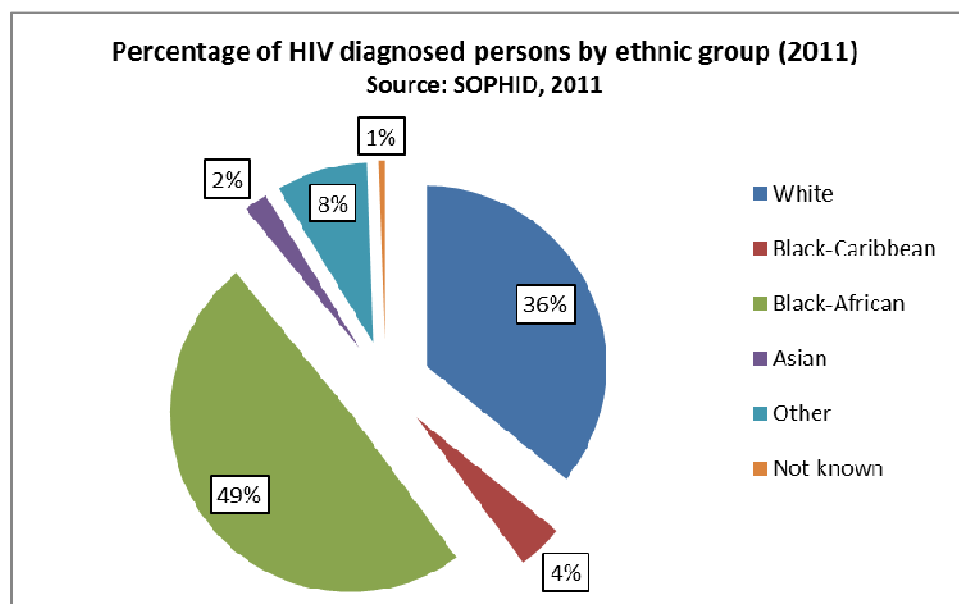


Figure 6.4: Percentage of HIV diagnosed persons by ethnic group 2011

Our priorities for the adult age group are around prevention and early identification of ill health. The Council’s Live Well programme offers free health improvement advice and support to adults in Merton looking to adopt a healthier lifestyle. Merton’s Public Health team is working with regulatory services in the borough to reduce the number of fast food outlets, alcohol and betting shops. The Public Health team is also working closely with environmental health and fast food outlets to improve the food on offer. As a major employer in Merton the Council is implementing a Healthy Workplace scheme to improve the long term health of its own employees.

We are working with primary care providers to embed prevention and increase early detection of disease and management. We are also looking to integrate services (e.g. sexual health) where possible to make access easier and reduce costs.

We are increasing our work with the voluntary sector to reach into BAME communities through respected groups to increase awareness of healthy living and prevention services.

6.4 People with learning disabilities

The overall increase in population levels in Merton will also lead to a corresponding increase in the number of adults with a learning disability. Other factors will also contribute to an increase, including increased survival rates among young people with severe and complex disabilities and reduced mortality amongst older adults with a learning disability. This is born out in terms of service data with the number of adults with learning disabilities known to services is increasing year on year.

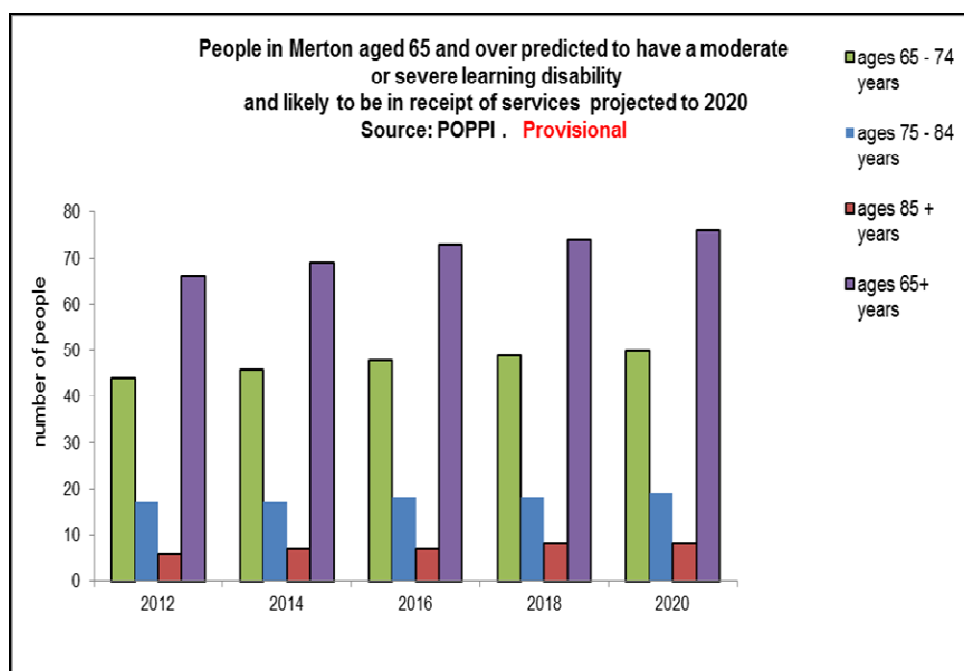


Figure 6.5: People aged 65 and over predicted to have a learning disability 2012-2020

This greater number of people with learning disabilities, particularly of people with complex needs, will place great demand on services, whether from health or the social care sector, in meeting these increased needs.

People with learning disabilities face challenges and discrimination in all areas of their lives. These challenges include access to vital services such as education, health, transport and leisure. At least

half of all adults with a learning disability live in the family home – meaning that many do not get the same chances as other people to gain independence, learn key skills and make choices about their own lives.

‘Health Inequalities and People with Learning Disabilities in the UK: 2011’ identifies key areas where the health of people with learning disabilities is worse than their non-disabled peers. These include the prevalence rate of conditions such as epilepsy, diabetes, respiratory disease, dementia, mental health conditions and many other areas. Mencap report that people with a learning disability are 58 times more likely to die aged 50 and under compared to other people and that four times as many people with a learning disability die of preventable causes as people in the general population.

6.5 People with a disability

The increase in the overall population will also lead to an increase in the number of people with a physical disability and people with sensory impairment. Adults with physical disabilities are likely to have higher day to day living costs (for basics like mobility aids, care and transport) which are 25% higher than those of non-disabled people. Disabled adults aged from 25 to retirement age are twice as likely to live in low income households as their non-disabled adult counterparts (31% compared with 16%³).

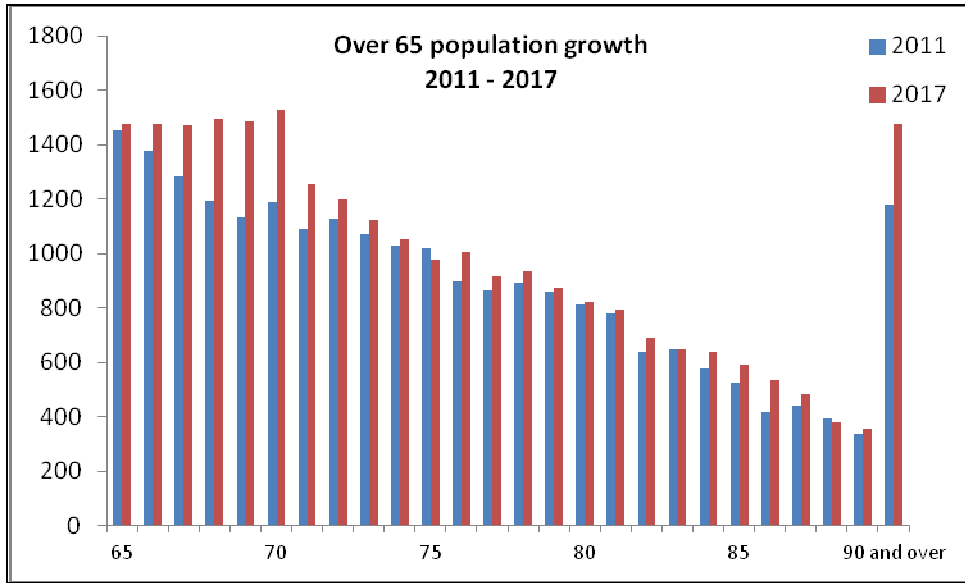
It is estimated by Action on Hearing Loss that one in seven older people in the UK has a degree of hearing loss. The R.N.I.B has estimated that one in five people in the UK has a significant level of sight loss. People with a sensory impairment experience social isolation, difficulty in communication (written or verbal) and problems in accessing information/services.

On a local level, it is estimated by the Dual Sensory Loss Development Worker that we have about 230 adults with a dual sensory loss in Merton. The combined impact of sight and hearing loss is significant on many aspects in life.

6.6 Older people

Between 2011 and 2017, the over-65 population is expected to grow by 2,900 people to 25,700, an increase of 11%. The over-90 population in particular is forecast to grow by 25% to 1,500. The population aged 65 and over as a proportion of the total population will increase from 11.6% in 2011 to 12.4% in 2017.

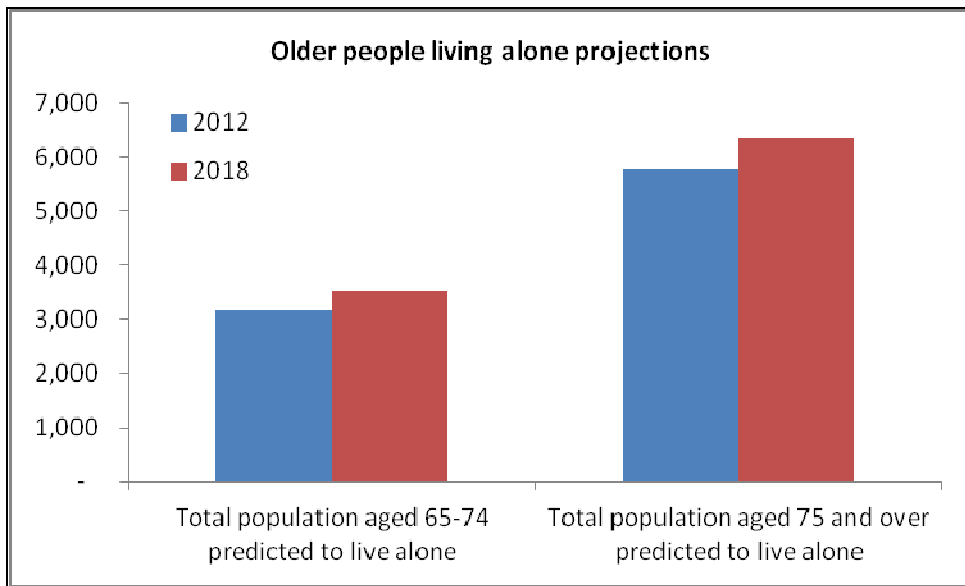
³ Papworth Trust - Disability in the United Kingdom 2012 - Facts and Figures



Source: GLA Population Projections, SHLAA-based (2012), 2013

Figure 6.6: Over 65 population growth 2011 to 2017

The older population aged 65-74 living alone is projected to increase by 12% to 3,500, whilst the population aged 75 and over living alone is projected to increase by 10% to 6,300.



Source: Projecting Older People Population Information System (POPPI), www.poppi.org.uk, 2012

Figure 6.7: Older people forecast to be living alone 2012 and 2018

Evidence suggests 8% of 65-74 year olds, and 24% of men and women aged 75 and over are unable to manage on their own for at least one of the mobility activities listed⁴ below:

- going out of doors and walking down the road

⁴ The data is taken from Bridgwood, A. (1998) People Aged 65 and Over: Results of an Independent Study Carried Out on Behalf of the DoH as part of the 1998 General Household Survey, page 43

- getting up and down stairs
- getting around the house on the level
- getting to the toilet
- getting in and out of bed.

Sight loss and physical disability increases with age and has a profound effect on overall health and access to services, of those aged over 75, approximately half have cataracts or refractive error. Increase in this population is likely to contribute to an increase in number of people with physical disability (vision and mobility).

Crude rate per 10,000 of blind people registered with councils by age group				
	50-64	65-74	75+	Persons
Merton	22.1	46.3	346.9	30.3
London	23.9	48.8	306.6	27.6
England	16.8	30.5	230.0	27.9
Crude rate per 10,000 of partially sighted people registered with councils by age group				
	50-64	65-74	75+	Persons
Merton	15.3	46.3	48.9	25.8
London	18.2	38.9	251.7	2.6
England	15.2	32.4	241.2	28.5

Source: NHS Information Centre, 2012

Table 6.1: Blind and partially sighted people by age group

Applying the prevalence rates to the projected population shows that the numbers are expected to rise by 42% for physical disability and by about 41% for visual disabilities by 2030, suggesting that around an additional 3,000 people aged over 65 years will have either a physical or visual disability if no action is taken to try to prevent avoidable impairment. Projections suggest that there will be an increase of about 1,800 people with physical and visual impairment by 2025, and a steeper increase in numbers from 2025 onwards. Preventative action needs to be taken to combat the forecasted increase in blind and partially sighted people, thus having capacity implications for diabetic eye screening services, falls prevention, and general older people health services.

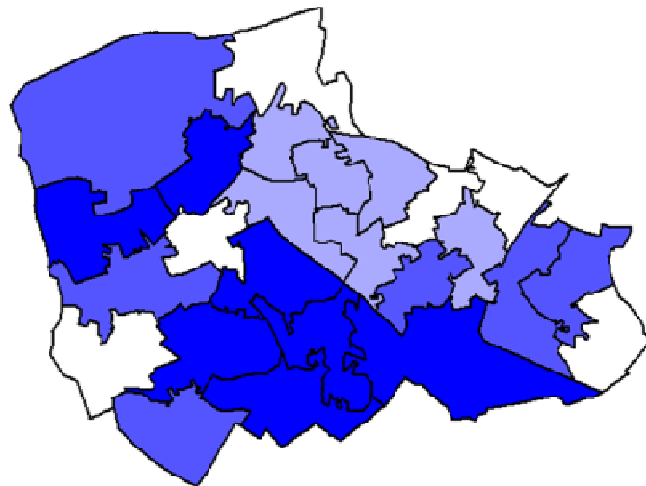
The increase in the older population especially those living alone is likely to lead to increased falls, hospital admissions and poor access to services, poor medicines management, dementia, social isolation, depression and general mental ill health. There is also an increased risk of physical and mental health difficulties interacting that compromise the ability to live independently. Older people on long term medication are likely to suffer co-morbidities due to medicines causing adverse effects in addition to intended benefits.

Social isolation and falls, as well as incontinence and carer stress all increase the likelihood of a loss of independence and risk of the need for institutional care. As the numbers of older people increase, so will the numbers of carers increase. Therefore carer's needs must be assessed and considered as they promote the independence and quality of life of older people, and reduce the pressure on statutory services.

In terms of service demands the increase in the older population is likely to impact on falls and hip fractures prevention services, mental health-dementia detection and management, End of Life Care services and Accident and Emergency services and medicines management services. Merton has the 4th lowest rate of hip fractures in those aged 65 and over in London. This may increase as our residents age.

Number of hospital admissions due to falls for those aged 65 and over, 2011-12, by MSOA

Source: Sutton and Merton PCT



Key	Number of falls
(Lightest blue)	0 to 20
(Light blue)	22 to 26
(Medium blue)	27 to 36
(Darkest blue)	37 to 59

Map: © Crown copyright 2013. All rights reserved. © 1994-2013 ACTIVE SOLUTIONS Europe Ltd.

Figure 6.8: hospital admissions due to falls for those aged 65 and over in 2011-12

The table below sets out the actual number of people diagnosed with dementia in Merton, compared to neighbouring boroughs and statistical neighbours. It compares actual numbers with expected numbers, showing that in 2011-12 only 43% of cases were diagnosed. In 2013-14, the gap in detection of cases is estimated to be 1100 cases.

Dementia numbers and forecasts by Local Authority using Adjusted National Dementia Prevalence	Merton	Croydon	Kingston on Thames	Richmond upon Thames	Sutton	Wandsworth	Barnet	Ealing	Harrow	Hounslow	Redbridge
Living in Community 2011-2012	1,307	2,511	1,230	1,563	1,551	1,317	2,914	2,034	1,616	1,324	1,830
Living in Residential care 2011-2012	492	1,179	456	425	567	628	1,389	650	461	384	665
Dementia register 2011-2012	769	1,539	666	993	833	730	2,287	1,327	747	745	1,106
Diagnosis rate 2011-2012 (%)	42.7	41.7	39.5	50.2	39.3	37.5	53.1	49.4	36	43.6	44.3
Forecast number of cases 2013-2014	820	3,948	1,803	2,114	2,262	2,085	4,605	2,870	1,419	1,822	2,666
Dementia gap 2013-2014	1,100	2,302	1,091	1,503	1,373	1,303	2,158	1,452	2,216	1,028	1,485
Forecast number of cases 2014-2015	837	4,028	1,840	2,157	2,308	2,127	4,699	2,928	2,261	1,859	2,720

Table 6.2: dementia numbers and forecasts

In terms of end of life care, it is important that people make their wishes for place of death known to the GPs. Most people nationally express a preference for dying at home. The percentage of deaths that take place at home in Merton has been increasing since 2010. This change in place of death will require different health and social care services than for those who die in hospital.

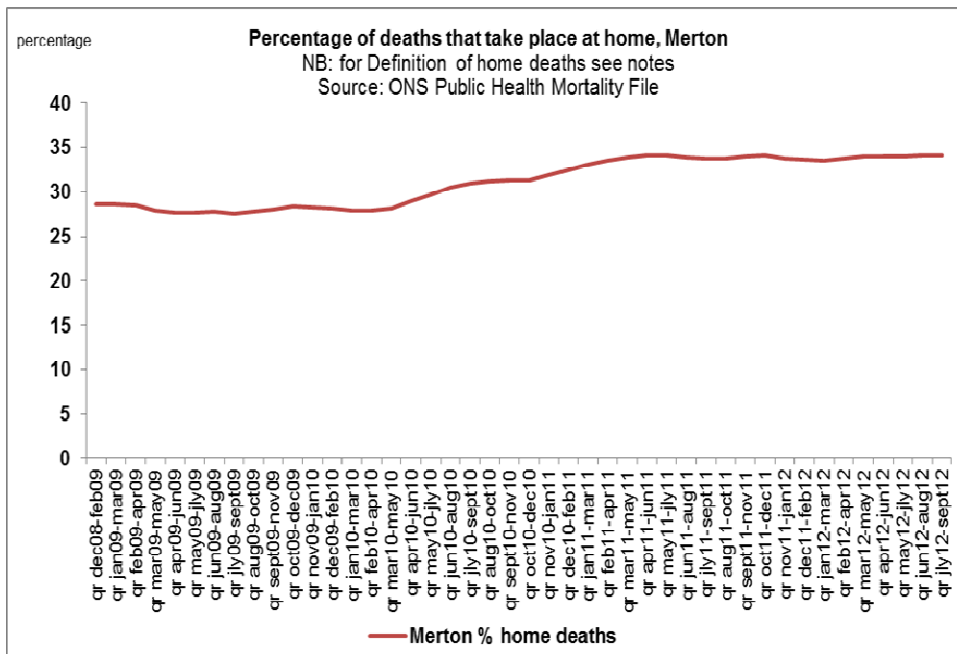


Figure 6.9: percentage of deaths that take place at home

As well as the implications of an aging population, the changes proposed in the Care Bill set out in chapter 3 will also have major implications for adult social care services. In order to reduce the demand for expensive residential care the Council is investing in services that enable people to remain in their own homes for longer, enjoying a good quality of life. The Council has recently

launched the Ageing Well programme in partnership with the voluntary sector to provide a range of advice and support to older people in the borough. Last year the Council in partnership with the voluntary sector and primary care providers introduced Merton-i, an online health and well-being portal.

Earlier this year a pilot project was established with local health partners to trial integrated care pathways for older people with long term conditions. Already this has resulted in a shared approach to assessment and planning for individual patients. The Council, CCG and community services have agreed to form three geographically based locality teams, with each locality broadly reflecting the catchment area of the three acute Trusts. Locality teams will include GPs, primary care staff, community health staff such as district nurses and therapists, as well as Council staff (mainly social workers and occupational therapists).

Planning ahead for the Care Bill the Council is participating in a national project to develop a financial model that will assist in establishing the cost of implementing the Bill and associated funding reforms. The Council is also in the process of developing a Market Position Statement as a tool to ensure the market evolves to meet current and projected future need.

7. Service implications for housing, libraries, transport and economic development.

Summary

Potential impact of demographic change	Examples of how the Council is responding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 12,200 additional households <p>The increase in the number of households together with rising house prices and welfare reform changes will increase the gap between the supply and demand for affordable housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilising planning powers and working with housing providers to increase the number of affordable homes. Working with housing providers to increase the supply of private sector homes available to households in housing need. Working with housing providers to bring empty homes back into use.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increase of 2,900 people aged over 65 67% increase in the private rented sector between 2001-11 Proportion of BAME population aged over 65 increase from 19% to 24% <p>An increase in the number of older people living in unsuitable private rented accommodation has implications for health and well-being. Also, could impact on ability to adapt own home or raise funds for funding future care needs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with housing providers to develop more designated housing for older people including options that can be funded by HB. Review of Allocations Strategy to consider more social lettings to older people. Working with BAME housing providers to increase supply for BAME elders including options for community funding of new developments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the number of households in the private rented sector (PRS) Cost of housing rising faster than household income <p>Likely to result in an increased number of households with children concentrated in the poorer quality end of the PRS. Likely to see the number of evictions from ASTs continue to rise resulting in homeless applications and increase in TA numbers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing Homelessness Strategy to improve prevention measures and make best use of our Homelessness Grant. Welfare Reform project to provide assistance to households affected by changes to benefits. Engage landlords to increase lettings through the Rent Deposit Scheme Work with landlords through the Private Landlord Forum to increase awareness of and adherence to the Mayor's London Rental Standard.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 12,200 additional households Increase of 1,700 households with 2 or more children <p>Increase in household waste which could lead to more waste going to the SWLP 'energy from waste plant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage developers to build apartments with scope for more communal waste storage, collection and recycling. Media campaigns to encourage recycling.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 12,200 additional households Population growth highest in Pollards Hill, Longthornton, Colliers Wood and Dundonald wards 12% increase in households with dependent children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restricted car parking provision in new developments coupled with new housing growth targeted to areas with good public transport. Consider the need for increasing parking controls in areas where car ownership is

<p>Potential for increase in car ownership, particularly households with children in certain parts of the borough.</p>	<p>increasing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortlisted for the Mayor’s mini-Holland bid with the aim of increasing cycling journeys by 10%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7% increase in young people aged 0-19 • Increase in employment sectors requiring a skilled work force • Higher proportion of unemployed people aged 19 to 25 <p>There will be an increase in the number of school leavers and there will be a need to match skills of young people to the future jobs market.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merton’s Economic Development Strategy prioritises support for new business start-ups, inward investment, town centre initiatives and supporting residents into work. • Merton Business Support Service, delivered in partnership with Merton Chamber of Commerce seeks to create 300 new businesses and 700 additional jobs by 2017. • Merton Partnership’s Employment and Skills Strategy to provide joined up support from Job Centre, colleges and training providers • Support younger people to find work in identified growth sectors creating 100 apprentices and 100 in full employment. • The 'Take-one' initiative encourages Merton businesses to take on apprentices, mentor young people or provide positions for younger people, with a target of 100 people by 2014.

7.1 Introduction

This section considers the growth in the number of households in Merton and implications in terms of housing, transport, libraries and the wider economy.

7.2 Households

The number of households in Merton is forecast to increase by between 2,500 and 12,200 (GLA/SHLAA and ONS) between 2011 and 2017, an increase of between 3% and 15%. According to the DCLG ONS based projections Merton is expected to see the fourth highest percentage increase in households in England, with an average annual household growth of 2%⁵.

⁵ Household Interim Projections, 2011 to 2021, England. DCLG April 2013.

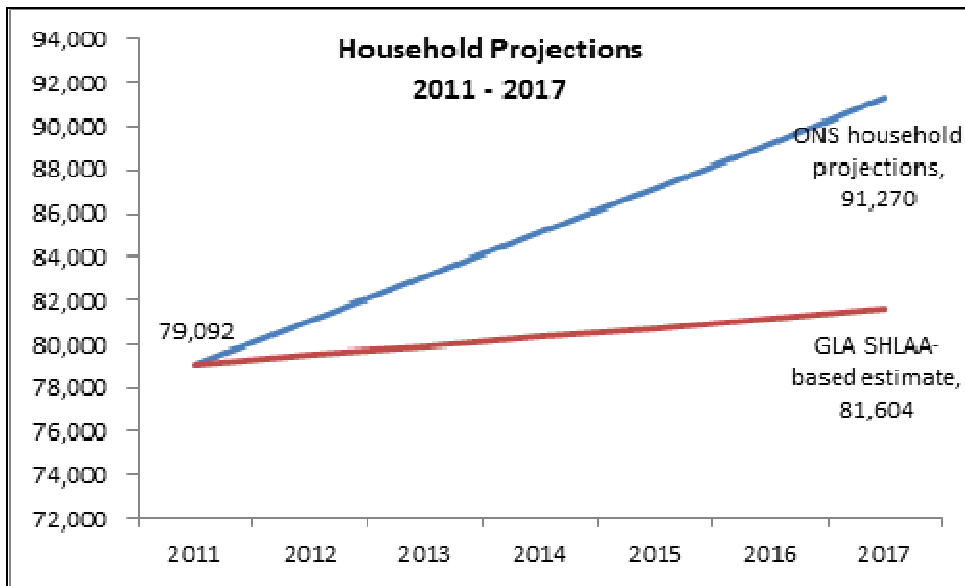


Figure 7.1: household growth

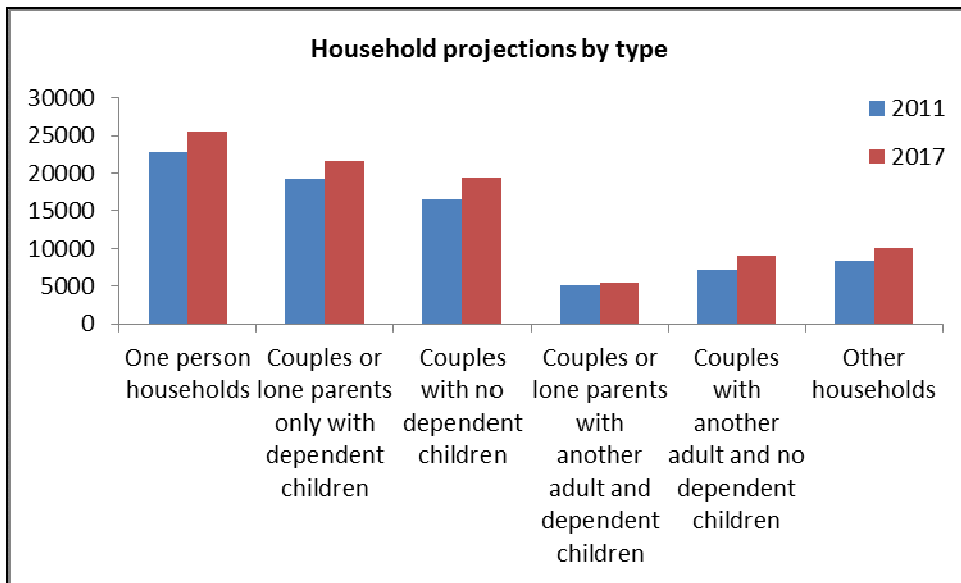


Figure 7.2: household type

7.3 Housing

7.3.1 Housing stock and tenure

The private rental sector now accounts for around a quarter of the housing stock, an increase of 67% since the 2001 census. Over this period the number of homes owned outright has fallen by 16%. The proportion of properties owned with a mortgage is considerably higher than the London average and the proportion of socially rented is lower.

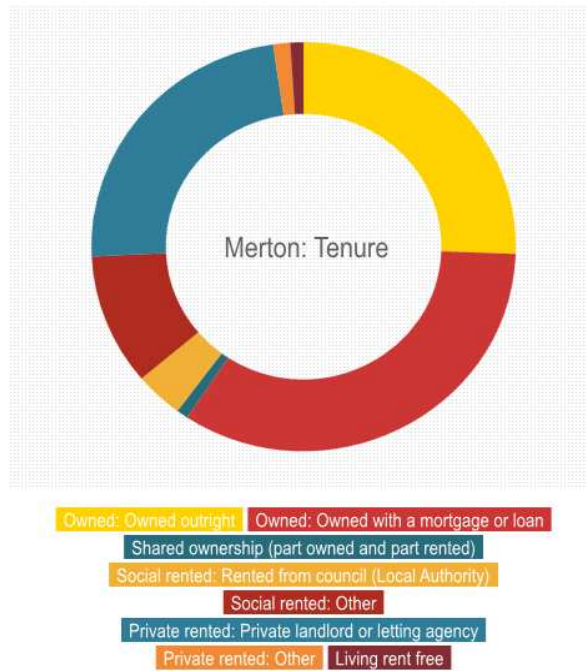


Figure 7.3: housing tenure in 2011

Between 2001 and 2011 there was an 8% increase in the number of flats, maisonettes and apartments and correspondingly a 6% fall in the number semi detached houses.

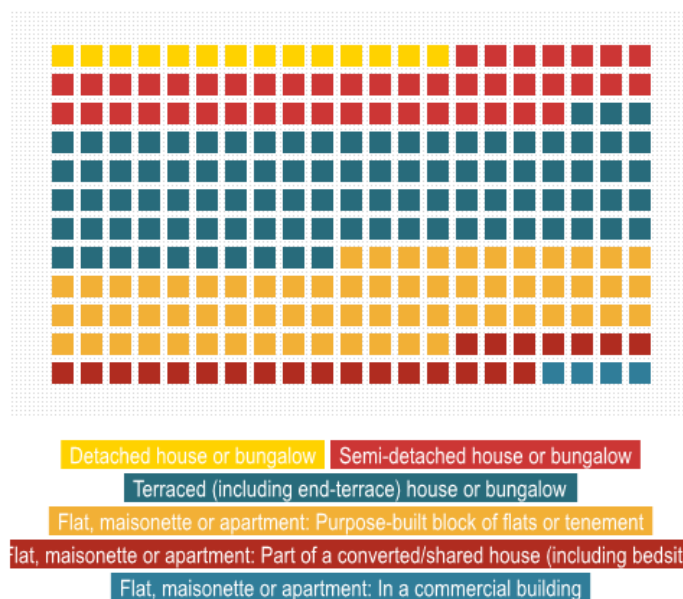


Figure 7.4: dwelling type in 2011

7.3.2 Occupancy levels

Figures from the 2011 Census indicate there are in the region of 7,400 households that are experiencing overcrowding and that overcrowding is worst in the private rented sector.

Since the last Census in 2001 there has also been an increase in the number of households where there is a couple with one or more other adults and no dependent children. This may be new

households unable to afford their own accommodation and having to live with parents or friends. The forecast is for the number of these households to increase by 26% to 9,000 by 2017.

In contrast, there are in the region of 45,800 households who appear to be under occupying accommodation.

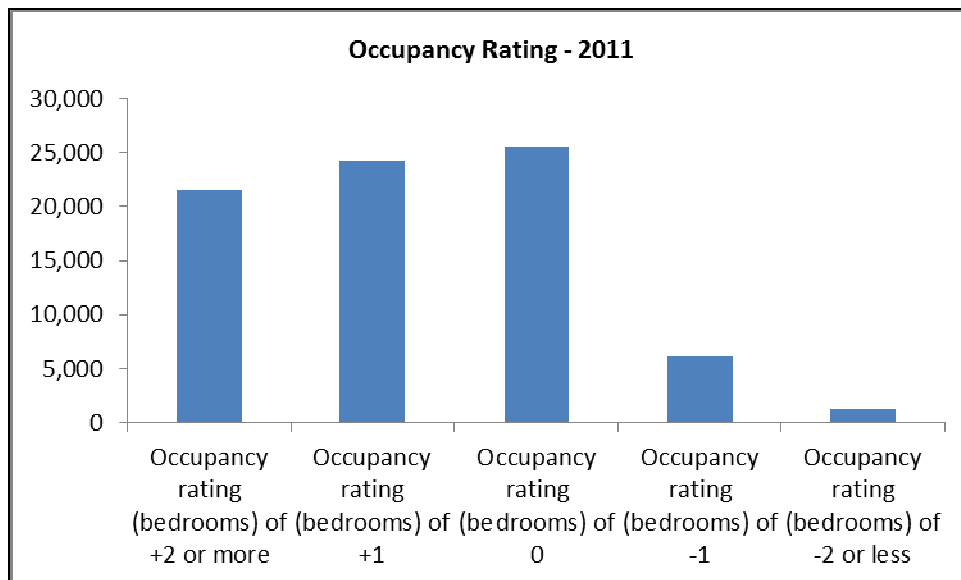


Figure 7.5: occupancy levels

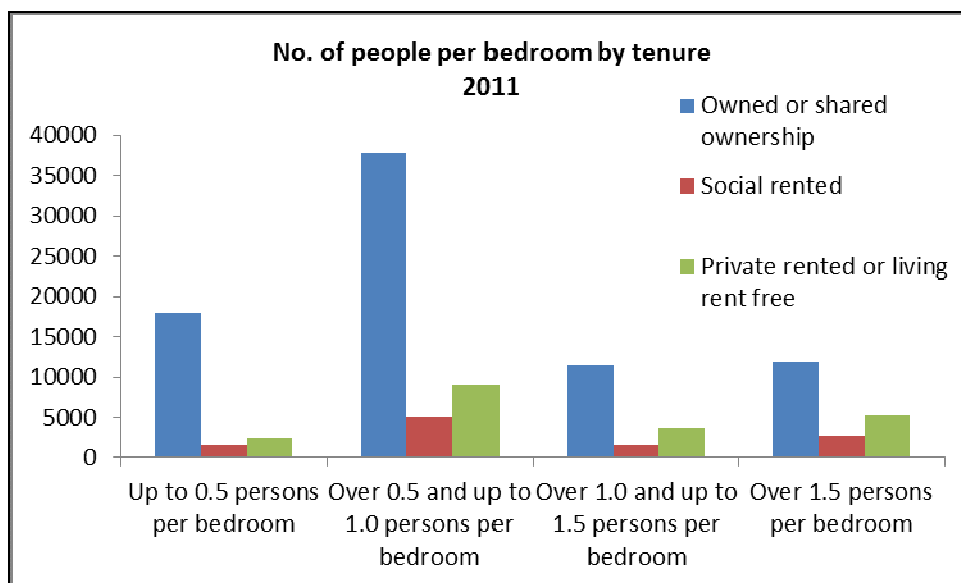


Figure 7.6: number of people per bedroom

7.3.3 The cost of housing

Whilst it is difficult to predict future house prices and the cost of private renting, there has been a general upward trend in recent times. Between 2001 and 2011, the average house price in Merton has increased by 114% - the largest increase among its neighbours.

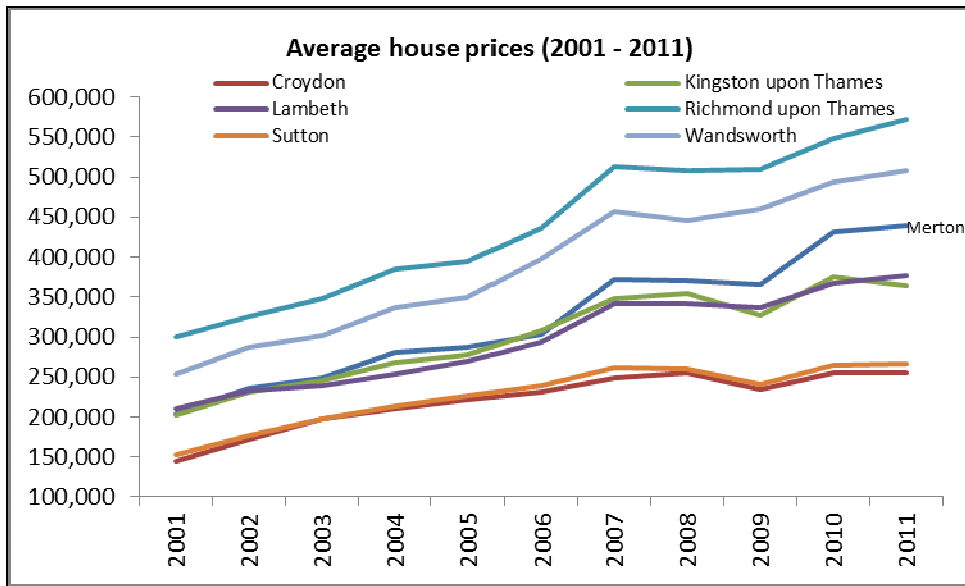


Figure 7.7: Average house prices 2001 to 2011

	Room	Studio	1-bed	2-bed	3-bed	4-bed+
2002-03	£86	£128	£181	£272	£246	£326
2012-13	£89	£179	£219	£288	£347	£485

Table 7.1: average rental costs 2002 to 2012

7.3.4 The supply of new housing

If all developments in the pipeline were approved and developed there could be potentially 1,200 new dwellings in Merton accommodating between 2,500 and 3,500 residents. Data from unimplemented planning permissions and site allocations indicate growth in Colliers Wood, South Wimbledon, Morden and Mitcham.

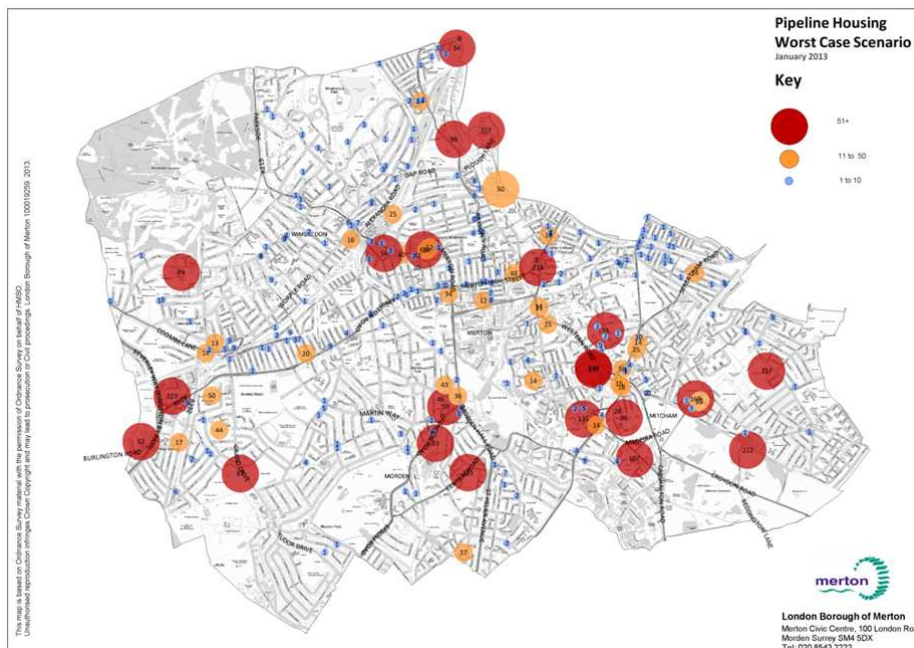


Figure 7.8: new housing development

7.3.5 The backlog of housing need in Merton

While population projections provide useful information on household growth and inform the planning of additional housing in Merton, it is necessary to look at service statistics alongside demographic trend data in order to understand the need for affordable housing.

The number of households on Merton's Housing Register has increased by 33% between April 2009 and April 2013, although the number of households with 'reasonable preference' remains fairly stable. In April 2013 around 2,500 households on Merton's Housing Register were assessed as having 'reasonable preference' under the Allocations Policy. These include those who are homeless, in need of housing due to medical or welfare grounds and those occupying insanitary; overcrowded or unsatisfactory accommodation.

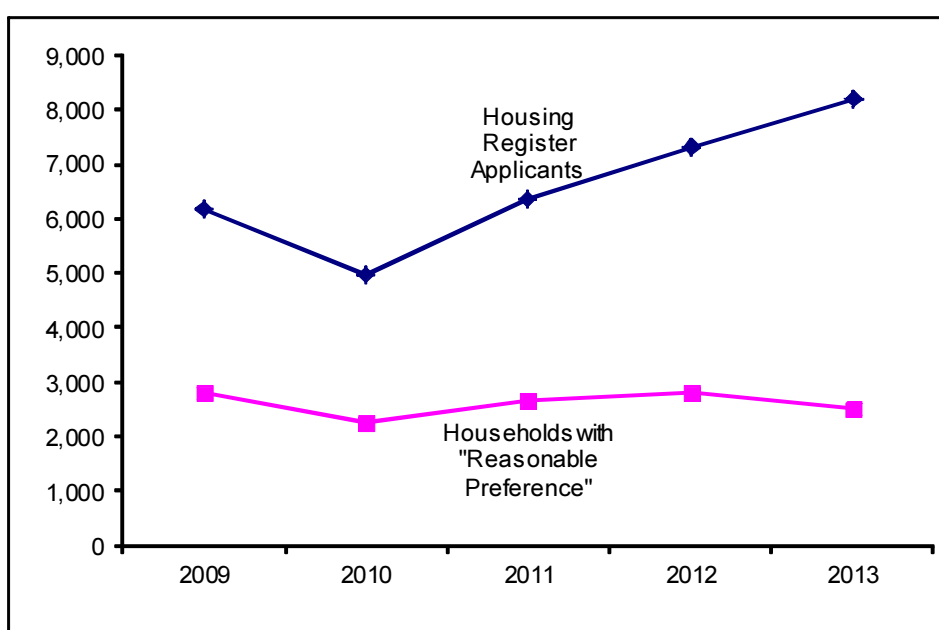


Figure 7.9: Merton's Housing Register

7.3.6 The need for affordable housing

As households with 'reasonable preference' are more likely to be housed under the council's Allocations Policy, the backlog of need relating to these households had decreased by 290 from 2,824 households in 2009 to 2,534 in 2013. Although the council had placed nearly 3,000 households in either social housing or the private rented sector over this 5-year period, more households deemed to have 'reasonable preference' joined the Housing Register during this time hence the backlog of need currently remains at about 2,500. With less supply of affordable housing projected to come on stream over the next 5 years, the number of households with 'reasonable preference' on the Housing Register is predicted to increase.

The findings of the last Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) for Merton, which covers the period 2007-2021, similarly shows a need for around 2,250 additional affordable homes in Merton between 2013 and 2017 (assuming the need for affordable housing is evenly spread across the 14-year period). These findings were based on calculations using the GLA's 2007 population projection

data. With the availability of 2011 Census data and more up-to-date projections, Merton’s SHMA will be updated later this year.

The backlog of need along with newly arising need means more people are likely to be living in overcrowded housing, which can lead to poor health & affect children’s educational attainments. There is also a potential for an increase in family conflict caused by lack of space.

The Council is maximising opportunities to increase new-build affordable homes by working with registered providers. It is also working with housing providers on initiatives to increase the supply of private sector homes available to households in housing need. We are also working with housing providers to bring empty homes back into use for households in housing need.

7.3.7 Affordable housing supply

Social housing stock in Merton is not likely to see any notable increase between 2013 and 2017, with projected new build currently estimated to be an additional 300 homes but off-set by social housing tenants purchasing their homes under Right to Buy.

With a negligible increase in social housing stock, the council will increasingly rely on the private rented sector to meet the backlog of housing need, and to discharge its statutory duty to homeless households by assisting them in accessing suitable private rented accommodation. Although the private rented sector has grown from 17% of total stock to 25% in Merton, the chart below shows that the number of homes available to people in housing need has been decreasing since 2010/11, as landlords can get higher returns from professional tenants in a buoyant private rental market with steadily increasing rent levels.

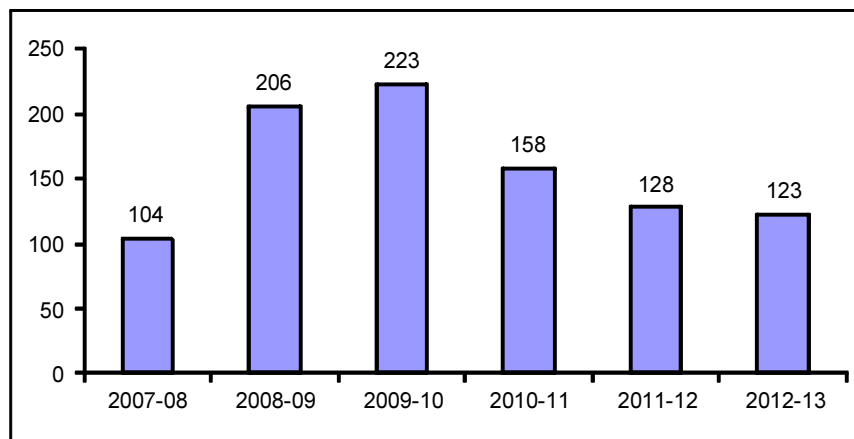


Figure 7.10: private rented lettings achieved through the Rent Deposit Scheme

More and more households will need to rely on the private rented sector to meet their housing needs, but will only be able to access the lower end of the private rented market. Such housing is likely to be in poorer condition and will exacerbate housing needs.

The Council is increasing engagement and improving negotiations with private landlords through the Rent Deposits Scheme to help increase private sector housing solutions for homeless households. It is also working with private landlords through Merton’s Private Landlord Forum to increase awareness of, and adherence to, the Mayor’s new London Rental Standard.

7.3.8 Homelessness

The chart below shows that homelessness applications are increasing, although acceptance levels have remained relatively static over the last few years.

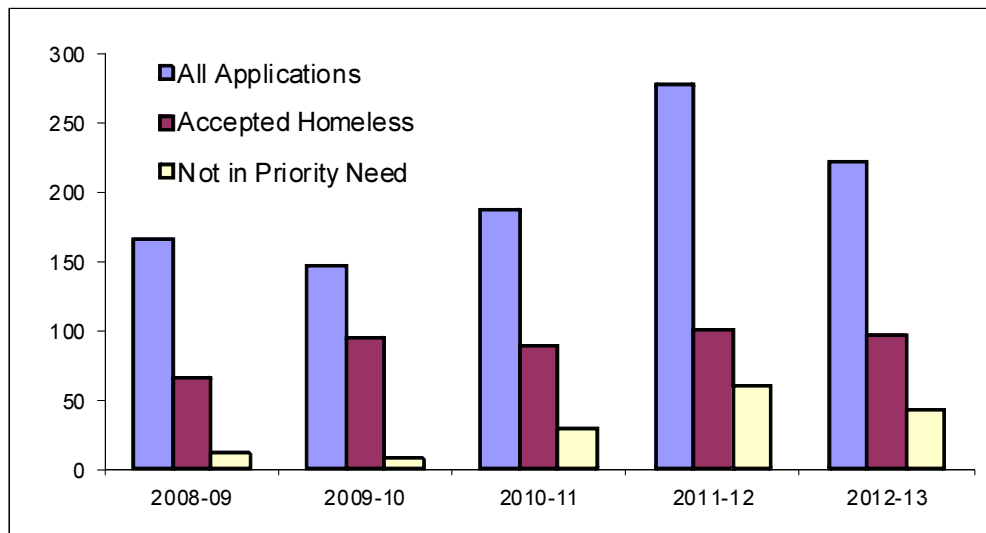


Figure 7.11: statutory homelessness trends

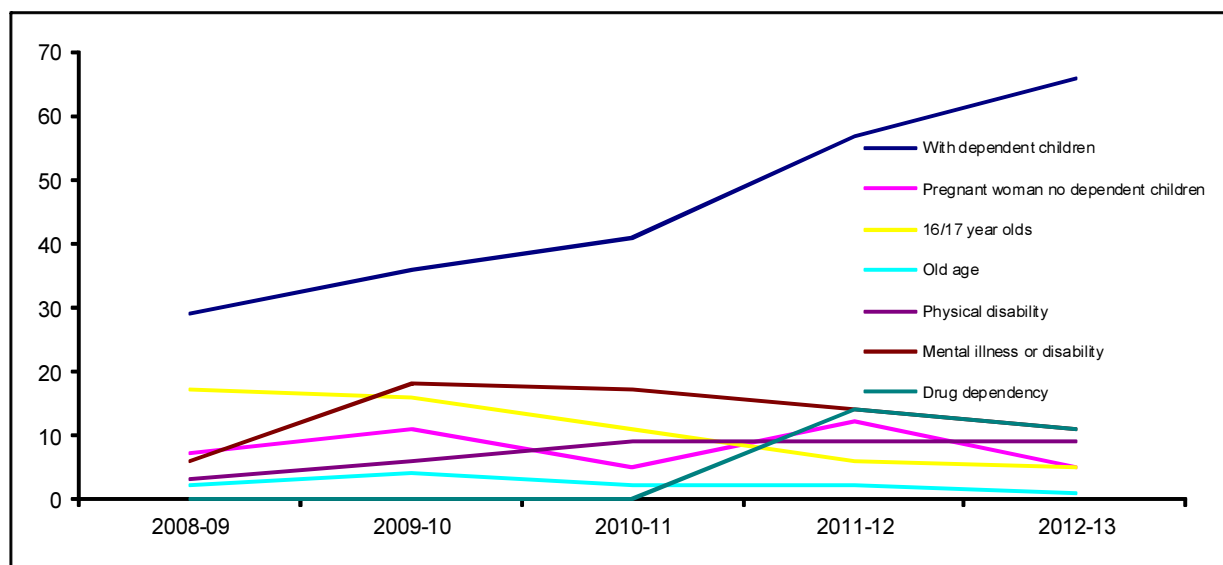


Figure 7.12: homelessness acceptance categories

Although the chart above shows the proportion Homelessness approaches by young people has decreased, the net demand for assistance from this client group has not reduced, as many of them have opted to approach Children’s Services for assistance following the ‘Southwark Judgement’.

The chart below shows that termination of Assured Shorthold Tenancies (ASTs) has become the main cause of homelessness, replacing evictions by families and friends. The increasing reliance on the private rented sector with its insecure tenure is likely to lead to further increase in

homelessness. Welfare Reform will further reduce affordability of housing to households relying on benefits, thus increasing child poverty and the likelihood of families having to keep moving to seek cheaper accommodation, or face eviction and homelessness.

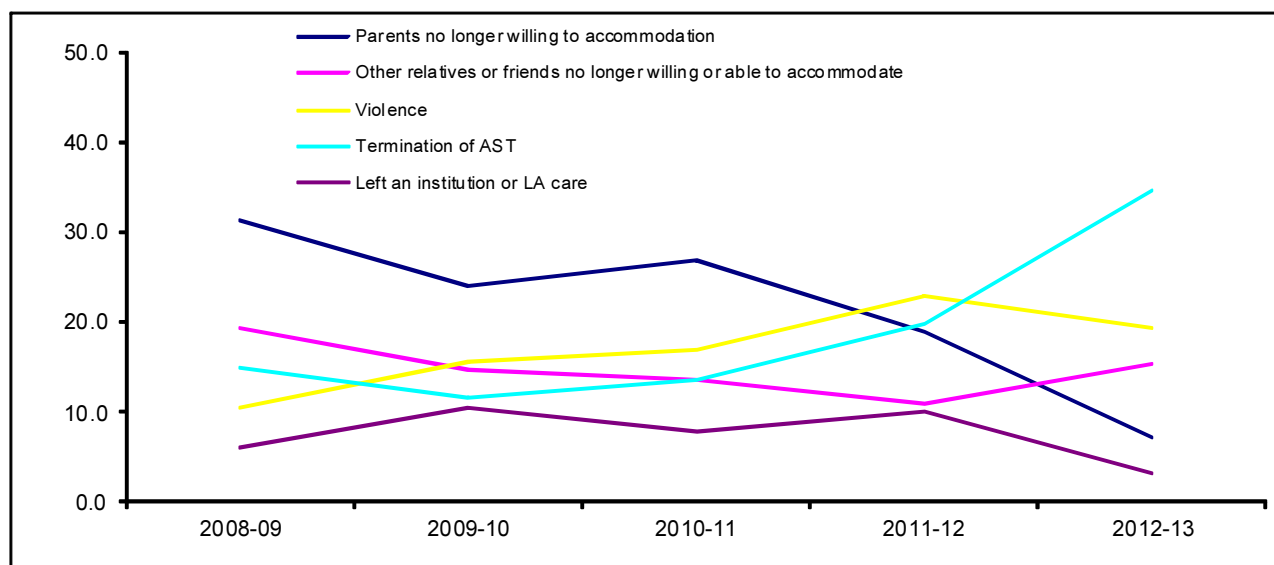


Figure 7.13: reason for homelessness

Ethnic minority households are over-represented amongst homeless applicants. An increasing number of ethnic minority households will be affected by homelessness, given their increase in the wider population and they are more likely to be affected by unemployment and other socio-economic deprivation.

It is likely that the increase in households living in the private rented sector coupled with an increase in the cost of rents and welfare reform changes is likely to result in further increases in homelessness applications due to termination of Assured Shorthold Tenancies (AST). The number of homeless households with dependent children is predicted to increase, which will result in an increased in the use of more costly self-contained temporary accommodation to place these households. This will have financial implications for the council.

As a result the Council will review its Homelessness Strategy involving working with key stakeholders to improve the effectiveness of prevention measures and make best use of Merton’s Homelessness Grant. Also, we will implement the Welfare Reform Project which provides assistance to households affected by the benefits changes.

It is worth noting that the number of single homeless households deemed ‘not in priority need’ has been increasing and this trend is likely to continue to 2017. Although the number of people involved is relatively small, many single homeless people have complex support needs and require supported housing as well as education and training to help them gain full independence. An increase in this client group approaching the council for assistance will have cost implications.

The Council is increasing initiatives that support ‘non-priority’ homeless people to full independence, and make best use of Merton’s Homelessness Grant. The Housing Needs team is working with public health and social care services to help prevent homelessness amongst this client group, and to

help them achieve independence. We are also working with housing providers to develop supported housing projects that utilise private sector housing stock, including HMOs.

7.3.9 Housing needs of older people

The number of Housing Register applicants aged 65 plus has increased by 77% between 2010 and 2013, now making up of 7.8% of all applicants on the Housing Register, compared to 5.9% in 2010. Owner-occupation as a share of total tenure has been falling, which means that there are now more older people who are non-owners. In 2001, owner occupation made up 69% of all tenures, but this had decreased to 59% by 2011 and this trend is likely to continue.

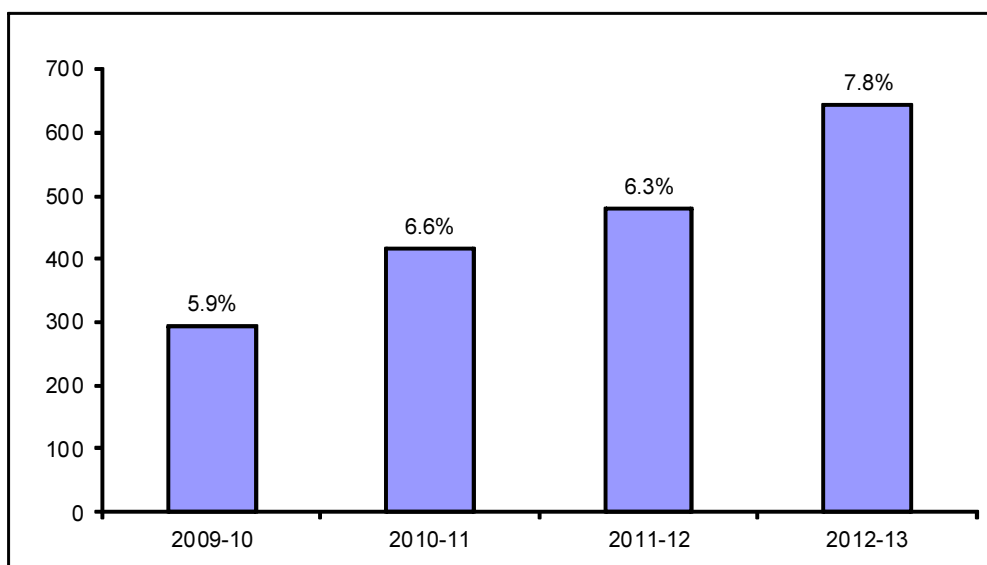


Figure 7.14: applications to the Housing Register from people aged 65 and over

The further decrease in owner occupation, along with the projected increase of the older people population in Merton, is likely to see more and more older people joining the Housing Register. In 2012-13, only 45 of the 592 social homes available for letting went to older people households, representing 7.6% of all lettings, which is comparable to older households' share on the register. An increasing proportion of older people will be from BAME communities, and it is therefore likely that we will see more BAME elders in housing need.

The Council will however need to consider the likely impact of more older people living in insecure and/or unsuitable accommodation, which can lead to an increase in demand for health and social care services, as living in poor accommodation or the need to move regularly is likely to increase the likelihood as well as speeding up their need for support and care.

This is likely to have financial implications for social care services. A recent national study on care home costs commissioned by an Insurance Group shows that nearly 50% of older people paid for their care from savings and 28% had to sell their home to meet costs. Those with no property of their own and assets below a certain threshold are eligible to get financial help to pay their care costs. An increase in the number of older people who are non-owners needing social care services could increase the council's costs in providing care.

The 2011 Census shows that 45,800 households are under-occupying their homes, mostly in the owner-occupied sector and the social housing sector. Older people in Merton are more likely to be under-occupiers when compared to the overall population. Although owner-occupation as a share of total tenure is projected to decrease further, the number of under-occupied homes will remain high over the next few years. With more older people predicted to live alone, those who under-occupy in the owner-occupied sector often have difficulties maintaining and heating their large homes, as many are 'property rich but cash poor'. This has service implications for housing, health, as well as social care services. More actions are also needed to address under-occupation in the social sector in order to make best use of existing social housing stock to meet housing need, and there are concerns over the impact of the so called 'bedroom tax' on tenants who are under-occupiers.

In relation to this older client group the Council is working with registered providers to identify opportunities for developing more designated housing for older people, including options that can be funded via housing benefit. In the annual review of the council's Allocations Strategy we will look at options to increase the number of social housing lettings to older people. We will also look at working with BAME housing providers to develop new-build housing projects for older people that are partly funded by the community

7.4 Household waste and recycling

It is reasonable to assume that larger family households generate more waste than smaller households and apartment dwellers. At present this would add to landfill and the cost of landfill. In future such waste will be treated at the South London Waste Partnership's 'energy from waste' (EFW) plant for which there will also be a cost. Projected household need and demand for 1-2 bed units, and the current housing supply line providing the majority of new homes as apartments suggests that there could be savings to the Council both by reducing waste sent to the EFW plant and increasing recycling and efficiencies in waste collection from communal apartment developments with more communal collection of waste and recycling (as opposed to kerbside pick-up). The Council will also focus on media campaigns with partners to increase the borough's recycling rates, in line with the South London Waste Plan.

7.5 Libraries

As the population continues to grow and with resident expectations changing, it is anticipated that library services will continue to see an increase in demand, although not solely through traditional interactions (e.g. borrowing a book). Whilst nationally there is a picture of declining usage of libraries, in Merton visits to libraries and borrowing of stock has remained steady, whilst the percentage population of Merton residents using libraries has increased dramatically.

With a greater emphasis on literacy levels at schools and with better integration work, every school child in Merton will shortly be a library member and this is anticipated to increase demand on library services by approximately 5% per year. Libraries are increasingly becoming hubs to their local community and deliver a range of added value activities linking in with key strategic issues such as health, employment and life skills. Through these activities it is also anticipated that usage of libraries will increase.

In a modern 24/7 environment libraries have in place systems so that residents no longer need to visit their library by making a number of resources available online such as e-books and online

reference resources. As online resources continue to develop this may lead to an increased channel shift towards online services but there is also a challenge around continuing to invest and improve these online resources as there are good commercial alternatives.

7.6 Transport

The 2011 Census showed that car ownership in Merton is falling with 40% of households not owning a car. Reduction in car ownership can be due to a number of factors in particular good access to public transport, the growth in 'car clubs' and generational factors with young people either choosing not to have a car or priced out of car ownership. However, as the borough's population increases, particularly as the number of young families increase, we could expect a rise in car ownership.

Data from Mosaic suggests that in areas of good public transport, with good local amenities within walking distance, there is trend towards more 'car free' lifestyles. Mosaic suggests that there are higher concentrations of young 'urbanites' living in Wimbledon and Colliers Wood who have a tendency towards not owning a car on environmental grounds. By contrast, in areas such as Canon Hill, Lower Morden and parts of Mitcham, car ownership is seen as both aspirational and a necessity. This could indicate that more parking controls could be needed in these areas.

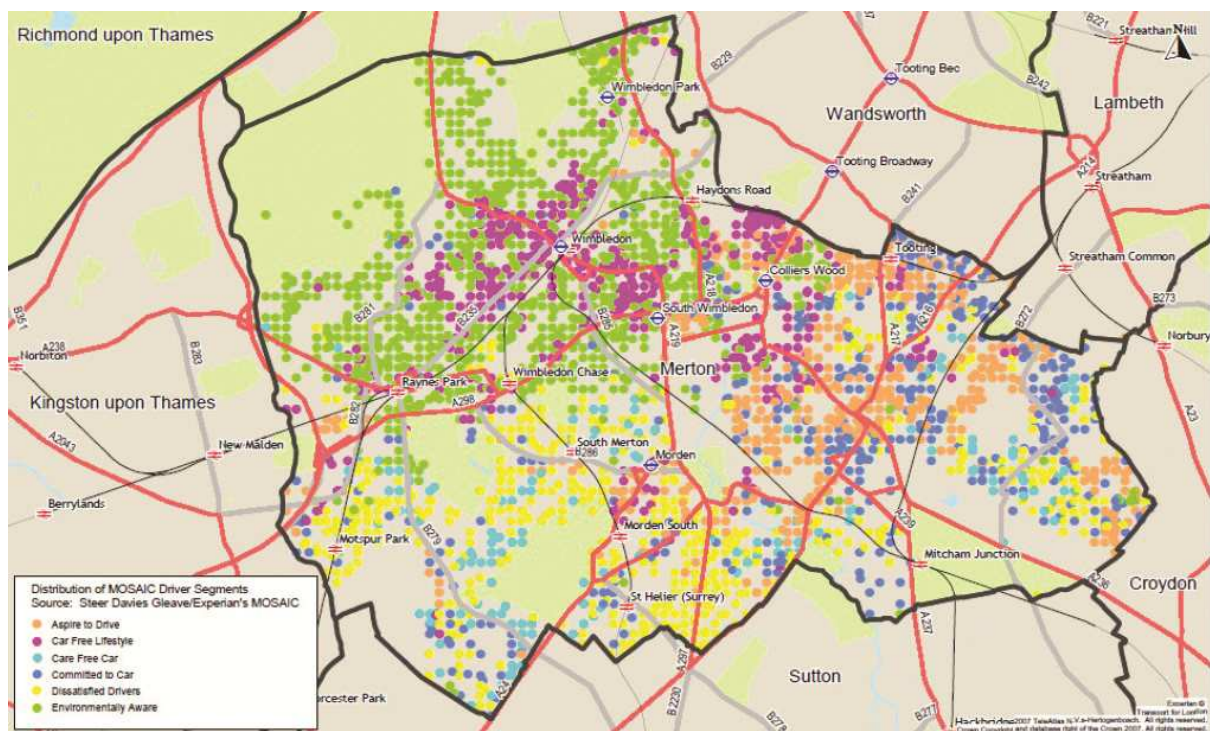


Figure 7.15: Distribution of MOSAIC driver segments

Restricted car parking provision in new developments can go some way to reducing car ownership; especially as the Council's Core Planning Strategy targets new housing growth into areas with good public transport (Morden, South Wimbledon and Colliers Wood). Other areas of population growth such as Mitcham and Pollards Hill may experience pressure for increased parking controls which would be rolled out in response to resident's requests.

The borough's modal share for cycling is currently low at 1-4% of all local trips being made by bike. The Council is one of the shortlisted bidders for the Mayor's cycling Mini-Hollands fund to provide cycle infrastructure and an increase to 10% of local journeys being made by bike.

Linked to the Mosaic data, two key demographics and localities are targeted to increase cycling.

- urbanites and environmentally aware people in Wimbledon and Colliers Wood who already choose a car free lifestyle have the potential to increase cycling as a choice, given infrastructure upgrades
- people currently priced out of, or aspiring to own a car, particularly in the more urban areas of North Mitcham have potential to take up cycling as the mode of choice for local trips or commuting to rail stations. This demographic also correlates to the number of 15-35 year olds and singles who are more likely to cycle (families tend to be more car dependent).

7.7 Business growth and employment

Merton currently has 7,400 businesses employing 57,000 people. Employment in financial services, IT, business and professional services are expected to be a key source of growth over the next two decades. The refreshed Economic Development Strategy (2012) highlights that the Council will provide support to this sector through business support programmes and inward investment. We also recognise the potential for growth in the retail sector, in the context of town centre activities and we will also focus on creative and cultural activity in the borough. Likewise, the green technology sector is considered to have significant prospects for growth over the next decade.

The Merton Business Support Service, delivered in partnership with Merton Chamber of Commerce seeks to create 300 new businesses and 700 additional jobs by 2017.

The number of young unemployed people and NEET's (Not in employment Education and Training) has risen over the past few years and there is a likely correlation between the number of people working past the age of 65 and the lack of employment for under 24 year olds. Youth unemployment has been recognised as a major priority for the government and locally we have set up initiatives to support employment of young people through our Employment and Training Action Plan.

The Merton Partnership Economic and Wellbeing Sub-group has developed an Employment and Skills Strategy to provide joined up support from Job Centre, colleges and training providers. The Employment and Skills Action plan identifies skills gaps and training to enable younger people to find work in identified growth sectors creating 100 apprentices and 100 in full employment. The 'Take-one' initiative encourages Merton businesses to take on apprentices, mentor young people or provide positions for younger people, with a target of 100 people by 2014.

7.8 Adult learning and skills

NEETS and young people seeking employment is likely to remain high in the medium term. Those young people who do not fare well in the school system tend to thrive in the adult learning environment. There may be a need for increased project and outreach activity to engage further with these client groups. Also, the demand from lone parents wanting to come off benefits and gain employment is likely to rise with the increase in the number of lone parent families.

Widening participation in the east of the borough remains a high priority for the Council and we will continue to engage with those furthest removed from learning. Projects with Job Centre Plus will continue to focus on supporting people back into work.

In recent times Merton Adult Education (MAE) has seen an increase in individuals seeking vocational qualifications in early years, adult social care, business administration and customer services in order to secure employment. This is likely to increase given the borough profile. In addition to the qualification programme there is a need for more courses focusing on soft skills – communication, confidence building and job search.

It is likely that the number of adults with learning difficulties will increase. MAE has already seen a considerable increase in students in this area already this academic year.

The number of individuals requiring English has increased over the years and MAE are unable to meet the full demand due to limitations in funding. New citizenship requirements will increase demand further.

The increase in the number of older people is likely to result in additional demand for adult learning services from this cohort.

8. Financial implications

Between 2010/11 and 2013/14 budgeted expenditure on areas under the Council's direct control i.e. excluding schools and housing benefit, has reduced by 2.5%. In addition to this the Council has also contained spending pressures over this period (pay, prices, growth and the impact of the capital programme) that amount to around 25% of the 2010/11 budget. Overall, expenditure on frontline services has increased slightly with the bulk of savings made in corporate items such as capital charges.

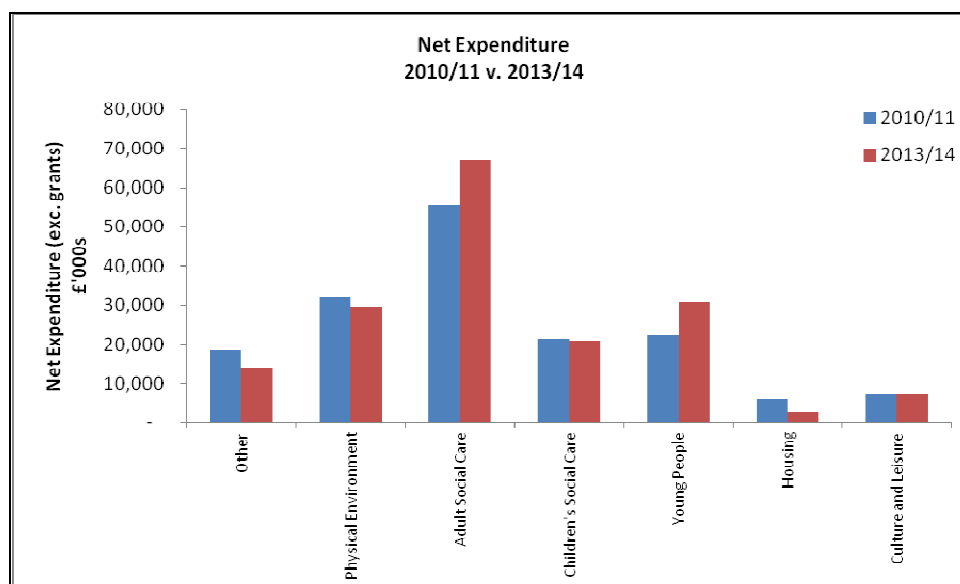


Figure 8.1: Budget breakdown 2010/11 and 2013/14

There has, however, been a marked change in the pattern of spending over this period. In 2010/11 social care for adults and children, non schools education, traffic and highways and waste management services comprised less than 75% of Council spending. By 2013/14 this proportion has risen to 83.5% with increases in particular for Adult Social Care. Expenditure on the remainder of Council services such as leisure, street cleansing, youth services and libraries has reduced by around 33%.

	2010/11	2013/14
Other	24.5%	16.5%
Traffic and Highway Services	5.9%	5.4%
Waste Management	9.3%	8.4%
Children's Social Care	13.3%	12.8%
Education (excluding schools)	12.7%	15.9%
Adult Social Care	34.3%	41.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Table 8.1: Expenditure by type of service

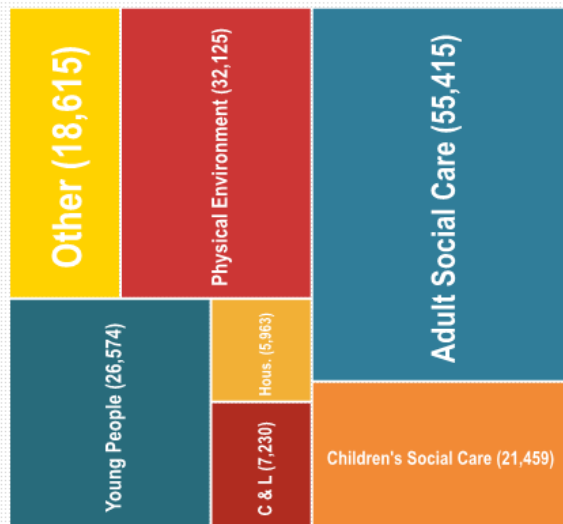


Figure 8.2: Expenditure by service area 2010/11

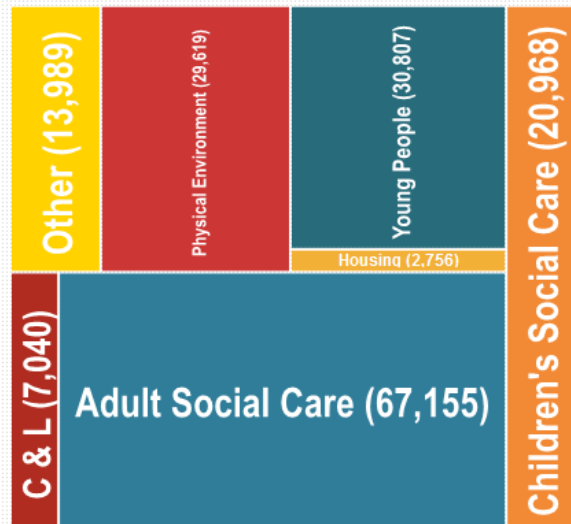


Figure 8.3: Expenditure by service area 2013/14

The two charts below show the forecast demand for services and expenditure requirements set against the likely resources available over this period. The first chart is based on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and departmental estimates of potential growth pressures. The second is based on LGA modelling of demographic trends set out in this report. There is a marked similarity between the two forecasts. It should be noted that the estimate of available resources is taken from the MTFS which takes a positive view of likely resources.

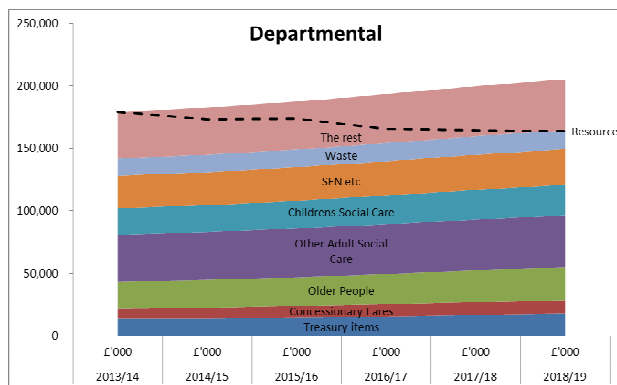


Figure 8.4: Merton's departmental modelling 2013/14 – 18/19

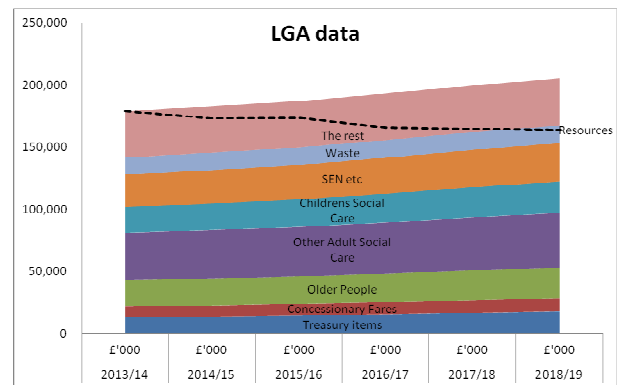


Figure 8.5: LGA modelling 2013/14 – 18/19

If future expenditure were to be based on demand then all other Council services ('the rest' in the charts above), with the exception of waste management, would have to cease. Under this scenario even waste management would see a reduction of around 15% of its current budget. However, this scenario is unachievable, even supposing the Council wanted it, due to the statutory nature of some of the other Council services e.g. libraries, homelessness etc.

The modelling above does not include some £15 million of savings already agreed. It is clear, however, that the MTFS cannot include growth along the lines set out above and that current strategies to contain demand within existing budgets must continue i.e. through greater efficiencies or ceasing to deliver some services. Even so, there is likely to have to be further reductions in areas such as social care and education.

This page is intentionally left blank

Committee: Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

6th November 2013

Healthier Communities & Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

13th November 2013

Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

12th November 2013

Overview and Scrutiny Commission

26th November 2013

Agenda item:

Wards:

Subject: Business Plan Update 2014-2018

Lead officer: Caroline Holland

Lead member: Councillor Mark Allison

Contact officer: Paul Dale

Forward Plan reference number:

Recommendations:

1. That the Panel consider the latest information in respect of the Business Plan and Budget 2014/15, including, in particular, the draft capital programme 2014-18
2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission considers the comments of the Panels and provides a response on the draft capital programme 2014-18 to Cabinet when it meets on the 9 December 2013.

1. Purpose of report and executive summary

- 1.1 This report requests Scrutiny Panels to consider the latest information in respect of the Business Plan and Budget 2014/15, including, in particular, the draft capital programme 2014-18 and feedback comments to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission will consider the comments of the Panels and provide a response on the draft capital programme 2014-18 to Cabinet when it meets on the 9 December 2013.

2. **Details - Revenue**

2.1 The Cabinet of 22 October 2012 received a report on the business plan for 2013-17. This included details of savings targets, and, in particular set out the draft Capital Programme 2013-17.

2.2 At the meeting Cabinet

RESOLVED: That Cabinet

(1) notes the latest draft MTFS 2014-18;

(2) agrees the draft Capital Programme 2013-2018 for consideration by scrutiny in November; and

(3) notes the indicative capital programme for 2018-23.

3. **Alternative Options**

3.1 It is a requirement that the Council sets a balanced budget. The Cabinet report on 21 October 2013 sets out the progress made towards setting a balanced budget. This identified the current budget position that needs to be addressed between now and the next report to Cabinet on 9 December 2013, with a further report to Cabinet on 17 February 2014, prior to Council on 5 March 2014, agreeing the Budget and Council Tax for 2014/15 and the Business Plan 2014-18, including the MTFS and Capital Programme 2014-18.

4. **Capital Programme 2014-18**

4.1 Details of the draft Capital Programme 2014-18 were agreed by Cabinet on 21 October 2013 in the attached report for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny panels and Commission.

5. **Consultation undertaken or proposed**

5.1 Further work will be undertaken as the process develops.

6. **Timetable**

6.1 The timetable following this round of Scrutiny is set out in Appendix 2 of the Cabinet report.

7. **Financial, resource and property implications**

7.1 These are set out in the Cabinet report for 21 October 2013.

8. **Legal and statutory implications**

8.1 All relevant implications have been addressed in the Cabinet reports. Further work will be carried out as the budget and planning proceeds and will be included in the budget report to Cabinet on the 9 December 2013.

8.2 Detailed legal advice will be provided throughout the budget setting process further to any proposals identified and prior to any final decisions.

9. **Human Rights, Equalities and Community Cohesion Implications**

9.1 All relevant implications will be addressed in Cabinet reports on the business planning process.

10. **Crime and Disorder implications**

10.1 All relevant implications will be addressed in Cabinet reports on the business planning process.

11. **Risk Management and Health and Safety Implications**

11.1 All relevant implications will be addressed in Cabinet reports on the business planning process.

Appendices – the following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report

Appendix 1: Cabinet report 21 October 2013: Business Plan Update 2014-18

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Budget files held in the Corporate Services department.

This page is intentionally left blank

Cabinet

21 October 2013

Agenda item:

Wards:

Business Plan Update 2014-2018

Lead officer: Caroline Holland

Lead member: Councillor Mark Allison

Key Decision Reference Number: This report is written and any decisions taken are within the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules as laid out in Part 4-C of the Constitution.

Contact officer: Paul Dale, Interim Assistant Director of Resources

Urgent report:

Reason for urgency: The chairman has approved the submission of this report as a matter of urgency as it provides the latest available information on the Business Plan and Budget 2014/15 and requires consideration of issues relating to the Budget process and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014-2018. It is important that this consideration is not delayed in order that the Council can work towards a balanced budget at its meeting on 5 March 2014 and set a Council Tax as appropriate for 2014/15.

Recommendations:

1. That Cabinet notes the latest draft MTFS 2014-18
 2. That Cabinet agrees the draft Capital Programme 2013-2018 for consideration by scrutiny in November.
 3. That Cabinet notes the indicative capital programme for 2018-23
-

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update to Cabinet on the Business Planning process for 2014-18 and in particular on the progress made so far towards setting a balanced revenue budget for 2014/15 and over the MTFS period as a whole.
- 1.2 The report also sets out proposals for producing an achievable and affordable capital programme for 2014-18.
- 1.3 The details in this report will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Panels, Financial Monitoring Task Group, and Commission in October/November and reported back to Cabinet in December 2013.

2. DETAILS

Introduction

2.1 A review of assumptions in the MTFs was undertaken and reported to Cabinet on 16 September 2013. The budget gap over the four year period was as set out in the following table:-

	2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000
Budget Gap (cumulative)	305	7,144	10,316	17,555

2.2 Cabinet noted the rolled forward MTFs and the use of reserves in order to eliminate the gap of £0.305m in 2014/15. Furthermore, use of reserves of £5.447m in 2015/16 was also noted, which leaves the following budget gap to be met from future savings:-

	2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000
Budget Gap (cumulative)	0	1,697	10,316	17,555

2.3 Cabinet agreed to the approach to setting a balanced budget over the period of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014-18 and agreed to the proposed savings targets for each department, which are based on controllable expenditure, set out in the following table;

	2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000	Total £000
Community and Housing	0	491	2,492	2,093	5,076
Children, Schools and Families	0	265	1,344	1,129	2,738
Environment and Regeneration	0	645	3,276	2,752	6,673
Corporate Services	0	296	1,507	1,265	3,068
Total Savings	0	1,697	8,619	7,239	17,555
Cumulative	0	1,697	10,316	17,555	

2.4 Review of Assumptions

2.4.1 There are a variety of technical issues that will impact on the budget gap in 2014/15 and beyond. The major changes since the report to Cabinet in September relate to:-

2.4.2 Settlement Funding Assessment: RSG and Business Rates

Cabinet on 16 September 2013 were advised of the latest Central Government funding projections following the Spending Review 2013.

Since then, the DCLG have notified local authorities that there was a flaw in their methodology regarding the future treatment of 2013-14 Council Tax Freeze Grant since it did not fulfil the Government's objective of ensuring that the funding is not reduced in cash terms and only goes to those authorities that met the criteria for the Council Tax Freeze Scheme in 2013-14. The change has the following implications for the MTFS:-

RSG/Business Rates and Council Tax Freeze Grant 2013/14	2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000
Cabinet 16 September 2013	(71,760)	(62,319)	(60,784)	(59,430)
Latest forecast from DCLG	(71,773)	(62,323)	(60,851)	(59,557)
Change	(13)	(4)	(67)	(127)

2.5 Capital Programme

- 2.5.1 The revenue implications of funding the capital programme can have major implications for the Council's MTFS. It is important that accurate projections of capital financing costs are available as soon as possible because they can have a significant impact on the budget gap.

The following details are provided in appendices to this report

Appendix 1: Proposed Capital Programme 2013-18

Appendix 2: Indicative Capital Programme 2018-23

For every £1million capital expenditure that is funded by external borrowing there will be revenue debt charges of between £249,000 for assets with a life of 5 years to £69,000 for an asset life of 50 years.

The revenue implications of the proposed programme are:

	2013/14 Budget £000	2013/14 Forecast £000	2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000
MRP	7,569	7,405	7,652	8,487	9,279	10,333
Net interest	6,309	6,236	6,280	6,350	6,372	6,455
Capital financing costs	13,878	13,641	13,932	14,837	15,651	16,788

2.6 Summary

2.6.1 As a result of the changes discussed in this report, the latest position of the MTFs 2014-18 is as follows:-

	2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000
Departmental Base Budget '13/14	151,915	151,915	151,915	151,915
Inflation (Pay, Prices)	3,037	6,075	9,516	12,957
Auto-enrolment/Nat. ins changes	0	0	1,000	2,000
Full Year Effect – Previous Years Savings	-9,719	-12,167	-15,094	-15,094
Income – Additional Fees & Charges	-669	-1,339	-2,008	-2,676
Growth	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Revenuisation	-672	-1,172	-1,274	-1,274
Taxi card/Concessionary Fares	436	873	1,323	1,773
Education Services Grant	-3,344	-2,675	-2,675	-2,675
NHS t/f of Social Care Funding	-2,123	-2,223	-2,223	-2,223
Other (inc. reduced service grants)	37	387	1,070	1,142
Re-Priced Departmental Budget	139,898	141,674	143,550	147,845
Treasury/Capital financing	13,932	14,837	15,651	16,787
Other Corporate items	4,995	-2,946	-4,452	-4,452
Levies	645	645	645	645
Sub-total: Corporate provisions	19,573	12,536	11,844	12,980
BUDGET REQUIREMENT	159,471	154,210	155,394	160,825
Funded by:				
Revenue Support Grant	-39,334	-28,973	-26,836	-24,860
Business Rates	-32,439	-33,349	-34,016	-34,696
C. Tax Freeze Grant 2014/15	-848	-848	0	0
C. Tax Freeze Grant 2015/16	0	-848	0	0
PFI Grant	-4,797	-4,797	-4,797	-4,797
New Homes Bonus	-2,882	-2,487	-2,000	-2,000
Council Tax inc. WPCC	-75,250	-75,626	-76,004	-76,384
Collection Fund - Council Tax	-3,154	0	0	0
Collection Fund - Business Rates	-600	0	0	0
TOTAL FUNDING	-159,304	-146,928	-143,653	-142,737
GAP (Cumulative)	167	7,282	11,741	18,088
- Use of Reserves	-167	-5,585	0	0
Sub-total	0	1,697	11,741	18,088
- Savings – 2013/14 shortfall	0	-1,697	-3,239	-4,936
- New Savings	0	0	-8,502	-13,152
Gap	0	0	0	0

2.7 **Service Planning**

- 2.7.1 The timetable for service planning will be different this year. Service plans will be presented in the new year.

3. **CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 3.1 There will be extensive consultation as the business plan process develops. This will include the Overview and Scrutiny panels and Commission, the Financial Monitoring Task Group, business ratepayers and all other relevant parties.
- 3.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission and Panels will be considering the content of this report at the following meetings and will report to Cabinet in December.

O&SC- Financial Monitoring Task group	29 October 2013
Children and Young People	6 November 2013
Sustainable Communities	12 November 2013
Healthier Communities and Older People	13 November 2013
Overview and Scrutiny Commission	26 November 2013

4. **TIMETABLE**

- 4.1 A chart of the budget timetable is attached as Appendix 3.

5. **FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 All relevant implications have been addressed in the report.

6. **LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 All relevant implications have been addressed in the report.

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

- 7.1 Not applicable

8. **CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Not applicable

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

9.1 Not applicable

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

Appendix 1 Proposed Capital Programme 2013-18

Appendix 2 Indicative Capital Programme 2018-23

Appendix 3 Budget Timetable

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Budget files held in the Corporate Services department.

REPORT AUTHOR

Name: Paul Dale

Tel: 020 8545 3458

- email: paul.dale@merton.gov.uk

Proposed Capital Programme 2013-18

Scheme Descriptions	Updated Budget 13/14	Updated Budget 14/15	Updated Budget 15/16	Updated Budget 16/17	Updated Budget 17/18
Community & Housing	2,883,780	971,000	0	550,000	0
Corporate Services	8,209,750	5,329,000	2,084,000	3,162,000	2,806,000
Children, Schools and Families	20,103,510	21,255,110	8,919,930	22,087,000	21,398,780
Environment & Regeneration	14,357,310	12,730,070	21,143,000	6,723,000	4,599,000
Total	45,554,350	40,285,180	32,146,930	32,522,000	28,803,780

Proposed Capital Programme 2013-18

Appendix 1

Community and Housing	Updated Budget 13/14	Updated Budget 14/15	Updated Budget 15/16	Updated Budget 16/17	Updated Budget 17/18
Adult Social Care					
Laptops for Social Care Mngrs	2,100	0	0	0	0
Laptops for Other Staff	80,000	0	0	0	0
CareFirst report Development	14,000	0	0	0	0
Excel Add-Ins	3,000	0	0	0	0
Captive E-Learning CareFirst	9,510	0	0	0	0
Merton Information Portal	118,010	0	0	0	0
Adult Social care Collections	10,000	0	0	0	0
Telehealth	67,520	0	0	0	0
Contingency	0	71,000	0	0	0
Replacement SC System	0	900,000	0	0	0
Total Adult Social Care	304,140	971,000	0	0	0
Housing	0	0	0	0	0
Birches Close	291,640	0	0	0	0
8 Wilton Road	271,000	0	0	0	0
Merton Dementia Hub	497,000	0	0	0	0
Western Road *	1,520,000	0	0	0	0
Total Housing	2,579,640	0	0	0	0
Libraries	0	0	0	0	0
Relocation of Colliers Wood Library	0	0	0	550,000	0
Total Libraries	0	0	0	550,000	0
TOTAL	2,883,780	971,000	0	550,000	0

Proposed Capital Programme 2013-18

Corporate Services	Updated Budget 13/14	Updated Budget 14/15	Updated Budget 15/16	Updated Budget 16/17	Updated Budget 17/18
Corporate Budgets					
Acquisitions Budget	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	500,000	0
Transformation Budgets	690,000	7,000	500,000	0	0
Capital Bidding Fund	0	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0
Total Corporate Budgets	1,690,000	2,007,000	1,500,000	500,000	0
Business Improvements					
Replace doc management system	0	740,000	0	0	0
Customer Contact Programme	0	785,000	0	0	0
CTTE DECISION MAKING SYSTEM	2,000	0	0	0	0
Total Business Improvements	2,000	1,525,000	0	0	0
Corporate Governance					
Resources					
Capital Reporting Project	0	0	0	0	0
Improving Information Systems	281,700	280,000	0	0	0
Total Resources	281,700	280,000	0	0	0
Information Technology					
Connect to N3 Netwrk NHS Spine	71,760	0	0	0	0
Disaster recovery	137,230	0	0	0	0
Planned Replacement Programme	1,422,030	182,000	299,000	1,412,000	1,686,000
ITSD Enhancements	155,000	35,000	85,000	250,000	120,000
IT Strategy - unallocated	41,500	0	0	0	0
Legal Case Management	226,100	0	0	0	0
Total Information Technology	2,053,620	217,000	384,000	1,662,000	1,806,000
Facilities Management					
Civic Centre refurbishment	110,000	100,000	0	0	0
Gifford House Refurbishment	155,250	0	0	0	0
Energy Utility Invest to Save	100,000	100,000	0	150,000	150,000
Invest to Save schemes-General	500,300	100,000	0	150,000	150,000
Water Safety Works	0	0	0	150,000	150,000
Asbestos Safety Works	0	0	0	250,000	250,000
Pollards Hill RG- Access Works	40,000	0	0	0	0
Capital Works - Facilities	231,720	200,000	200,000	300,000	300,000
Civic Centre Passenger Lifts	0	650,000	0	0	0
Gifford House DDA Works	46,840	0	0	0	0
Security Improvements	340	0	0	0	0
Civic Centre Windows	2,997,960	150,000	0	0	0
Total Facilities Management	4,182,410	1,300,000	200,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
TOTAL	8,209,750	5,329,000	2,084,000	3,162,000	2,806,000

Proposed Capital Programme 2013-18

Children, Schools and Families	Updated Budget 13/14	Updated Budget 14/15	Updated Budget 15/16	Updated Budget 16/17	Updated Budget 17/18
Primary School Expansions					
All Saints/ South Wim YCC exp	169,940	0	0	0	0
Aragon expansion	129,140	0	0	0	0
Benedict expansion	36,670	0	0	0	0
Cranmer expansion	2,955,540	919,420	492,050	0	0
Cricket Grn Exp-Chapel Orchard	39,650	0	0	0	0
Dundonald expansion	200,130	1,728,000	2,740,410	1,117,000	0
Gorringe Park expansion	967,410	150,000	0	0	0
Hillcross School Expansion	2,542,030	1,700,000	250,000	0	0
Hollymount Permanent Expansion	72,340	0	0	0	0
Holy Trinity Expansion	242,490	0	0	0	0
Joseph Hood Permanent Expansn	321,400	0	0	0	0
Liberty expansion	52,540	0	0	0	0
Merton Abbey	1,501,130	2,703,390	200,000	0	0
Pelham School Expansion	1,184,850	3,849,000	226,000	0	0
Poplar Permanent Expansion	1,063,190	3,083,760	953,170	0	0
St Mary's expansion	1,453,370	1,564,840	100,000	0	0
Singlegate expansion	1,670,760	2,750,000	100,000	0	0
William Morris PCP	32,740	0	0	0	0
Wimbledon Chase DCSF grant	78,220	0	0	0	0
Wimbledon Park expansion	2,463,490	170,000	0	0	0
22 FE School Expansion	0	0	95,000	2,575,000	2,075,000
23 FE School Expansion	0	0	0	100,000	555,000
24 FE School Expansion	0	0	0	100,000	1,625,000
25 FE School Expansion	0	0	0	100,000	1,625,000
26 FE School Expansion	0	0	0	0	618,780
27 FE School Expansion	0	0	0	0	300,000
28 FE School Expansion	0	0	0	0	300,000
29 FE School Expansion	0	0	0	0	0
Total Primary School Expansions	17,177,030	18,618,410	5,156,630	3,992,000	7,098,780

Proposed Capital Programme 2013-18

Children, Schools and Families	Updated Budget 13/14	Updated Budget 14/15	Updated Budget 15/16	Updated Budget 16/17	Updated Budget 17/18
Secondary School expansion					
Scheme 1 Phased extra 4FE	0	50,000	150,000	2,800,000	0
Scheme 2 Phased extra 4FE	0	50,000	150,000	2,800,000	0
Scheme 3 Phased extra 4FE	0	50,000	150,000	2,800,000	0
Scheme 4 - New school phased 6-8FE	0	100,000	1,000,000	4,000,000	7,000,000
Scheme 5 Phased extra 2FE	0	0	0	95,000	1,500,000
Scheme 6 Phased extra 2FE	0	25,000	25,000	1,900,000	3,000,000
Scheme 7 - extra 1FE	0			50,000	1,100,000
Scheme 8 - extra 1 FE	0			50,000	1,100,000
Scheme 9 Phased extra 2FE	0	0	0	0	0
Total Secondary School expansion	0	275,000	1,475,000	14,495,000	13,700,000
Other					
Garden PCP	289,320	0	0	0	0
SSPeter & Paul PCP	20,000	0	0	0	0
Devolved Formula Capital	466,310	0	0	0	0
Schools Access Initiative Inc	34,750	0	0	0	0
St Ann's Primary Phase	339,430	0	0	0	0
Breaks-disabled children grant	89,540	0	0	0	0
Total Schs Cap Maint & Accessibility	417,990	500,000	600,000	600,000	600,000
Liberty Primary School	3,910	0	0	0	0
Primary school autism unit	50,000	661,700	238,300	0	0
Perseid	0	800,000	500,000	0	0
Secondary School Autism Unit	0	350,000	850,000	0	0
Cricket Green	0	50,000	100,000	3,000,000	0
Youth&Comm centres reprovion	139,010	0	0	0	0
Total Raynes Park Sports Pavilion	103,420	0	0	0	0
Ursuline School Loan	600,000	0	0	0	0
Schools Equipment Loans	372,800	0	0	0	0
Total Other	2,926,480	2,361,700	2,288,300	3,600,000	600,000
Total	20,103,510	21,255,110	8,919,930	22,087,000	21,398,780

Proposed Capital Programme 2013-18

Appendix 1

Environment and Regeneration	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Footways Planned Works					
Repairs to Footways	850,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
B569a&b Belgrave Walk fencing	36,090	0	0	0	0
Total Footways Planned Works	886,090	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Greenspaces					
Beach Volleyball Courts	2,310	0	0	0	0
Play Space Pollards Hill	50,000	0	0	0	0
Parks Investment	242,650	250,000	250,000	425,000	250,000
Raynes Park Cricket Slips	21,350	0	0	0	0
Sherwood Rec - Play Area	25,000	0	0	0	0
King George Rec Play Area	30,000	0	0	0	0
Lewis Road Rec Alt Play Facility	40,000	0	0	0	0
Tamworth Rec Interactive Water Play	80,000	0	0	0	0
Edenvale Open Space Goal Mouth Surfacing	10,000	0	0	0	0
Sir Joseph Hood Crazy Golf	30,000	0	0	0	0
Wimbledon Park Crazy Golf	30,000	0	0	0	0
All Saints Play Area	25,000	0	0	0	0
Nelson Gardens Community Space	25,000	0	0	0	0
Mostyn Gardens Outdoor Gym	30,000	0	0	0	0
WallRep ChrchLn& JohnInnes Pks	4,040	0	0	0	0
B487 Landscape Ravensbury Park	13,410	0	0	0	0
B649 Rvaensbury - Railings and Path	35,000	0	0	0	0
B619 Ravensbury Park entrance	5,000	0	0	0	0
S106 South Park Gardens B346	34,870	0	0	0	0
B488 Landscape Dundonald Rec G	22,000	0	0	0	0
B617a-c Wimbledon Park upgrade	15,030	0	0	0	0
B486 Lndscp Ctnhm Pk Hlnd Gdns	0	0	0	0	0
Repairs to Water Wheel (B531)	2,490	0	0	0	0
B595 Colliers Wd Rec-play area	10,000	0	0	0	0
Rowan Rd Rec (B525)	6,000	0	0	0	0
Joseph Hood Playground (B524)	8,500	0	0	0	0
B621 Joseph Hood Rec	3,000	0	0	0	0
B627a&b Cottnhm Prk-play area	2,960	0	0	0	0
B521 - Morden Park	29,780	0	0	0	0
B596a&b,B625a-c Crckt Grn Area	21,000	0	0	0	0
B626a-c Cottnhm Prk&Hollnd Gdn	28,000	0	0	0	0
Merton & Sutton Cemetery Board	0	0	0	0	0
B651 South Park Gardens Pavil	17,000	0	0	0	0
B647 John Innes Park Improvmnt	2,000	0	0	0	0
B650 Rowan Road Park Improvmnt	3,060	0	0	0	0
Marathon Trust BMX Track	0	0	0	0	0
Total Greenspaces	904,450	250,000	250,000	425,000	250,000

Proposed Capital Programme 2013-18

Appendix 1

Environment and Regeneration	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Highways General Planned Works					
Surface Water Drainage	62,000	62,000	62,000	69,000	69,000
Highways bridges & structures	260,000	370,000	260,000	0	260,000
Maintain AntiSkid and Coloured	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
B340MOSS rpt (land Rutlish Rd)	0	0	0	0	0
B497/8 Lombard Rd Improvements	24,100	0	0	0	0
River Wandle Footbridge	35,520	0	0	0	0
B453 Haydons Road	0	0	0	0	0
New Traffic Schemes	168,150	0	0	0	0
B638d/e Sustainable Transport	5,500	0	0	0	0
B646a Lombard Industrial Estat	23,970	0	0	0	0
B646b 7 Abbey Road	4,500	0	0	0	0
B639a Fair Green	0	42,600	0	0	0
B642 Streatham Rd	10,800	0	0	0	0
Total Highways General Planned Works	684,540	564,600	412,000	159,000	419,000
Highways Planned Road Works					
Borough Roads Maintenance	1,400,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,600,000	1,500,000
Homezones	450,000	0	0	0	0
Total Highways Planned Road Works	1,850,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,600,000	1,500,000
Leisure Centres					
Leisure Centre Plant & Machine	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Morden Park Pool and LC Invest	0	1,000,000	10,000,000	0	0
Total Leisure Centres	300,000	1,300,000	10,300,000	300,000	300,000
Other E&R					
Vestry Hall	30,000	0	0	0	0
Wimbledon Library Flat	95,000	0	0	0	0
Big Lottery Play Areas	27,160	0	0	0	0
Mobile Working Initiative	25,000	0	0	0	0
B502/3 Going for Gold Actn Pln	20,000	0	0	0	0
WCA investment	866,670	0	0	0	0
Wimbledon Park Community Assn	150,000	0	0	0	0
Garth Rd Workshop	128,720	0	0	0	0
Garage for Mayors Car	6,000	0	0	0	0
Total Other	1,348,550	0	0	0	0
On and Off Street Parking					
Review & extension of CPZ W6	15,000	0	0	0	0
Improved parking- shop parades	100,000	0	0	0	0
Total On and Off Street Parking	115,000	0	0	0	0

Proposed Capital Programme 2013-18

Environment and Regeneration	Updated Budget 13/14	Updated Budget 14/15	Updated Budget 15/16	Updated Budget 16/17	Updated Budget 17/18
Regeneration Partnerships					
Industrial Estate Investment	0	250,000	500,000	0	0
Colliers Wd- Regeneration Fund	1,563,000	0	0	0	0
Mitcham - Outer London Fund	315,180	0	0	0	0
Mitcham Major schemes	0	300,000	0	0	0
Restoration of South Park Gdns	129,890	0	0	0	0
Sect106 Bottleneck Skills Grnt	14,070	0	0	0	0
S106 Wim broadwy CA	6,480	0	0	0	0
B611 - Comm Facilities in WTC	30,000	0	0	0	0
Town Centre Investment	50,000	750,000	878,000	1,037,000	0
Mitcham Town Centre Improvements	420,000	0	0	0	0
Colliers Wood Town Centre Improvements	90,000	0	0	0	0
B550 Mitcham means Business	38,900	0	0	0	0
Total Regeneration Partnerships	2,657,520	1,300,000	1,378,000	1,037,000	0
Plans and Projects					
Low Carbon Zone	2,560	0	0	0	0
Climate Change Initiatives	71,530	70,000	0	0	0
Total Plans and Projects	74,090	70,000	0	0	0
Street Lighting					
Street Lighting Replacement Pr	534,580	410,000	200,000	462,000	290,000
Total Street Lighting	534,580	410,000	200,000	462,000	290,000
Street Scene					
Improve markings & road signs	112,290	0	0	0	0
Street scene enhancements	125,000	250,000	250,000	0	0
B591b Shop Front Improvement	42,160	0	0	0	0
Street Tree Programme	65,000	65,000	25,000	100,000	0
Raynes Park Street Scene	2,000	0	0	0	0
Total Street Scene	346,450	315,000	275,000	100,000	0

Proposed Capital Programme 2013-18

Environment and Regeneration	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Transport for London					
Elec Vehic/Scooter Infrastruct	10,000	0	0	0	0
Strategic corridor Mitcham	260,000	0	0	0	0
Kingston/Hartfield Rd StratCor	260,000	0	0	0	0
Accesibility Programme	160,000	0	0	0	0
Cycle access/parking	250,000	0	0	0	0
Morden Town Centre	65,000	0	0	0	0
Victoria Rd Bus Access Impr	170,000	0	0	0	0
Casualty Reduction & Schools	200,000	0	0	0	0
School & Road Safety Campaigns	170,000	0	0	0	0
Bikeability cycle training Pro	80,000	0	0	0	0
Mobility Scooter Training	10,000	0	0	0	0
Unallocated	0	1,839,000	1,839,000	0	0
TFL Slippage - Corridors&Neigh	224,780	0	0	0	0
TFL Projected Slippage	33,590	0	0	0	0
Biking Borough Project	45,000	0	0	0	0
Biking Borough Programme	22,000	0	0	0	0
Borough Support - Training	6,040	0	0	0	0
Car Clubs Expansion	10,000	0	0	0	0
Car Clubs	10,000	0	0	0	0
Cycle Improvements	100,000	0	0	0	0
Developing the Tram	14,000	0	0	0	0
Willow Lane Industrial Estate	15,000	0	0	0	0
Motorcycles in Bus Lanes	25,000	0	0	0	0
Merton HS Victory to Norman	150,000	0	0	0	0
Central Rd Farm to Green	299,000	0	0	0	0
London Rd Mitcham to Pitcairn	124,000	0	0	0	0
Willow Lane Bridge	15,000	0	0	0	0
Wim TC Accessibility & Streets	30,000	0	0	0	0
Total Transport for London	2,758,410	1,839,000	1,839,000	0	0
Traffic and Parking Management					
B584 Eastfield Area 20mph zone	6,340	0	0	0	0
Minor traffic/danger reduction	0	120,000	120,000	0	0
Traffic surveys & Safety Measu	0	15,000	15,000	0	0
Wimbledon Area Traffic Study	121,000	0	0	0	0
High Path Area(Option 1 + 3)	6,000	0	0	0	0
Parkway Area (20 mph scheme)	2,940	0	0	0	0
Pelham Road Area 20mph scheme	1,010	0	0	0	0
Traffic Schemes	0	0	0	306,000	0
Total Traffic and Parking Management	137,290	135,000	135,000	306,000	0

Proposed Capital Programme 2013-18

Environment and Regeneration	Updated Budget 13/14	Updated Budget 14/15	Updated Budget 15/16	Updated Budget 16/17	Updated Budget 17/18
Transport and Plant					
Replacement of Fleet Vehicles	300,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Network Rail	9,400	0	0	0	0
Shared Space	20,000	0	0	0	0
B574 Town Centre Transport Imp	3,330	0	0	0	0
B544 Wimbledon Station Access	14,980	0	0	0	0
B609 Wim Town Centre trans imp	5,000	0	0	0	0
B610 Wim Town Centre trans imp	42,490	0	0	0	0
Transportation Enhancements	0	2,500,000	2,500,000	0	0
Total Transport and Plant	395,200	3,000,000	3,000,000	500,000	500,000
Safer Merton - CCTV & ASB					
CCTV (match funding)	0	170,000	0	0	0
CCTV - Raynes Park	0	2,310	0	0	0
Relocation of cameras 50 & 52	0	8,150	0	0	0
B495a/b/c CCTV Upgrade	0	3,000	0	0	0
Works for Merton Priory Homes	0	9,010	0	0	0
Total Safer Merton - CCTV & ASB	0	192,470	0	0	0
Environmental Health					
Disabled Facilities Grant DCLG	444,000	444,000	444,000	444,000	0
Disabled Facilities Grant LBM	552,810	280,000	280,000	280,000	280,000
Small Repairs Grant	80,000	40,000	40,000	60,000	60,000
Total Environmental Health	1,076,810	764,000	764,000	784,000	340,000
Waste Operations					
Alley Gating Scheme - Fly Tip	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	0
Re-use/recycling Site Maintena	40,000	40,000	40,000	0	0
Waste Phase B - Replace RCVs	157,330	0	0	0	0
Kitchen Waste WRAP	15,000	0	0	0	0
Kitchen waste container replce	26,000	0	0	0	0
Total Waste Operations	288,330	90,000	90,000	50,000	0
TOTAL	14,357,310	12,730,070	21,143,000	6,623,000	4,599,000

Indicative Capital Programme 2018-23

Scheme Descriptions	Updated Budget 18/19	Updated Budget 19/20	Updated Budget 20/21	Updated Budget 21/22	Updated Budget 22/23
Community & Housing	0	0	0	0	0
Corporate Services	1,785,000	1,500,000	1,760,000	1,645,000	1,645,000
Childrens, Schools and Families	27,578,480	6,250,000	6,600,000	4,758,000	3,920,430
Environment & Regeneration	5,324,000	5,050,000	4,515,000	4,515,000	4,515,000
Total	34,687,480	12,800,000	12,875,000	10,918,000	10,080,430

Indicative Capital Programme 2018-23

Corporate Services	Updated Budget 18/19	Updated Budget 19/20	Updated Budget 20/21	Updated Budget 21/22	Updated Budget 22/23
Corporate Budgets					
Total Corporate Budgets	0	0	0	0	0
Business Improvements					
Total Business Improvements	0	0	0	0	0
Corporate Governance					
Total Corporate Governance	0	0	0	0	0
Resources					
Total Resources	0	0	0	0	0
Information Technology					
Planned Replacement Programme	560,000	575,000	860,000	770,000	770,000
ITSD Enhancements	275,000	0	0	0	0
Total Information Technology	835,000	575,000	860,000	770,000	770,000
Facilities Management					
Energy Utility Invest to Save	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Invest to Save schemes-General	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Water Safety Works	100,000	75,000	50,000	25,000	25,000
Asbestos Safety Works	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Capital Works - Facilities	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
Total Facilities Management	950,000	925,000	900,000	875,000	875,000
TOTAL	1,785,000	1,500,000	1,760,000	1,645,000	1,645,000

Indicative Capital Programme 2018-23

Children, Schools and Families	Updated Budget 18/19	Updated Budget 19/20	Updated Budget 20/21	Updated Budget 21/22	Updated Budget 22/23
Secondary School expansion					
Scheme 1 Phased extra 4FE	3,677,560	0	0	0	0
Scheme 2 Phased extra 4FE	2,270,120	0	0	0	0
Scheme 3 Phased extra 4FE	1,849,610	0	0	0	0
Scheme 4 - New school phased 6-8FE	2,000,000	0	6,000,000	4,008,000	0
Scheme 5 Phased extra 2FE	4,478,950	0	0	0	0
Scheme 6 Phased extra 2FE	1,527,640	0	0	0	0
Scheme 7 - extra 1FE	2,639,629	0	0	0	0
Scheme 8 - extra 1 FE	1,909,973	0	0	0	0
Scheme 9 Phased extra 2FE	0	0	0	150,000	3,320,430
Total Secondary School expansion	20,353,482	0	6,000,000	4,158,000	3,320,430
Other					
Total Schs Cap Maint & Accessibility	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000	600,000
Perseid	850,000	850,000	0	0	0
Total Other	1,450,000	1,450,000	600,000	600,000	600,000
Total	27,578,482	6,250,000	6,600,000	4,758,000	3,920,430

Indicative Capital Programme 2018-23

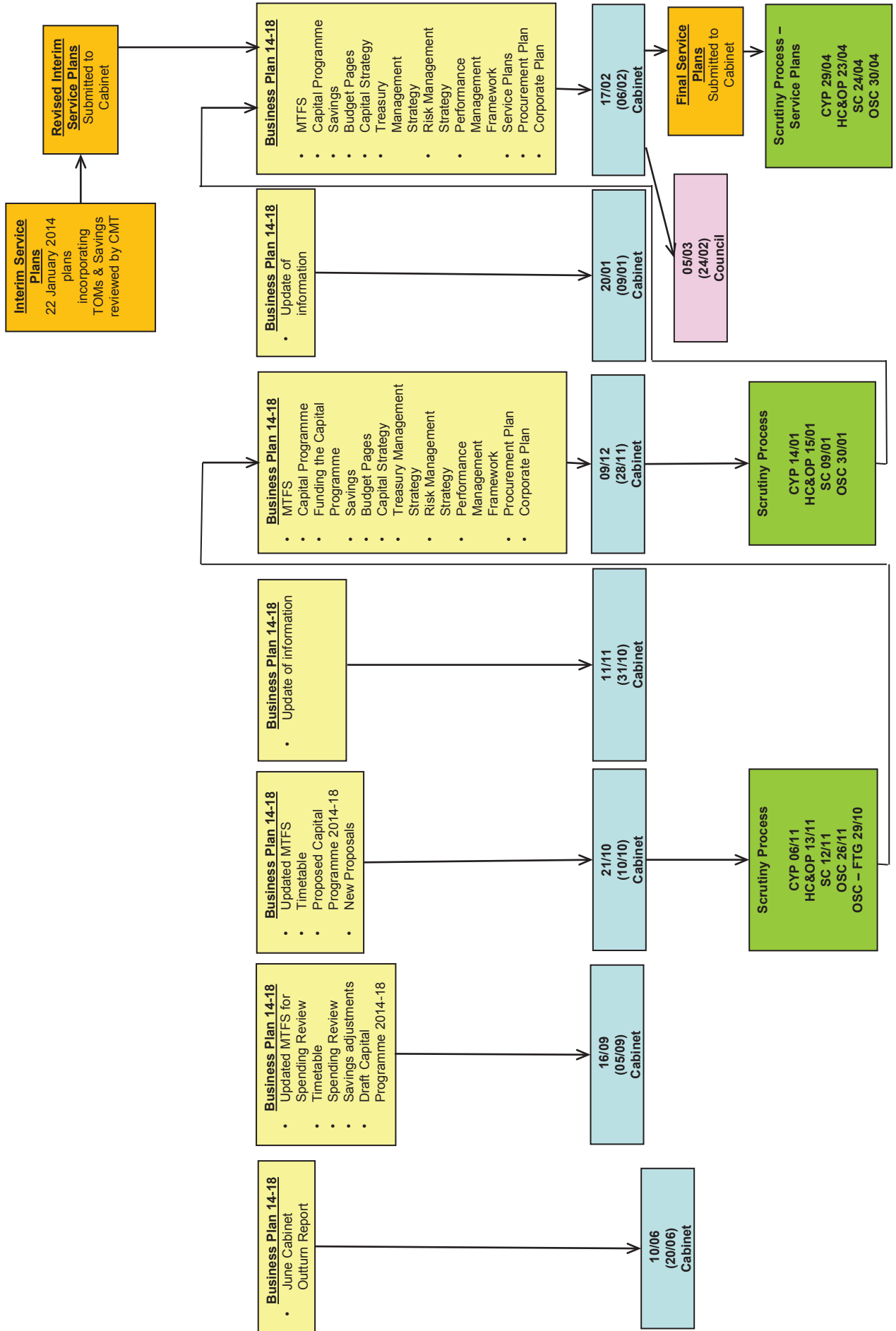
Environment and Regeneration	Updated Budget 18/19	Updated Budget 19/20	Updated Budget 20/21	Updated Budget 21/22	Updated Budget 22/23
Footways Planned Works					
Repairs to Footways	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Total Footways Planned Works	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Greenspaces					
Parks Investment	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000
Total Greenspaces	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000	350,000
Highways General Planned Works					
Surface Water Drainage	69,000	69,000	69,000	69,000	69,000
Highways bridges & structures	260,000	260,000	260,000	260,000	260,000
Maintain AntiSkid and Coloured	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
Total Highways General Planned Works	419,000	419,000	419,000	419,000	419,000
Highways Planned Road Works					
Borough Roads Maintenance	1,600,000	1,600,000	1,600,000	1,600,000	1,600,000
Total Highways Planned Road Works	1,600,000	1,600,000	1,600,000	1,600,000	1,600,000
Leisure Centres					
Leisure Centre Plant & Machine	300,000	0	0	0	0
Total Leisure Centres	300,000	0	0	0	0
Other E&R					
Total Other	0	0	0	0	0
On and Off Street Parking					
Total On and Off Street Parking	0	0	0	0	0
Regeneration Partnerships					
Total Regeneration Partnerships	0	0	0	0	0
Plans and Projects					
Total Plans and Projects	0	0	0	0	0
Street Lighting					
Street Lighting Replacement Pr	509,000	535,000	0	0	0
Total Street Lighting	509,000	535,000	0	0	0
Street Scene					
Total Street Scene	0	0	0	0	0
Transport for London					
Total Transport for London	0	0	0	0	0

Indicative Capital Programme 2018-23

	Updated Budget 18/19	Updated Budget 19/20	Updated Budget 20/21	Updated Budget 21/22	Updated Budget 22/23
Environment and Regeneration					
Traffic and Parking Management					
Traffic Schemes	306,000	306,000	306,000	306,000	306,000
Total Traffic and Parking Management	306,000	306,000	306,000	306,000	306,000
Transport and Plant					
Replacement of Fleet Vehicles	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Total Transport and Plant	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Safer Merton - CCTV & ASB					
Total Safer Merton - CCTV & ASB	0	0	0	0	0
Environmental Health					
Disabled Facilities Grant LBM	280,000	280,000	280,000	280,000	280,000
Small Repairs Grant	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Total Environmental Health	340,000	340,000	340,000	340,000	340,000
Waste Operations					
Total Waste Operations	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	5,324,000	5,050,000	4,515,000	4,515,000	4,515,000

Business Planning Timetable - Business Plan 2014-18

Appendix 3



This page is intentionally left blank

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Date: 26 November 2013

Agenda item:

Wards: All

Subject: **Scrutiny of the Business Plan 2014-2018: comments and recommendations from the overview and scrutiny panels**

Lead officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services

Lead member: Councillor Peter Southgate, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny

Forward Plan reference number : n/a

Contact officer: Julia Regan; Julia.regan@merton.gov.uk; 020 8545 3864

Recommendations:

- A That in determining its response to Cabinet on the business plan 2014-18, the Overview and Scrutiny Commission considers and takes into account the comments and recommendations made by overview and scrutiny panels.
-

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the comments and recommendations of each of the overview and scrutiny panels following consideration of the business plan. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission is recommended to take these into account when determining its response to Cabinet.

2. DETAILS

- 2.1 Update from here
- 2.2 On 21 October 2013, Cabinet noted the latest draft Medium Term Financial Strategy, agreed the draft capital programme 2013-18 and noted the indicative capital programme for 2018-23. These items have been reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Panels and to the Commission so that comments and recommendations from scrutiny can be conveyed to Cabinet at its meeting on 9 December 2013.
- 2.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission has a constitutional duty to coordinate the scrutiny responses on the business plan and budget formulation. The outcome of scrutiny by the panels (described in section 3 below) is presented to Commission for this purpose.
- 2.4 The substantive report on the Business Plan 2014-2018 is contained elsewhere on this agenda for the Commission's consideration.

3. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANELS

- 3.1 Appendix 1 contains comments and recommendations made by the scrutiny panels.
- 3.5 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission is recommended to consider the comments and recommendations put forward by the scrutiny panels when determining its overall scrutiny response to Cabinet on the Business Plan 2014-18.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Constitution requires the Overview and Scrutiny Commission to consider the comments and recommendations put forward by the overview and scrutiny panels and to agree a joint overview and scrutiny response. Cabinet is then required under the terms of the Constitution to receive, consider and respond to references from overview and scrutiny.

5. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 5.1 The Constitution contains the requirements for consulting scrutiny on the budget and business plan. There is an initial phase of scrutiny in November each year, with the second round in January/February representing the formal consultation of scrutiny on the proposed Business Plan, Budget and Capital Programme.

6. TIMETABLE

- 6.1 Round one of scrutiny of the 2014-18 Business Plan was undertaken as follows:-
- Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel: 6 November 2013
 - Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel: 12 November 2013
 - Healthier Communities & Older People Scrutiny Panel: 13 November
 - Overview and Scrutiny Commission: 26 November 2013
- 6.2 Comments and recommendations from round one will be reported to Cabinet on 6 December 2013.
- 6.3 Round two of scrutiny of the Business Plan is planned as follows:-
- Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel: 9 January 2014
 - Children & Young People Overview & Scrutiny Panel: 14 January 2014
 - Healthier Communities & Older People Scrutiny Panel: 15 January 2013
 - Overview and Scrutiny Commission: 30 January 2014
- 6.4 The responses from round two will be presented to Cabinet on 17 February 2014. A meeting of full Council will then take place on 5 March 2014.

7. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 These are detailed in the substantive reports elsewhere on this agenda and in the reports considered by Cabinet on 21 October 2013.

8. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The process for developing the budget and business plan is set out in Part 4C of the Council's Constitution. The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and panels with regard to the development of the budget and business plan is set out in Part 4E of the Constitution.

8.2 The legal and statutory implications relating to the Business Plan are contained in the reports elsewhere on this agenda.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None directly relating to this report.

10. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engagement.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 These implications are detailed in the reports elsewhere on this agenda.

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

Appendix 1: comments and recommendations made by the scrutiny panels in relation to the Business Plan 2014-18.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 Minutes of the meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Panels in November 2013.

References/Comments from Scrutiny Panels to the Overview & Scrutiny Commission 26 November 2013

Scrutiny of the Business Plan 2014-2018

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel: 6 November 2013

Councillor Agatha Akyigyina asked about the controlled expenditure. Caroline Holland explained that this is direct expenditure, of which, the schools grant did not form a part. This included salaries and running expenses. CSF has a lower income in comparison to other departments. There is a lower savings Weighting for CSF.

Councillor Oonagh Moulton enquired about the savings targets. Caroline Holland explained that the base savings for 2014/15 and 2015/16 in the base budget had been rolled forward and would only come back to the Panel if changes were being proposed.

Councillor Peter Walker asked about gearing in comparison with other departments. Caroline Holland explained that for CSF it stood at 0.5, C&H stood at 0.75, and CS stood at 1.5. This is based on expenditure as CSF needs to find fewer saving than other departments. The weightings are designed around the programmes we would like to protect first.

Councillor Peter Walker stated that this should be clear in the report to emphasise the values of the administration. Councillor Maxi Martin stated her commitment to this and noted that this has always been communicated.

Councillor Oonagh Moulton asked what changes there were in the capital programme in relation to primary school expansion and with regard to secondary schools from 2014 onwards, how realistic are these targets.

Caroline Holland explained that this was based on outturn from 2012/13 and regular monitoring was undertaken. In 2013/14 certain schemes have been re-profiled. Budget managers are being asked to regularly review how they are performing.

Paul Ballatt explained that there had been some slippage in some schemes and that the future projected expansion is indicative at this stage. Regular monitoring is undertaken to challenge assumptions. 21 additional permanent forms of entry are being planned for. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel agreed the direction of travel for secondary school expansion when consulted. However, a programme based on certainty has not yet been established. The council has written to all secondary schools requesting them to agree to expansion and to indicate their preferred timing. The figures on page 73 represent filling up surplus, expansion, academies and the provision of additional forms of entry in community schools. The council are also looking at new provision and also an element of expansion in faith schools, where there is demand particularly from Merton residents. The council may need further new secondary provision hence the uncertainty at this stage.

Councillor Oonagh Moulton asked how the interest and intake for faith school provision had been established. Paul Ballatt explained that work was underway looking at the pattern of demand for faith schools and a matter of affordability.

Councillor Peter Walker asked what percentage of children are at Wimbledon and Ursuline schools now. Paul Ballatt explained that this data could be circulated after it has been analysed.

Councillor Peter Walker asked when the contract for Dundonald was expected to go ahead. Paul Ballatt explained that this was a decision to be taken by Cabinet in December – alongside decision-making about the land appropriation recently consulted on. Officers are also optimistic that the very long-running issues regarding Sport England's position on the Dundonald proposal may be resolved finally shortly. Were there to be a subsequent JR on the decision-making, the council would need to take a view on either pausing plans for the development or proceeding following a risk assessment.

Councillor James Holmes asked if faith schools were oversubscribed. Paul Ballatt explained that Wimbledon and Ursuline were oversubscribed and that Merton will have to make a decision regarding investment in provision that may be used by children living in other authority boundaries.

Councillor James Holmes enquired about further new school provision. Paul Ballatt explained that 2 new schools may be required with 20-30 additional forms of entry required in the secondary sector. Expansion therefore has to be at the core of the strategy.

Councillor James Holmes asked what time scales were in place to determine what provision would be taken forward. Paul Ballatt explained that it was not easy to state at this point and that there were other factors to consider.

Caroline Holland explained that school expansion proposals would need to be considered when further information was available to determine revenue impact and longer term planning could be undertaken.

Councillor Peter Walker added that we should be learning from primary school expansion which was cheaper and consider expansion and split site provision.

Paul Ballatt offered reassurance that the core values of the expansion strategy are to build upon the existing estate. There is a commitment not to expand beyond 10 forms of entry and all factors are being considered.

RESOLVED: Councillor Jeff Hanna thanked the officers and agreed with the Panel that these comments be forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and expressed the Panels desire to see more accurate costs as soon as they can be achieved.

Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel: 12 November 2013

Councillor John Sargeant queried the context of the indicative Capital Programme, what was significant and what assumptions had been made in the longer term planning. Should the Panel take a view on these assumptions?

Caroline Holland explained that there was an ongoing call on the revenue programme and that the Capital Programme was dominated by school expansion, primary in the first instance and secondary schools later. Highways, Footways and the Street Lighting Replacement Programme would remain as is.

Regeneration programmes are not planned as far in advance as major schemes and are dependent on funding from others, for example, TfL. For example, the Mini Holland Bid to improve our cycling provision.

Councillor Ian Munn asked for clarity on the settlement funding assessment: RSG and Business Rates and the latest central Government funding projections following the 2013 spending review. Caroline Holland explained that refinements are ongoing and that DCLG had undertaken more work in relation to the Council Tax freeze grant and how this would feed into assumptions and impact on the funds available. The settlement is expected from DCLG early/mid December 2013.

Councillor Samantha George asked about the use of reserves to eliminate the budget gap and what cabinet had agreed, and if there was an easier way to show capital and revenue changes from last year's budget. Caroline Holland explained that no new additional savings for 2014/15 had to be found and that there was a savings target of £1.7 million for 2015/16. This is a significant improvement over other boroughs. Revenue monitoring is undertaken on the Capital programme and schemes are being profiled into later years. Each monitoring report shows profiling each year. There are likely, however, to be some slippages into later years, particularly in CSF. The department are keeping this as up to date as possible. Chris Lee added that changes are made clear in the monitoring reports received by Cabinet and the Scrutiny Financial Monitoring Task Group on a quarterly basis.

Councillor John Sargeant felt that it was important for the Panel to take an annual look at the figures and the key changes to enable the Panel's discussion to be more focused. Comparison year on year would be helpful. Furthermore, could the recommendations from last year's budget scrutiny be built into the January report to determine how these have been taken forward?

Councillor Samantha George enquired about the new savings identified for 2016/17 and 2017/18 in the MTFs (page 78 of the report) and when the Panel could have further detail on this. Caroline Holland explained that these new savings were built in to address the budget gap and that these proposals would be brought to December Cabinet and January Scrutiny Panel meetings. In 2014/15 there are no new savings to be found but £1.6 million in savings needs to be found in 2015/16.

Councillor Samantha George asked about leisure centres and savings. Chris Lee explained that there was a £1 million budget for 2014/15 and a substantial budget in 2015/16 available. The department are working to this timetable for the Morden Park Pool scheme and developments will begin in 2015/16.

Councillor Samantha George enquired about the reason for profiling the street lighting replacement programme and enhancement and also about town centre investment. Chris Lee informed the Panel that this should be treated with caution. Regeneration programmes are match funded and the figures outlined are markers to ensure that funds are available to deliver the scheme. The Mitcham Regeneration scheme is largely dependent upon match funding from TfL. The councils input into is outlined in the capital programme but this can be brought forward or slip to make the best use of alternative funding sources. This applies to all schemes.

Cormac Stokes explained that there were pressures in terms of the standard of street lighting and that replacement was required. There is a fairly urgent street lighting replacement programme over the next year and this is why the monthly figures seem higher. There will be investments in terms of energy efficiency which have been front loaded.

Councillor Miles Windsor asked if new items required for renewable energy in this area were being brought into this budget. Cormac Stokes confirmed this was the case.

Councillor Stan Anderson enquired if there were any plans to reduce street lighting for certain periods. Cormac Stokes confirmed that this wasn't the case. Councillor Russell Makin reminded the Panel that they were due to consider street lighting at a future panel meeting.

Councillor Samantha George asked about equipment for parking and why there was a reduction in 2013/14 in DFG. Chris Lee explained that there was a small budget for parking and display machines and that all other parking is captured as revenue. The DFG is under scrutiny from outside of the council. Demand for this grant has increased. Last year there were 110 applications and this year there are a projected 230 applications. There is therefore a pressure on this grant/budget.

RESOLVED: Panel noted the report.

Healthier Communities and Older People O&S Panel: 13 November 2013

The Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel commented that as there is a significant increase in the over eighty age group many of whom will have long term conditions, the care for this vulnerable group should be reflected in the budget. The Council should also be aware that domiciliary care needs to be well resourced to avoid the significant additional costs associated with residential care.

This page is intentionally left blank

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.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION - FINANCIAL MONITORING TASK GROUP

29 OCTOBER 2013

(19.00 - 21.30)

PRESENT

Councillors Peter Southgate (in the Chair), Iain Dysart, Suzanne Grocott, Diane Neil Mills and Dennis Pearce

Caroline Holland (Director of Corporate Services), Paul Dale (Interim Assistant Director of Resources), David Keppler (Head of Revenues and Benefits) and Julia Regan (Head of Democracy Services)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

No apologies received. Members noted that Councillor Samantha George is no longer a member of this task group.

2 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT SCHEME (Agenda Item 2)

Task group members asked a number of questions in order to understand the impact of the move to a local council tax support scheme in April 2013:

- David Keppler, Head of Revenues and Benefits, said that there had been an increase in the level of net collectable council tax debt and that this was partly due to the scheme changes and partly due to the increase in the number of households in the borough which had increased the overall amount of council tax owed. He drew attention to the table at paragraph 2.38 and undertook to provide more detail. ACTION: Head of Revenues and Benefits
- The two complaints about the removal of certain discounts and exemptions from the council tax support scheme have been treated as policy complaints and will be included in the Annual Complaints report to the Council's Standards Committee
- David Keppler will provide detail on the numbers affected by the discount and exemption changes. ACTION: Head of Revenues and Benefits
- David Keppler will provide an estimate of the financial impact on the average benefit recipient if the council did not apply the uprating to the scheme in line with the uprating to State pensions and benefits – cost to the council of £30,000 (paragraph 2.28). ACTION: Head of Revenues and Benefits

Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services, undertook to provide information to explain the figures in paragraphs 2.5 and 2.7 regarding the reduced level of government funding to the Council and the Greater London Authority. ACTION: Director of Corporate Services

David Keppler provided additional information in response to questions about discounts and exemptions:

- 22,000 households received the 25% single person discount (rate set by government). The total value of this is £7.7m
- The largest category of council tax exemption is for households solely composed of students

David Keppler drew attention to the information on changes that neighbouring boroughs had made to their schemes. He has subsequently been informed that the collection rates for Croydon have decreased significantly and those for Sutton have fallen slightly. He undertook to report back on the reasons for this once he has more information. ACTION: Head of Revenues and Benefits

David Keppler said that around 50% of his staff's time was spent on chasing payment. The task group discussed the cost of collecting small amounts of debt. David Keppler added that, in some circumstances, the Council can obtain a Liability Order and apply to the Department of Work and pensions for payment from a person's benefits. However, the maximum that can be deducted is £3.50 so the council is unlikely to recoup all its costs.

Task group members expressed differing views on the trade-off between the principle and practicalities of all households making some council tax payment as well as the potential of making changes that might demotivate some households.

The task group discussed the list of potential changes set out in Appendix 1 and noted that the last option on page 12 and all options on page 13 would result in "everyone paying something", except for pensioners as they have been exempted by the government. Pensioners represent 30% of households in receipt of council tax support.

A task group member suggested that costs should be based on Bands D and E rather than F and G as these rates apply to a greater number of households in receipt of council tax support. ACTION: David Keppler undertook to provide costings based on Band D, in addition to those provided for Bands F and G.

David Keppler explained that consultation on a scheme for 2015/16 would need to start in Spring 2014 so a decision on the proposals within the consultation would need to be made by then. The task group noted that if a significantly different scheme were to be adopted then this would incur large IT and other management costs.

The task group RESOLVED:

- To note recommendations A-D
- To refrain from providing a steer on how it would like to see more detailed proposals progressed as this would need to be a political decision and as such is therefore not appropriate for a scrutiny body
- To report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission via the minutes of this meeting plus the provision by the Head of Revenues and Benefits of the additional information that has been requested by the Task Group

3 BUSINESS PLAN 2014-18 (Agenda Item 3)

The Chair said that this report would be presented to the November meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and the three Panels. He advised the task group to focus comments on the corporate services aspects of the capital programme and as well as considering progress made against the 2013/14 corporate services savings (set out in the financial monitoring report on this agenda). The Director of Corporate Services added that some alternative and new savings would be taken to Cabinet in December and subsequently to the scrutiny meetings in January.

Medium Term Financial Strategy

Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services, and Paul Dale, Assistant Director of Resources, provided additional information in response to questions:

- The departmental savings targets for 2015/16 onwards (paragraph 2.3) are based on weighted controllable expenditure. Weightings are 0.5 for Children, Schools and Families, 0.75 for Community and Housing, 1.5 for Environment and Regeneration, 1.5 for Corporate Services
- The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) will be taken into the reserves and used to pay external debt when it becomes due for payment (Paragraph 2.5.1). ACTION: Director of Corporate Services to provide the assumed interest rates for asset life of 5 and 50 years

Table 2.6.1

- Inflation assumptions for pay are 1% in 2014/15 and 2015/16, 1.5% in 2016/17 and 2017/18
- Price inflation assumption is around 1.5% overall, higher for some specific areas such as energy process
- Additional fees and charges assumed 1.5% growth
- Growth item refers to the adult social care growth that has been approved previously
- Other corporate items includes the pension fund additional contributions, level of contingency, items relating to disaster recovery, payments for precepts and levies and other adjustments (more detail in September report to Cabinet)
- Collection Fund items for 2014/15 are for the write back of the council tax bad debt provision and increase in collection rate. This will be subsumed into base budget in future.

Capital programme

A task group member said that it would be helpful to have a short description of each of the items in the capital programme. In response to questions, Caroline Holland and Paul Dale provided further detail on some of the items in the corporate services capital programme:

- The Acquisitions Budget for 2013/14 has been used for the purchase of a piece of land by the High Path Estate
- The Capital Bidding Fund is used to provide match funding should any suitable schemes funded by the Greater London Authority or English National Heritage become available

- Where there are zero items at present, these may change. Also, monies that aren't used may be moved to future years or removed from the capital programme.
- The Document Management and Customer Contact Programme items are estimated figures at present. Tender documents were sent out last week setting out an ideal "to be" system and asked bidders to come back with proposed solutions. The task group RECOMMENDED that councillors' needs are taken into account in any document management solution. ACTION: Director of Corporate Services to consult with councillors – Councillor Diane Neil Mills volunteered to take part.
- Asbestos safety works item for 2016/17 relates to corporate buildings. The task group suggested that the appointment of an asbestos compliance officer (item KSR45/CG03 in the risk register – page 89 of the agenda) be brought forward
- The IT Strategy-unallocated item relates to monies set aside for the implementation of the strategy that have not yet been used – may be spent, carried forward or removed from capital programme
- Paul Dale undertook to find out why the Invest to save items have zero predicted spend in 2015/16 ACTION: Assistant Director of Resources

Another member said that the capital programme overall was still quite large compared to spend in previous years. Caroline Holland and Paul Dale said that they were working with officers to predict likely spend more accurately and that the programme from 2014/15 onwards is closer to actual spend than previously. The task group agreed that it would be helpful to have a breakdown of 2013/14 spend to date on individual capital projects.

In response to a comment about the level of capital spend on maintenance of the borough's roads, Caroline Holland said that recent road condition surveys had shown sustained improvement in both major and minor roads.

The Task Group AGREED that it would be useful for each of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels to examine the capital programme within their remit.

4 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT - QUARTER 2 (Agenda Item 4)

The task group examined progress made on the 2013/14 corporate services savings. Caroline Holland said that the position on the shared bailiff service was unlikely to change in 2013/14 but options are being explored to increase the number of cases in future and to make it easier to find people who haven't paid (for example through automatic number plate recognition software, a joint piece of work with the Police).

In response to a question about the rationale behind vacant posts, Caroline Holland said that the reasons for this varied and that each vacant post was kept under review.

Paul Dale undertook to provide a breakdown of the Transfer Payments (page 41) to explain the variation between the current budget and the full year forecast.

Councillor Grocott had a number of questions on reserves and cash flow that she said she would raise separately with the Director.

This page is intentionally left blank

Additional information on the local council tax benefit scheme , as requested by financial monitoring task group at its meeting on 29 October 2013

More info on the table 2.38 from report

Comparing the financial data from the end of March 2013 to September 2013 there has been an increase in the collectable council tax figure, this is due to the removal of the empty home discounts and exemptions and a reduction in the level of council tax support being paid. The number of council tax properties within the borough have considerably increased over this period.

Number affected by discounts and exemptions

In 2012/13:

We granted 1,426 exemptions for the empty and uninhabitable exemption – some of these would have been for the full 12 months but many others for shorter periods. We granted approximately £590,000 in exemptions although some of these would have been for previous tax years

We granted 4,511 exemptions for the empty and unfurnished exemption – the maximum exemption is 6 months. Many of these exemptions are for relatively short periods for example, where a property is empty for the period when a tenant has vacated and the before the new tenant moves in. We granted approximately £1,000,000 in exemptions although again some of these would have been for previous tax years

We granted 300 discounts for second homes, equating to approximately £120,000.

Numbers affected by the proposed minor change to the council tax support scheme

I cannot provide an exact number as the modelling process only enabled me to report on value and not numbers, however I have estimated that the numbers affected will be between 700 and 1,400.

If we did not undertake the minor change these residents would lose 20p in council tax support for every additional pound in benefit they receive. So over a year if a resident received a £2 per week increase in their benefit they would have to pay £20.80 extra in council tax.

Collection rates

No further feedback received from Croydon Council on their benchmarking of neighbouring authorities regarding collection rates for council tax.

Reduction in scheme based on Band D

This piece of work has not been completed. Modelling any new schemes is a time consuming process and impacts on the computer system processing speed so it is best to undertake over weekends. I have scheduled the work over the next couple of weeks and will report back.

David Keppler, Head of Revenues and Benefits

Overview and Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2013/14



This table sets out the Overview and Scrutiny Commission's Work Programme for 2013/14 that was agreed by the Commission at its meeting on 16 July 2013. This work programme will be considered at every meeting of the Commission to enable it to respond to issues of concern and incorporate reviews or to comment upon pre-decision items ahead of their consideration by Cabinet/Council.

The work programme table shows items on a meeting by meeting basis, identifying the issue under review, the nature of the scrutiny (pre decision, policy development, issue specific, performance monitoring, partnership related) and the intended outcomes. The last page provides information on items on the Council's Forward Plan that relate to the portfolio of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission so that these can be added to the work programme should the Commission wish to.

The Commission is asked to identify any work programme items that would be suitable for the use of an informal preparatory session (or other format) to develop lines of questioning (as recommended by the 2009 review of the scrutiny function).

The Overview and Scrutiny Commission has specific responsibilities regarding budget and financial performance scrutiny and performance monitoring which it has delegated to the financial monitoring task group – agendas and minutes are published on the Council's website.

Scrutiny Support

For further information on the work programme of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission please contact: -
Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services, 0208 545 3864, Julia.regan@merton.gov.uk

Meeting date – 19 September 2013

Scrutiny category	Item/Issue	How	Lead Member/ Lead Officer	Intended Outcomes
Holding the executive to account	Leader and Chief Executive – vision, key priorities & challenges for 2013/14	Presentation	Leader of the Council Chief Executive	To take a view on whether to make changes to scrutiny work programme
	Cabinet response to request for options appraisal of 24/7 noise control service		Cabinet Member for Env. Sustainability and Regeneration John Hill, Head of Public Protection & Development	To formally receive & discuss response from Cabinet
Policy development	Public value pilot reviews	Report	Chris Lee, Director of Environment and Regeneration	To review with a view to follow up in more depth for particular services
Holding the executive to account	Cabinet response to recommendations of the volunteering task group	Report	Simon Williams, Director of Community and Housing	To monitor implementation of task group recommendations
Scrutiny reviews	Financial monitoring task group	Minutes of meeting	Cllr Peter Southgate Julia Regan	To note minutes of meeting on 04.09.13

Meeting date – 26 November 2013

Scrutiny category	Item/Issue	How	Lead Member/ Lead Officer	Intended Outcomes
Budget scrutiny	Business Plan 2014/18 - information pertaining to round one of budget scrutiny	Report	Cllr Mark Allison Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services	To send comments to Cabinet budget mtg 9 December
Scrutiny of crime and disorder	Borough Commander	Presentation/report and in-depth discussion	Borough Commander	Update on policing issues
Policy development	Policy and service developments in response to demographic change		Yvette Stanley, Director of Children, Schools and Families	To review with a view to follow up in more depth for particular services
Holding Executive to account	Action plan for recommendations of the civil unrest task group	Progress report	Annalise Elliott, Head of Safer Merton	To monitor implementation of task group recommendations
Scrutiny reviews	Financial monitoring task group	Minutes of meeting, incl discussion of local council tax benefit scheme	Cllr Peter Southgate Julia Regan	To note minutes of meeting held on 29.10.13

Meeting date – 30 January 2014 – scrutiny of the budget

Scrutiny category	Item/Issue	How	Lead Member/Lead Officer	Intended Outcomes
Budget scrutiny	Business Plan 2014/18	Report – common pack for Panels and Commission	Cllr Mark Allison, Cabinet Member for Finance Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services	To report to Cabinet on budget scrutiny round 2
	Business Plan update - latest info from Cabinet 20 January incl update on balances and reserves	Report	Cllr Mark Allison, Cabinet Member for Finance Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services	To report to Cabinet on budget scrutiny round 2

Meeting date – 11 March 2014

Scrutiny category	Item/Issue	How	Lead Member/Lead Officer	Intended Outcomes
Scrutiny of crime and disorder	Borough Commander	Presentation/report and discussion	Borough commander	Update on future of policing in Merton
Policy review	Monitoring the Council's equalities commitments	Report	Yvette Stanley, Director, Children Schools and Families	To comment on annual action plan update
Holding the executive to account	Customer contact programme	Report	Sophie Ellis, Assistant Director of Business Improvement	Progress report for comment
Performance management	Members' Survey 2013 - analysis	Report	Cllr Peter Southgate Julia Regan	Discuss findings and agree action plan for 2014/15
Scrutiny reviews	Financial monitoring task group	Minutes of meeting	Cllr Peter Southgate Julia Regan	Note minutes of meeting held on 18.02.14

Meeting date – 30 April 2014

Scrutiny category	Item/Issue	How	Lead Officer	Member/Lead	Intended Outcomes
Policy development	Single fraud investigation service	Report	Christine Bidwell, Head of Investigations		To discuss and comment on government proposals and the impact on the Council
	Development of shared environmental health service	Report	John Hill Head of Public Protection & Development,		To comment and make recommendations in relation to progress made and future plans
Performance management	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report	Report	Cllr Peter Southgate Julia Regan		To approve and forward to Council
Holding the executive to account	Volunteering	Report	Simon Williams, Director of Community and Housing		Update on implementation of task group recommendations, implementation of Merton Partnership Volunteering & Community Action Strategy and annual update from lead CMT member.
Performance management	Draft Service Plans 2014-18	Report – common pack for Panels and Commission	Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services		To comment and make recommendations for changes to the draft service plans

This page is intentionally left blank