

Merton Council

Council meeting

Membership

The Mayor: Councillor David Chung

The Deputy Mayor: Councillor Pauline Cowper

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

Date: Wednesday 8 July 2015

Time: 7.15 pm

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

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

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

All Press contacts: press@merton.gov.uk, 020 8545 3181

Council meeting

8 July 2015

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Note on declarations of interest

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

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Agenda Item 3

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

COUNCIL

13 MAY 2015

(19.15 - 20.15)

PRESENT

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

No apologies were received.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

No pecuniary declarations were made.

3 ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR THE 2015/ 2016 AND THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR (Agenda Item 3)

The Mayor called for nominations for the office of Mayor for 2015-2016.

It was moved by Councillor Stephen Alambritis, and seconded by Councillor Martin Whelton that Councillor David Chung be elected as Mayor for 2016-2015 (*A copy of the nomination speeches are included within Appendix A to these minutes*)

Councillors Oonagh Moulton and Peter Southgate addressed the meeting expressing their support for the nomination.

There not being any other nominations the Mayor put the motion to the meeting and it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

That Councillor David Chung is the duly elected Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the Municipal year 2015-2016

Councillor David Chung made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office and was invested with the Mayor's chain and badge of office.

The new Mayor announced that his Deputy Mayor of the Municipal year 2015-2016 would be Councillor Pauline Cowper

Councillor Pauline Cowper signed the declaration of acceptance of office and was invested with the Deputy Mayor's badge of office.

The Mayor that his Mayoress would be Irina Chung, supported by his consorts Karen Chung, Kim Randell and Kerrienne O'Callaghan

The Mayor announced that in respect to his chaplaincy given the diverse nature of Merton, he would be asking the humanist association and leaders of different faith groups across the borough to lead the Council in prayers and reflection at the start of each meeting instead of appointing a Mayor's chaplain.

The Deputy Mayor announced that his consort would be Michael Cowper.

The Mayor presented badges to the outgoing Mayor, Deputy Mayor and their respective consorts.

The Mayor, Councillor David Chung, thanked Council for his election for the forthcoming year and announced that his Mayoral two charities would be FISH (Friends in St Helier) and Merton Centre for Independent Living, whilst also supporting the Merton Alzheimer Society through the Merton Dementia Hub, and One Life.

(A copy of his acceptance speech is included within Appendix B to these minutes).

5 VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR (Agenda Item 5)

The Mayor invited Councillor Agatha Akyigyina to the dais to receive the Council's vote of thanks.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Alambritis, moved and the Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Oonagh Moulton, seconded the vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor.

In doing so both Group Leaders along with the Leader of the Merton Park Ward Independent Residents Group, Councillor Peter Southgate and Councillor Brenda Frazer spoke in praise of Councillor Agatha Akyigyina's year in office.

(A copy of all these speeches are attached as Appendix C to these minutes).

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the Council places on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to Councillor Agatha Akyigyina for the dedicated manner in which she has served as Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the year 2014-2015.

Mayoral Citation:

Councillor Agatha Akyigyina. Mayor of Merton 2014-2015

At the time of her election as Mayor in May 2014, Councillor Akyigyina had completed eight years as a councillor for Figges Marsh in Mitcham. She has been a very personable, community-focused and energetic mayor, undertaking many charity fundraising events and numerous civic events and engagements.

The Mayor's main charities for 2014-2015 were Shooting Star Chase and Merton Street Pastors. Helping those in need in the local community as well as improving the lives of children are the Mayor's passions, and are reflected in her chosen charities as well as through her community work including helping at a mother and toddler group in Mitcham, working as a volunteer at Home-Start Merton and being a governor at St Mark's Primary School. The Mayor also supported charity events for the Colour House Theatre and HPCT (The Pilgrimage Trust) as well as helping to raise funds for the Ghanaian Parents Association.

Family is very much at the heart of the Mayor's work and helping Shooting Star Chase is particularly important to her as the charity supported Councillor Akyigyina and her family when her daughter Suzanna sadly became ill and passed away in 2007. This has been a driving force for the Mayor and she really enjoyed hosting a Christmas afternoon-tea event with the children and families who are being supported by Shooting Star Chase. True to the Mayor's fun nature, she stepped away from the Mayoral convention of wearing robes for this occasion and dressed up as a Christmas elf much to the enjoyment of the children at the reception.

Noted for her great sense of humour, Councillor Akyigyina has particularly stood out for her warm personality and her ability to put people at ease. Councillor Akyigyina's caring nature is exhibited in her work as a committed Street Pastor, Vice Chair of the North East Mitcham Community Centre and a Trustee of the Horizon Centre in Pollards Hill. Balancing this community work with charity efforts, Councillor Akyigyina worked hard during her Mayoralty to raise in the region of £65,000 for her charities.

The Mayor also organised a variety of events that were great fun, including a quiz night, an Irish-themed evening, a Ghanaian Independence Celebration, a curry night and Christmas events as well as the annual Mayor's Ball. Over 250 guests helped raise more than £20,000 at the ball.

Another highlight of the Mayoralty was coming second in the London New Year's Day Parade with the On the Move entry, created by the talented team at the Colour House Theatre. This raised £6,000 for the Mayor's charities. Many friends and colleagues, councillors, council officers and volunteers from Merton as well as local businesses helped to make the day a success.

Councillor Akyigyina was proud to represent the borough at civic events throughout the year, including the commemoration of Remembrance Day, Armed Forces Day, Holocaust Memorial Day and the London Mayor's Association Annual Civic Service event at the Abbey of Westminster.

The Mayor was particularly honoured to serve as Mayor during Merton's 50th anniversary as a London borough and helped to lead in the borough's Golden Jubilee celebrations throughout the year. The Mayor worked hard over the year to involve the community more in the Mayoralty and she held many reception events to meet and thank the unsung heroes of the borough who work hard to make Merton a great place to live.

Councillor Akyigyina's workload and achievements over her Mayoral year would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of her Deputy Mayor, Councillor Laxmi Attawar, and deputy consorts Rami Attawar and Sally Rance. Between the Mayor and her deputy, they have attended around 450 engagements. The Mayor is also grateful to her councillor colleagues who helped raise money for her charities throughout the year and she is thankful for the support from Merton Council staff particularly her staff in the Mayoral office.

The Mayor was ably and lovingly supported by her husband Charles, her son Charlie and her daughter Teresa and friends who all shared the principal consort duties and without whom she could not have achieved so much in her year.

The Mayor was also prayerfully and loyally supported by her Chaplain Father Patrick Feyisetan.

Mayor Akyigyina is recognised by the council for her outstanding community-focused work as well as her positive attitude and dedication to her charitable activities, and for her work representing the London Borough of Merton as a whole. Her personal qualities of compassion and good humour contributed to her very successful year in Merton.

Councillor Agatha Akyigyina responded to the vote of thanks referring to a number of events and experiences during her mayoral year. She placed on record her thanks to a number of individuals for their support during her term of office, including the Deputy Mayor and the Mayor's office support staff.

(A copy of her speech is included within Appendix D to these minutes)

A framed copy of the citation together with a past Mayor's badge was presented to Councillor Agatha Akyigyina.

6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 6)

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

7 CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES (Agenda Item 7)

The report was moved Councillor Stephen Alambritis and seconded by Councillor Mark Allison.

RESOLVED

That the Council:

- A. approves the constitution of committees, sub-committees and scrutiny bodies and agrees the allocation of seats, chair and vice-chair positions and the appointment of members to those seats, as set out in Appendix A of the submitted report;
- B. approves the constitution of consultative forums and other bodies and agrees the appointment of members to those seats; as set out in Appendix B of the submitted report;
- C. agrees the allocation of seats and appointment to the outside organisations as detailed in Appendix C of the submitted report;
- D. agrees the terms of reference of consultative and other bodies for which the Council is responsible and the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – South West London as set out in Appendix D of the submitted report
- E. agrees to delegate to the Planning Applications Committee the authority to appoint a non-voting co-opted member if this is deemed appropriate.
- F. notes that the Executive Leader has not made any changes to appointments to his Cabinet or to their respective portfolios as set out in Appendix E of the submitted report;
- G. notes that, in respect of the Mayor of Merton's Charitable Trust, Councillors John Sargeant and Laxmi Attawar have resigned with effect 5 June 2014 and that notes the appointment of the incoming Mayor Councillor David Chung and Deputy Mayor Councillor Pauline Cowper, as trustees from 5 June 2014; and
- H.
 - i) agrees the procedure rules and terms of reference of the South London Partnership Joint Committee (Joint Committee of The Boroughs Of Richmond, Kingston, Sutton, Merton And Croydon) as set out in Appendix G of the submitted report
 - ii) delegates authority to the Monitoring Officer to insert reference to the South London Partnership Joint Committee and its purpose as defined in Appendix G into the appropriate section of the Council's Constitution
 - iii) approves that the Leader be appointed to South London Partnership Joint Committee (Joint Committee Of The Boroughs Of Richmond, Kingston, Sutton, Merton And Croydon)
- I. agrees to appoint Councillor Brenda Fraser to the Council of Governors for the Kingston Hospital NHS Trust Board as the Merton and Sutton Borough Councils (Joint nomination).

**Nomination Speeches for Councillor David Chung
Councillor Stephen Alambritis**

Madam Mayor,

As Councillors we are all politicians

We begin by joining a party

We apply to be candidates by forwarding our profile

We go to selection meetings

We await to be longlisted and then shortlisted

We then go for the dreaded final interview

We then get the killer question

What inspired you to get involved in politics?

Madam Mayor

The best answer to this question that I have ever come across is from some one in this chamber

It comes from the person I am about to nominate for the position of Mayor of Merton for the municipal year 2015/16

It comes from Cllr David chung

When asked this question

David answered as follows:

I was inspired to get involved in politics by Jack Ashley

Madam Mayor

Very –Very few people achieve the status that Jack Ashley did

Jack Ashley was a beacon for the disabled

Both in the Commons and the Lords he was the most significant

British politician of the last 40 years to champion the cause of disabled people

There you have it Madam Mayor

We will have in Cllr Chung a Mayor of Merton who will also be a champion for the disabled

That is why I am so delighted and so thrilled to be making this nomination tonight

In addition to having a Mayor who will support great causes we will have a musical Mayor who can play the piano, the banjo and the guitar

God knows this chamber needs livening up sometimes!

And what about this for his musical taste and it goes from Johan Sebastian Bach to Bob Dylan

Keeping with the musical theme I understand that the answer to all David's prayers were not blowing in the wind but were to be found in church

Because that is where he first met his wonderful wife Irina

They are now blessed with three daughters and seven grandchildren

Born in Guyana (then British Guiana) David has been a strong family man regularly taking the family on holiday to Ocho Rios in Jamaica

He says Irina and their daughters repeatedly told him they liked the place for the weather, the beaches and the night life

But after all those years and looking at his bank balance today he has a sneaking feeling that they liked it because it was and still is a shoppers dream!

Madam Mayor

Over the years the Mayors Parlour always lays on a great traditional spreads for visiting guests

You know-cucumber sandwiches, mini sausage rolls and so on

But there is change in the wind here too

Because Davids favourite food is curry...very hot curry..curry that is so hot chefs have to wear goggles to make it

So get out those goggles Carl because you will also need them when carrying and helping to serve the Mayor his favourite dish

Times they are going to get hotter with this particular Mayor

Madam Mayor

Cllr Chung was elected to Merton Council in 1994 and has served Longthornton Ward since then

He has also has served on many committees including as Cabinet member for education

David's entire career has been in education both in the UK and abroad

Madam Mayor

I know David will talk about his choice of Deputy Mayor and without naming names I am delighted with his choice

I also know David will name his chosen Charities and there again I will leave him to name them

Suffice to say they are all charities promoting immensely worthy causes

Finally Madam Mayor

It gives me great pleasure to nominate

And I urge this council to then elect

Cllr David Chung as Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the
Municipal year 2015-2016

Councillor Martin Whelton

It is a great privilege to second the nomination of David Chung as 51st Mayor of the London Borough of Merton. I first got to know David when we were first elected as Labour councillors in 2002. David was a good friend of mine from that time and subsequently I was a neighbour, six doors down from him, a few years after I got elected. David has been a person who has given distinguished service to the borough. Firstly in his first term as a councillor serving as Cabinet Member for Education, and I served alongside him as well on the governing body of Tamworth Manor. Alongside others, such as Cllr Judge, we did a great deal to change that school for the better, making it a Harris Academy.

He has also done a great deal in terms of equality for the borough. Twenty five years ago this council elected Joe Abrams (check spelling), a fellow Ghanese citizen as Mayor. David and myself served alongside him in the first term and knew the contribution he made in terms of equality in the borough, and David very much follows in his footsteps, but also on disability as well. David came back from a serious illness a few years ago to be nominated as Mayor tonight, and he has been a tireless champion for people with disability in this borough. It also recognises his service as a Longthornton councillor. It is my understanding he is the first councillor from Longthornton ward to be nominated as Mayor throughout our 50 year history. I know how highly regarded he is in that area for the contribution he makes and he is a tireless champion for that part of the borough. I also know from past experience what an honour and privilege it is to be in the position of Mayor.

I know David, you will make a huge contribution to the borough. You are on a voyage of discovery, you will meet many fantastic people from across the community and the voluntary groups that make up this great borough of ours. I also know you will bring a great deal to the mayoral office in terms of your experience and years of service. It is rightly being recognised tonight in your nomination as Mayor for this municipal year. Good luck David, I know you will make a brilliant Mayor, and I ask council to support this nomination, thank you.

Councillor David Chung Mayor's Acceptance Speech

I'd like to begin by saying that for me, this is a truly Momentous occasion. I was born at the end of the second World war, in what was then known as British Guiana (quite a different place geographically from here, tropical) and this evening I am sitting in the Council chamber representing Merton as its first citizen and Mayor. This has been quite some journey.

You will be pleased to know that I am not about to give you a history lesson although my journey from Guyana to Merton represents in microcosm the history of Britain in the last 100 years.

It is indeed a privilege and an honour to serve as the Mayor of the London Borough of Merton. I am pleased to have the opportunity to support the positive work that goes on day to day that makes Merton a wonderful place in which to live and work. I shall strive to uphold the office of the Mayor in all that I do.

I am struck by the extent of the well wishes I have received from family, friends, residents, colleagues and many others. Thanks to my wife, my daughters and my family for their love and support without which I could never have contemplated undertaking this responsibility. Thanks to Ged Curran, the Chief Executive and the officers of the Council. Thanks to all of my councillor colleagues. A special thanks to the Mayoral officers, to Carol Vincent, Carl Brown, Steve Vincent and Mick Dore. Thank to everyone who contribute to this good office and I look forward to their continued support to me this year.

For my charities I have chosen FISH (Friends in St Helier) I believe that as older people we need to do what we can to remain active in our communities with the support of the voluntary sector and other organisations in Merton. Being active enhances our well being and contributes to the economic and social well being of our communities and society.

My second charity is Merton Centre for Independent Living. We have come a far way with the integration of disabled people in our communities and society and we still have a far way still to go.

In addition I shall be supporting:

Merton Alzheimer Society through the Merton Dementia Hub, a unique community based service for people with dementia, their family and carers.

I shall also be supporting One Life, a charity that works to help vulnerable young people realise their potential by providing essential life skills to them. Helping them to make a successful transition to adulthood.

Finally, kindly note that there will be a reception in Merton Link at the end of the Council meeting. You are all invited and I look forward to sharing your company.

Thank you all, once again. I feel deeply humbled and eager to embark on what promises to be a very exciting year. Thank you.

Speeches in respect of the vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor Councillor Agatha Akyigyina

Councillor Stephen Alambritis

Mr Mayor

At the time of her election as Mayor, Councillor Agatha Akyigyina had completed eight years as a councillor for Figges Marsh in Mitcham

She has been a very personable community-focused, and energetic mayor

She has been undertaking many charity fundraising events and numerous civic engagements in the community

The Mayor's main charities were Shooting Star Chase and Merton Street Pastors.

Both charities work to help children and young people in Merton.

The Mayor has also supported charity events for the Colour House Theatre and for the Pilgrimage Trust as well as helping raise funds for the Ghanaian Parents Association

Councillor Akyigyina worked hard during her mayoralty to raise in the region of £65,000 for her charities

Much of this money was raised through the individual efforts of councillors and other residents. Testimony to her commitment to those in the community working for the community

The Mayor organised a variety of events that were great fun, including the annual Mayor's Ball.

This event had a Ghanaian theme and over 250 guests helped raise more than £20,000

Another highlight was Merton's participation in the London New Year's Day Parade

The Tube/bus themed 'On the Move' entry created by the talented team at the Colour House Theatre came second and raised £6000

The Mayor was pleased with the prize money but was adamant Merton should have come first. She took a note of the Judges names!!!

The Mayor was proud to represent the borough at civic events throughout the year, including the commemoration of Remembrance Day, Armed Forces Day and Holocaust Memorial Day

Agatha was particularly honoured to serve as Mayor during Merton's 50th anniversary as a London borough and helped lead in our Golden Jubilee celebrations throughout the year

The Mayor is particularly noted for her focus on the community and often took a hands-on approach

Who can forget when she stepped away from the Mayoral convention of wearing robes for a Christmas event and dressed up as a Christmas elf much to the enjoyment of the children at the reception

This was much to the great surprise of Carl Brown, the Mayor's Executive Attendant,

And to the even greater surprise of Steve Vincent, the Mayor's Second Executive Assistant

And certainly to the humungous and delightful surprise of Carol Vincent, the Mayor's Personal Executive Assistant

Working to highlight and support the work of local communities in the borough, the Mayor hosted many receptions to give Merton's residents a platform to talk about community matters

Mr Mayor

The Mayor's workload and achievements over her mayoral year would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of her Deputy Mayor, Councillor Laxmi Attawar and deputy consorts Rami Attawar and Sally Rance.

Between the Mayor and her Deputy, they have attended around 450 engagements.

The Mayor was ably and lovingly supported by her husband Charles, her son Charlie and her daughter Teresa and her many many and I mean many friends

These friends all shared the principal consort duties– without whom she could not have achieved so much in her year.

The Mayor was also prayerfully and loyally supported by her Chaplain Father Patrick Feyisetan

Mr Mayor

In saying goodbye to Agatha who leaves the chain gang tonight I do so knowing it is also goodbye to Jam Doughnuts all year round (points to stomach)

Mr Mayor

Please give me some solace on the food front

It may be jam doughnuts yesterday but you are committing to Curry with goggles tomorrow are you not?

So Mr Mayor

Agatha Akyigyina is recognised by the council for her skill in chairing council meetings as well as her hard work, creativity and dedication to her charitable activities, and for her work representing the London Borough of Merton as a whole.

Her personal qualities of compassion and good humour contributed to her very successful year in Merton

Councillor Oonagh Moulton

Mr Mayor it's a while since I've had to address a mayor as Mister – Male Mayors are nearly an endangered species!

I second the vote of thanks and speak on behalf of all Conservative and opposition councillors in thanking Councillor Agatha Akyigina for her dedication to the role of our Mayor over the last year.

The citation mentions many of her qualities but for me her warmth of personality and her funloving nature are what I shall remember her for whilst the community focus of her work and her work for her charities have been the outstanding features of her year.

The Mayor held a large number of charity events this year for her 2 chosen charities – Shooting Star Hospice and Merton Street Pastors. What a great range they were - most of which my colleagues and I were delighted to support - from the smaller quiz and curry evenings to the magnificent Charity Ball. The spirit in which they were held was remarkable – those who were there could not forget seeing Councillor Williams bring down the roof of the restaurant as the Laughing Policeman! Similarly at the ball it was lovely to see her use a Ghanaian theme and allow us all to share some of her own culture with us – it wasn't long before we were all on the dance floor!

The success of these events – many of which sold out - and the hard work shown by Agatha and her small but hardworking team consisting of Carol, Carl and Steve in the mayoral office is borne out by the wonderful sum raised over the year for her charities!

I should also like to praise the Mayor for her representation of the borough at the plethora of civic events throughout the year – especially Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Day, Commonwealth Day and just recently the 70th anniversary of VE Day. She also led the celebrations for Merton's 50th anniversary as a London Borough.

The range of the 450 events over the Mayoral year was enormous and could not have been completed without the help and support of her consort and family. I should also like to pay tribute to the Deputy Mayor Councillor Laxmi Attawar and her deputy consorts who have proved to be wonderful support too and contributed to this very successful Mayoral year.

Councillor Peter Southgate

Tribute to Mayor Agatha Akyigyina

And so, your Mayoral year really has come to an end, as all good things in life must. But I know you will look back on it with many happy memories as one of the outstanding years of your life. And we will all remember your Mayoralty for a long time, characterised by your larger than life personality, your humour, and your constant exhortations to us to enjoy ourselves.

It's only a few days ago, but I look back to your Civic Service with particular affection. Two things stand out in my mind. One is what a family affair this Mayoralty has been, with your sister, your husband Charles, your son Charlie and your daughter Teresa all playing their part in that service. And then there's the wider family of your church and its congregation, whom we had the chance to meet again at your reception on Monday, the members of the spirited choir and the supportive role the Father Patrick has played as your chaplain.

It's through insights into your life such as this outside the council chamber that we have come to know and understand you better. Your life has been touched by tragedy with the death of your daughter Suzanna, but the experience has made you a stronger person, and confirmed your religious faith.

This has manifested itself in the efforts you have put in on behalf of your two charities, Shooting Star Chase and the Street Pastors. Indeed in the case of the Street Pastors your really have demonstrated a willingness to walk the talk, by working as a pastor long before you became Mayor.

I recall in your homily to us at your Civic Service on Sunday, when you repeated something that you'd said before around Christmas time, and it was – look out for your neighbours. That's the advice I shall choose to remember you by, and against the uncertain future we all face as councillors working with shrinking budgets, I would suggest it's very sound advice.

I intended to keep this tribute short, as I know you prefer us to keep our speeches short, and I may already have exceeded my allotted two minutes. But I do want to thank you wholeheartedly for all you have done for Merton during your Mayoral year, on behalf of the many residents, volunteers and schoolchildren who will have cause to remember you. You've had a lot of fun, and we've had fun along with you.

Councillor Brenda Fraser

I just wanted to say a few words to thank Councillor Agatha Akyigyina, the outgoing mayor. Councillor Akyigyina has been a fantastic mayor for the last year. She has been very inclusive and shared her events with lots of us, including myself as consort. I have been very privileged to have insight into the communications and relationships of the mayoralty, and what is known as 'The Chain Gang'.

At the weekend, we were in central London at the Southwark Mayor's Ball – a Bollywood event – something to be seen! Councillor Akyigyina said she valued and believed in people and inclusiveness, and this has been evident throughout her year. I feel your charities have benefitted from all your efforts, not just monetarily, but with the exposure you've allowed them, and I feel that Councillor Chung has a very hard act to follow, although I am with you all the way.

Outgoing speech - Councillor Agatha Akyigyina - Mayor of Merton 2014-15

Good evening everyone,

Mr Mayor, councillors, distinguished guests

I would like to thank you all for giving me the privilege of being Mayor these past 11 months. As the 50th Mayor of Merton, I can honestly say it has been a wonderful adventure.

Being Mayor, you are there to serve the whole community; I hope I have done so proudly. I said at the beginning of my term that my year would be about the community and its unsung heroes.

I have met many of the unsung heroes in this wonderful community. I held various receptions for them and also other members of the community. My only disappointment is that I could not have held more receptions for people in the community.

Having been able to go out and meet other mayors from both near and not so near has been a wonderful experience, which hopefully has put Merton on the map. Since many of the local mayors would meet regularly at events, we officially formed a group called 'team 14' and even without our robes and bling we will continue to be friends!

Mr Mayor, I would also like to mention the extraordinary generosity of the people of the borough. People of Merton **thank you!** To all who have supported my charity events to raise money for **Shooting star chase and Street pastors, both will receive over £23,000 each** and other various charities that will also get some money.

I don't think I can even find the words to tell you how much I have enjoyed this last year and the great events I went to. I was proud to represent the Borough of Merton, to which I hope I did a good job. I was proud to see Merton's float in the New Year's Day parade take 2nd place – although in my eyes which we really won.

Firstly, I would also like to thank my family, who have done their best as my consort and have stated how pleased they are to not have any more pin holes in the clothes (lol).

I would also like to thank all those who helped me with various fundraisers:

- Mrs Bridget Mullens who helped with the Irish night.
- Carol, Steve and their girls for the Annual quiz they put together.

- Afua, Beau, Emmanuel, Wesley, Linda and Vivan who helped with the Ghana independence night.
- Linda Kidd and Linda Twyman who organised an additional quiz night.
- A special thank you goes out to my Ball committee; Margaret McDonagh who got all the Sponsors, Irene Strank who collected most of the prizes, Maria who did the wonderful table decorations, Laxmi who also supported me in preparing for the ball and all of the helpers from all England.
- I would like to thank all 3 leaders; Steven, Oonagh and Peter who have all been great and regardless of political belief have supportive of me and the people of Merton.
- I would like to thank Laxmi for being a great Deputy, along with her consorts; (her mum and Sally).
- Thank you to my fellow councillors for your support throughout the year. I really appreciate it.
- I would like to thank Carol for all her support and help in the office.
- Thank you to Steve and Mick for also supporting me.
- For Carl my attendant, Chauffeur, Photographer, 'Mr-do-it-all' or should I say 'Mr know-it-all' ha-ha. As mayors come and go, Carl provides seamless continuity and truth be told we could possibly say he knows more about the Borough than the Mayor.

It has been a very busy year and time really has flown. I will miss the role and the joy it brings to those out there, but most of all I will miss my bling!

So to conclude, nothing has made me more proud than being able to serve my community alongside my family and members of the community as my Consorts. I have attended over **420 engagements** with (I hope) professionalism, Mac Lip-gloss and a smile...and where there was a dancefloor, I made sure I showed them that in Merton we know how to get down ha-ha!

David (Mr Mayor), congratulations on your election as Mayor and I wish you all the best.

Use your voice for kindness, your ears for compassion, your hands for charity, your mind for truth and your heart for love!

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Committee: Council

Date: 8th July 2015

Agenda item:

Wards: ALL

Subject: Strategic Objective Review – Sustainable Communities with an emphasis on Leisure and Sport

Lead officer: Christine Parsloe, Leisure & Culture Development Manager

Lead member(s): Councillor Nick Draper, Cabinet Member for Community & Culture

Contact officer: Christine Parsloe, Leisure & Culture Development Manager

Recommendations:

- A. That Council consider the content of the report.
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Council at its meeting on 4th March 2015 approved the Business Plan 2015-2019.
- 1.2 The Business Plan represents the way in which the council will deliver the Community Plan, which is grouped into four Thematic Partnerships (Children's Trust, Health & Well Being Board, Sustainable Communities & Transport and Safer & Stronger Communities). Performance against these themes, plus an additional theme of Corporate Capacity, is monitored by Council.
- 1.3 Each meeting of Council will receive a report updating on progress against one of these strategic themes. This report provides Council with an opportunity to consider progress against the priorities that are to be delivered under the Sustainable Communities theme with an emphasis on Leisure & Sport.
- 1.4 This report seeks to highlight how the provision of Leisure & Sport in Merton fits in with national, regional and local strategies and how the outcomes and benefits gained by Merton's local residents by taking part in physical activity and recreational pursuits can be far reaching and cut across the other thematic partnerships.
- 1.5 This report does not seek to cover all of leisure and sports services provided within the borough, but rather focus on those recent activities, initiatives and programmes delivered through leisure and culture development services that relate to the wider Community Plan.
- 1.6 The last time Full Council received a report under the Sustainable Communities theme relating to leisure and sport was in February 2011 with a report about Sustainable Communities – Culture & Sport. Council also received some updates on the Council's work on leisure, sport and physical activity as part of the reports on London 2012 – Olympic & Paralympic Games.
- 1.7 The key portfolio holder is the Councillor Nick Draper, Cabinet Member for Community & Culture.

- 1.8 The Business Plan 2014 -18 can be viewed at www.merton.gov.uk/businessplan (2015-19 report is not yet available on line, but will appear at the same link in the near future).

2 DETAILS

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 The vision for the Sustainable Communities strategic theme is:

“Our ambition is to promote and support the local economy through the challenge of the current economic downturn, building resilience and stability and at the same time looking for opportunities to prepare for future recovery. We have a role to play in supporting local businesses and encourage entrepreneurs through working with partners to manage town centres, address skills needs, and build on and develop sectors with particular strengths for the future. Our residents will benefit from a cleaner and more attractive physical environment and improved access to good quality housing, leisure and transport facilities and learning and employment opportunities. We have a key strategic role to ‘place shape’ to achieve environmental and economic improvement by the creative use of powers and influence to promote the general well-being of communities and their citizens.”¹

- 2.1.2 The Business Plan objectives for the Sustainable Communities strategic theme are:

- Work to support economic growth, by increasing jobs and skills
- Work to increase the supply of housing
- Work towards carbon reduction
- Work to increase investment
- Work to improve sustainable transport provision

- 2.1.3 Performance against key indicators is included in the Environment & Regeneration dashboards. The link to the latest performance is <http://www.merton.gov.uk/perfmanagement.htm>

- 2.1.4 The Sustainable Communities strategic theme is all about building resilience and stability as well as enhancing the quality of life for local people. Cultural services, including leisure & sport, are a key contributor to providing and enhancing the quality of life for local people through ensuring sufficient and appropriate leisure and sports facilities exist that meet the needs of local people and that cultural, leisure and sports activities, events and programmes are in place to provide opportunities for local people to engage with and benefit from. It is also important that these leisure and sports opportunities also deliver on wider social, public health, educational, economic and environmental agendas thus maximising the benefits gained in the best interests of local people in our community.

- 2.1.5 The cross-cutting nature of Culture and Sport is recognised in the refreshed Community Plan, 2013 and is reflected in the recently published Culture & Sport Framework, 2014 (http://www.merton.gov.uk/leisure/arts/culture_and_sports_framework.htm) and the public health agenda as reflected in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

- 2.1.6 Merton’s Culture & Sport Framework, 2014, details how Culture and Sports services deliver and contribute to Merton’s priorities and wider social outcomes; in particular, programmes to improve health and wellbeing; learning, skills and

employability, economic resilience, positive behaviour and community cohesion. Furthermore, Culture and Sports services have the ability to develop innovative programmes to deliver against a range of outcomes and are an effective tool in promoting and facilitating behaviour change and empowering people, leading to improved life chances. Culture and Sports services provide a uniquely positive and impactful offer on some of the biggest issues local areas are dealing with, such as improving health and wellbeing and supporting vulnerable people, which means that cultural and sports services can also help to reduce public expenditure in the longer term.

2.1.7 Merton's Culture and Sports services currently contribute to Merton's priority outcomes in four key areas and these are the main themes of the framework:

- Improving Learning, Skills and Employability
- Improving Wellbeing
- Improving Cultural Facilities and Community Engagement
- Increasing Physical Activity

2.1.8 The national Government body for Sport, Sport England, current strategy, 2012-2017, seeks to have transformed sports participation by 2017, so that it becomes a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. They are seeking to achieve a year on year increase in the proportion of people who play sport once a week for at least 30 minutes. In particular they focus on raising the percentage of 14-25 year olds playing sport once a week as well as reducing the proportion dropping out of sport. This strategy will:

- See more people taking on and keeping a sporting habit for life
- Create more opportunities for young people
- Nurture and develop talent
- Provide the right facilities in the right places
- Support local authorities and unlock local funding
- Ensure real opportunities for communities.

2.1.9 There is no specific statutory duty on local authorities to provide leisure and sport in their locality; however, schools do have duties in relation to provision of sport and physical activity within and outside of the curriculum. It is recognised that the provision and co-ordination of such services can assist the council in meeting other duties with regards to employment, education, public health and well-being, community cohesion and building safer and stronger communities. The Council does have a legal duty in the manner that it operates the Wimbledon Park Watersports Centre as this facility falls under the Outdoor Adventure & Licensing Act 2004 which requires it to undergo an assessment and licensing process every two years. This has just been completed (June 2015) with a successful outcome and a licence awarded for the next two years of operation.

2.1.10 The Council works with key partners nationally, regionally, sub-regionally and locally to maximise the sports and leisure offer locally. In particular key partners include the Department of Culture, Media & Sport, Sport England, Greater London Authority, Chief Leisure Officers Association (CLOA), London Marathon Trust, London and Surrey Cycling Partnership, London Parks and the recently formed London Sport as well as National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGB's). Locally we partner with the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC), The Wimbledon Club, Tooting & Mitcham United, St. Marks Academy, Schools in Merton and beyond, Wandle Valley Trust, Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL),

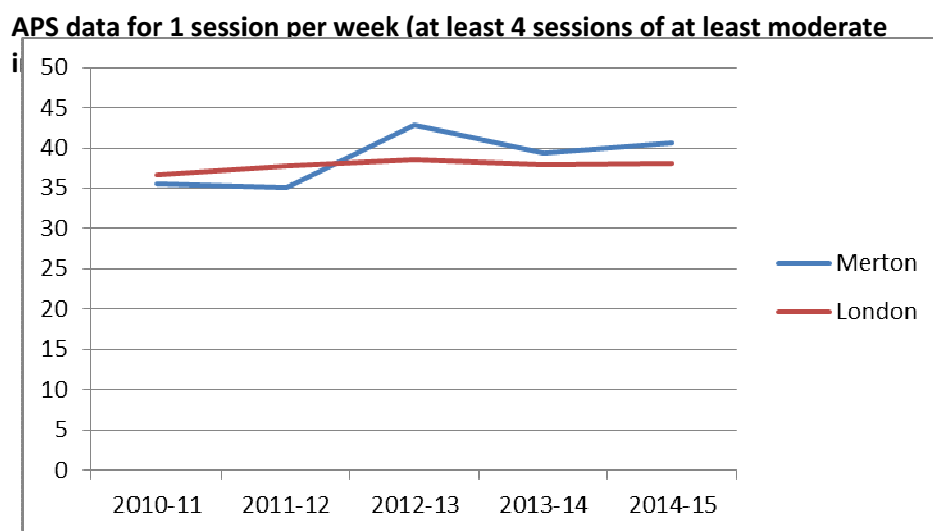
School Sports Partnership, YMCA, Sports Clubs, local organisations, community, businesses and friends groups.

2.1.11 Across Merton, leisure and sport activities and events will also be provided by others including in schools, to meet both curriculum and social requirements for our young people, and through public health interventions, addressing such matters as reducing obesity, improving people’s fitness, health and well-being, etc. or through activities and programmes in care centres, community centres or indeed taking place in our parks and open spaces, libraries and leisure centres. Merton’s Culture and Sport Framework will be able to assist all to make best use of culture and sport interventions and activities to both benefit the users of the services whilst also achieving the council’s strategic outputs and outcomes.

2.2 Performance relating to Sustainable Communities with an emphasis on Leisure and Sport

2.2.1 The primary measure for sport and leisure is determined through the Active People Survey delivered through Sport England. This survey has been in operation since 2005/06 and concerns itself with the adult population. (Note: The age range and parameters of particular interest have changed over the life of the implementation of this survey). Currently Government are particularly interested in participation in Sport & Physical Activity for an average period of 1 x 30mins per week. The Merton results for this are:

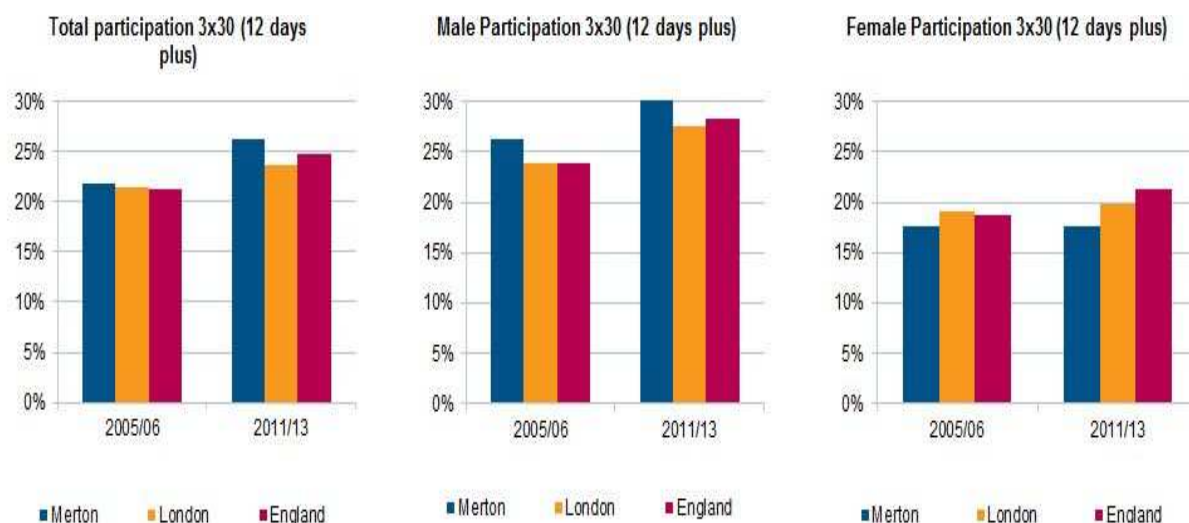
2.2.2 Table 1- Active People Survey – Adult Participation in 1 x 30mins moderate intensity sport.



	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Merton	35.6	35.1	42.9	39.4	40.7
London	36.6	37.8	38.5	38	38.1

2.2.3 Previously, the measure was 3 x 30 mins of sport and physical activity and the results for this measure are:

Table 2 - Active People Survey – Adult Participation in 3 x 30mins moderate intensity sport.



2.2.4 Participation levels for adults in Merton are higher than the London and England figures overall, with the male population showing a significant increase in participation, whilst female participation is slightly lower for Merton when compared to London and England.

2.2.5 Merton’s Annual Resident Survey identifies an area for concern whereby resident satisfaction with leisure and sports has decreased by a noticeable 7% on the previous year and was also 4% and 3% lower than the previous two years; however satisfaction among users of leisure is at an all-time high of 63%.

Table 3 – Annual Resident Survey Results

Service Delivery (perceived good-excellent)			Young people Survey Perceived Service delivery Leisure activity (good to excellent)	
Leisure & Sports facilities	All	Users		
2014-15	44%	63%	2014-15	61%
2013-14	51%	63%	2013-14	63%
2012-13	48%	62%	2012-13	72%
2011-12	47%	61%	2011-12	60%

2.2.6 London Sport has also set a target in their recent strategy to have 1,000,000 people in London more physically active by 2020. The table below shows Merton data.

Table 4 – Active People Survey – Active & Inactive Adults

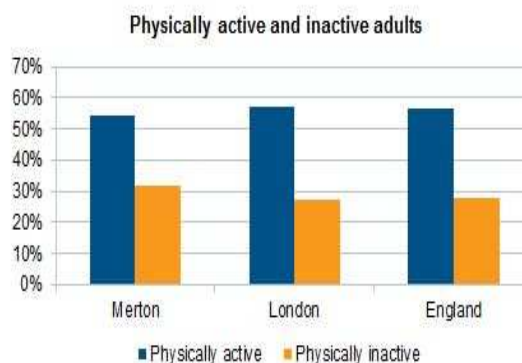
Physically active and inactive adults

Geography	Physically active		Physically inactive	
	No. (000s)	Rate	No. (000s)	Rate
Merton	92.2	54.4%	53.5	31.6%
London	3,652.5	57.3%	1,743.8	27.3%
England	24,101.1	56.6%	11,854.5	27.9%

Source: Public Health England - Public Health Outcomes Framework. Population figures: Annual Population Survey 2012

Year: 2012/13. Measure: Number of adults (16+) doing at least 150 minutes of at least moderate intensity physical activity per week, and number doing less than 30 minutes per week.

[For more information click here](#)



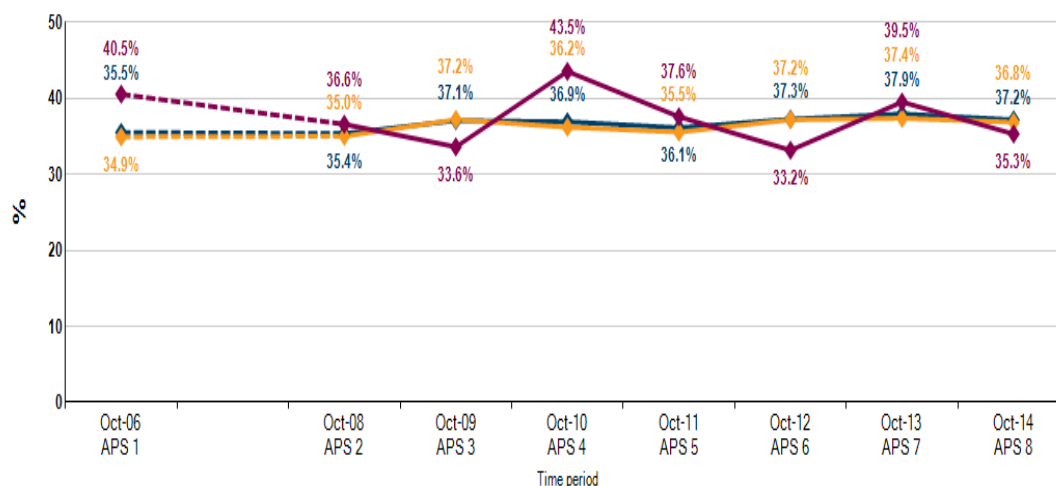
2.2.7 The Active People Survey generates lots of data and information regarding physical activity and the adult population of Merton and we use this along with other data and local knowledge to develop work programmes to address deficient areas. One such area that has arisen in the results is that:

People from black or minority ethnic groups in Merton participating in at least one 30 minute session of sport per week have fallen by 4.2% to 35.3%. This is the boroughs lowest result since October 2013.

Table 5 – Active People Survey – Ethnic Minority Participation in 1 x 30 mins moderate intensity sport

Black and minority ethnic groups

Purple = Merton; Orange = London; Blue = England



Geography	2005/06 – APS1	2012/13 – APS7	2013/14 – APS8
Merton	40.5%	39.5%	35.3%
London	34.9%	37.4%	36.8%
England	35.5%	37.9%	37.2%

This deficiency is being addressed in part by the delivery of a 3 year Sports Blast project in the east of the borough and detailed later in this report.

2.2.8 The Leisure & Culture Development Team are part of the Sustainable Communities division and as such have a number of performance measures to achieve as detailed within the team's annual service plan; some of these are also reported through the monthly council's dashboard. Those with a direct relationship to the provision of sport & leisure are:

Table 6 – Leisure & Culture Development – Sports & Leisure Indicators

Indicator	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16 Targets	2015/16*
SP015 Income (£) Merton Active Plus	£42,229	£47,852	£55,000	£13,422
SP251 Income (£) Watersports Centre	£321,101	£346,897	£377,000	£31,375
SP314 External funding (£)	£96,100	£335,202	£100,000	£74,356
SP325 Annual Residents Survey (rating services good- excellent)	51%	44%	45%	N/A
Annual Resident Survey Satisfaction of users of leisure centres	63%	63%	N/A	N/A
SP349 14-25 year old users of leisure centres	98,093	100,891	103,000	18,842
SP405 – Total users of leisure centres	784,591	824,433	832,677	133,607

*2015/16 figures as at end of May 2015.

2.2.9 The targets for 2015/16 is a 30% increase in income for Merton Active Plus and a 17% increase in income for the Watersports Centre over the income achieved in 2013/14. The participation at our leisure centres shows requires an increase of 5% for 14 -25 year olds and 6% for all users in 2015/16 over the participation levels achieved in 2013/14.

2.3 Commentary and key achievements relating to Sustainable Communities with an emphasis on Sports and Leisure

2.3.1 Since the Council reviewed this service area last in 2011 the Leisure & Culture Development Team have lead on the successful delivery of the London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games and reported on Merton's successes in that provision under separate reports to Council. Following this the Leisure &

Culture Development Manager was awarded the national Guardian “Public Servant of the Year Award 2013” for her exemplar work on this and other services she delivered for Merton and beyond during 2012.

2.3.2 Officers from the Leisure & Culture Development & Greenspaces Teams have been recognised by the Council for their work in recent annual Employee Awards, with the following achievements:

- Emma Boyd, Leisure Development Officer, E&R Winner – Employee of the Year, 2014
- Charlotte Simm, Parks Community Manager, E&R Highly Commended, Employee of the Year, 2014
- Greenspaces Team – E&R Team of the Year, 2013
- Christine Parsloe, Leisure & Culture Development Manager - Overall Outstanding Employee of the Year, 2012
- Charlotte Simm, Parks Community Manager, E & R Winner - Employee of the Year, 2011

2.3.3 The Wimbledon Park Watersports Centre has recently renewed its licence under the Outdoor Adventure and Licensing Act, as well as being accredited for

- Royal Yachting Association
- Adventure Mark
- Council for Learning Outside the Classroom
- Currently seeking recognition by the Skills Funding Agency for direct funding for local NEETS
- Currently in process of gaining Ofsted recognition

2.3.4 Five of Merton’s Parks & Greenspaces continue to gain Green Flag accreditation for their high standards:

- Colliers Wood Recreation Ground
- Dundonald
- John Innes
- Sir Joseph Hood
- South Park Gardens

2.3.5 Merton’s Culture & Sport Framework has been of interest to other public and voluntary sector bodies, such that Merton was invited to present it at the Houses of Parliament as part of a synopsis of presentations on strategic plans and thinking on Cultural services, in addition we have presented it a number of other regional conferences.

2.3.6 External funding and inward investment is an ongoing target for the Leisure & Culture Development Team. In recent years the team has managed to successfully bid for external funding towards the sports and leisure facilities and services for Merton as well as advise other Merton partners on their funding bids. Those that benefit sport and leisure and meet the Sustainable Communities vision for a more attractive physical environment include:

Table 7 – Leisure & Culture Development – External Funding

FUNDING LOG			
YEAR	SOURCE	AMOUNT	PROJECT
2011	Mayors Legacy Fund – Play Sport	£47,800	BMX track, Mitcham

2011	St Marks	£ 50,000	BMX track, Mitcham
2011	Section 106	£ 55,000	BMX track, Mitcham
2011	GLA	£ 700,000	Olympic funding
2011	GLA	£ 50,000	Look and feel funding, Olympics
2012	London Marathon Charitable Trust	£ 60,000	BMX track, Mitcham
2012	Private contribution	£ 200	Queens Diamond Jubilee, Mitcham
2012	Sport England	£ 95,000	Canons Multi-Use Games Area, Mitcham
2012	London Marathon Charitable Trust	£ 80,000	Canons Multi-Use Games Area, Mitcham
2012	S106	£ 40,000	Canons Multi-Use Games Area, Mitcham
2012	Balfour Beatty	£ 2,000	London Youth Games grant
2013	Public Health	£ 25,000	Canons Multi-Use Games Area, Mitcham
2013	Mayors Participation Fund	£ 10,000	BMX track, Mitcham
2014	Sport England	£ 75,000	St Marks tennis courts, Mitcham
2014	London Marathon Charitable Trust	£ 35,000	St Marks tennis courts, Mitcham
2014	S106	£ 52,000	St Marks tennis courts, Mitcham
2014 - 17	Sport England	£ 120,000	Community Sport Activation fund – Sports Blast – Mitcham, Morden & Colliers Wood
2014 - 16	Circle Housing	£ 90,000	Contribution to Sports Blast
Total external funding since 2011		£1,587,000	

2.3.7 A legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games was two new beach volleyball courts for Wimbledon Park using sand and equipment from the Olympic beach volleyball competition venues. This is frequently used by local residents and the home for Wimbledon Volleyball Club, as well as being developed for Beach Tennis in conjunction with the LTA.

2.3.8 We have also installed a regional standard floodlit BMX track in partnership with, and on land belonging to, St. Mark's Academy in Mitcham. The full detail of the ongoing sporting legacy that this is generating is contained later within this report. Following this development we sought out further external funding to improve other sports facilities on the St. Mark's Academy site developing the partnership approach we have with them and seeking to develop more

community use opportunities in that location. This is aligned to, and ahead of, the latest Sport England strategic direction of trying to open up more schools for community sports and leisure.

- 2.3.9 A further legacy from the London 2012 Inspired Facilities fund from Sport England as well as public health and London Marathon Trust funding, has assisted with the development of two floodlit multi-use games areas (MUGAs) at the rear of Canons Leisure Centre in Mitcham. These now form part of the much improved facility mix at the leisure centre and is managed by our contractor Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL) as part of the recently negotiated contract change orders.
- 2.3.10 More medium to long term development of sports and leisure facilities are planned within the borough, whether that be improvements to the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) facilities in both Wimbledon and Raynes Park, the redevelopment of the Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium with the potential to return AFC Wimbledon to the borough or other projects directly developed and delivered local sports clubs and other leisure providers in the borough. All of which have the potential to increase the sports and leisure opportunities and benefits for local people.
- 2.3.11 Funding has been allocated to build a new family friendly leisure facility in Morden Park to replace the ageing Morden Park Pools.
- 2.3.12 Finally, Merton is embarking on a master planning exercise in relation to Wimbledon Park. In recent years there have been increasing demands on this the borough's most popular park, so much so that not all demands, needs and wishes can be accommodated in the way the council and local people might wish for. The project scope is in development and consultants will be appointed later this year with the whole master planning project expected to be complete in the autumn of 2016.

2.4 Sustainable Communities – Sports & Leisure – Operational Detail

2.4.1 Merton's Leisure Centres

- 2.4.1.1 Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) was awarded a 15 year contract to manage the three Merton owned leisure centres in December 2010. Since the award of the contract GLL have invested over £1 million in capital funding improving the leisure centres whilst Merton has met its contractual obligations with capital improvements costing circa £2 million. Recently the contract was varied to secure £120,000 of savings for the Council. This was possible through changes to the way in which utilities are provided and procured, pensions changes through auto-enrolment legislation and the addition of two flood-lit multi-use games areas.
- 2.4.1.2 GLL continue to invest in the facilities and are already in the processes of finalising the plans for improvements to the wet-side changing rooms at the Canons Leisure Centre in 2015, whilst Merton are in the process of installing Combined Heat and Power Systems into the plant rooms at Wimbledon and Canons Leisure Centres, as well as rolling out the final phase of LED lighting across these two centres. More recently Merton has replaced air handling units whilst GLL and the Council entered into a partnership agreement to refurbish the main pool, teaching pool and wet side areas at Wimbledon Leisure Centre. A new look and feel for GLL was brought into Wimbledon Leisure Centre and following the positive feedback and huge success from the point of Merton's users is now being rolled out across the GLL partnership. GLL have also

invested £360k over the past year improving the gym areas and upgrading the equipment at both Canons and Wimbledon.

2.4.1.3 GLL and Merton are rightly proud of their partnership working approach to this contract, whereby all parties seek to improve and develop the offers available, some of which include:

- Subsidised memberships for young people referred via the Looked After Children Team. Prizes for Foster Carers fortnight and other celebratory, charity and local authority key activities
- Discounted prices for staff memberships when they show their staff badge
- The development of the MUGA at Canons and a shared approach to capital improvements thus minimising the disruption to customers and the local area
- Development of a local weight-lifting club who have then represented Merton in the London Youth Games and gone on to compete in NGB competitions, etc. With a membership of 25 strong they have recently joined with Rutlish School for increased development of this sport.

2.4.1.4 GLL is required to undergo an external assessment every year with alternate years requiring different assessments. The two assessments are known as Quest – an independently operated industry Quality Assurance Scheme and the National Benchmarking Service (NBS) audit, which compares and scores how well or otherwise a facility, is performing when set against other similar facilities in the country (NB The latest NBS audit findings are still to be received). All three centres have scored highly in their recent assessments:

Table 8 – Leisure Centres - External Assessments

Centre	Category	Year	Result
Canons LC	Quest (Quality Standard)	2013	Good
Wimbledon	National Beauty Awards – Day Spa of the Year	2015	Finalist
Wimbledon LC	UKactive Flame Awards – Best Leisure Centre	2015	Stage 2
Wimbledon LC	Quest (Quality Standard)	2015	Excellent
Wimbledon LC	UKactive Flame Awards – Best Leisure Centre	2014	Stage 2
Wimbledon LC	Quest (Quality Standard)	2013	Excellent
Morden PP	Quest (Quality Standard)	2014	Good

2.4.1.5 GLL have been finalists in the industry Flame Awards for the last two years for the excellent operation and vastly improved facilities at Wimbledon Leisure Centre. This included the redevelopment of the old slipper bath area which had not been used since the 1980s, to transform it into a state of the art Spa and Wellness Centre achieving a National Beauty Awards Final in 2015.

2.4.1.6 GLL reports their performance in real time via a shared operational management portal and meet with the client team formally once a quarter, producing a quarterly report of their performance against the contract. As well

as this the Council has set GLL some challenging targets for the council's dashboard - to increase the number of 14-25 year olds using the facilities and more recently to increase the total number of users through the three centres. GLL ended the year on target with 100,891 users in the 14-25 year old age group against a target of 100,000 for the year. In 2015/16, GLL are also reporting against the total number of users across the facilities with a target for the year of 832,000. To date (May 15) attendance figures have grown 4% since the same time in the 2014 contract year based on their system's data.

2.4.2 Wimbledon Park – Watersports Centre

2.4.2.1 Wimbledon Park Watersports Centre has grasped the opportunity to become a more commercial centre by developing Merton Outdoor Education Centre to allow more specific professional development of adults in both the leisure industry and in Teacher training and CPD. They now offer outdoor education training to schools both at Wimbledon Park and within their own schools, as well as training teachers to gain specific outdoor education skills to enhance their curriculum delivery abilities.

2.4.2.2 Further to this the staffs have developed, in conjunction with the department for Children, Schools and Families, a new service to develop learners who would not necessarily achieve within academic settings and/or are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET. The Wimbledon Park Technical Marine College has attracted interest from education settings as it offers learning through alternative education. The centre has taken on its first apprentice who is working towards his instructor qualification. This will allow him to become employed within the industry. In a recent progression meeting he quoted:

“... this has been a strange but exciting move from main stream college. I could not stand being in a class room all day. Being outside learning how to teach people is great I wish I found the opportunity sooner.”

2.4.2.3 The centre is now able to offer the Btec Sailing and Watersports level 2 and 3 qualifications, which will become the Marine Studies qualification in September 2016. This new direction is supported by the Ministry of Shipping as a stepping stone to careers in the whole Maritime industry. Staff at the centre have been asked to assist in developing the new syllabus, which highlights the standards and creativity of the work being developed by the Merton staff. The Marine College is being operated out of what was previously a Women's only Gym. The outdated equipment and the development of new gyms in the area drove down members to unsustainable levels. This allowed the centre to close one facility down and to re-generate the room into a sustainable facility with media screens and meeting facilities.

2.4.2.4 The Watersports and Outdoor Centre at Wimbledon Park also sub-contract out its instructors to other Boroughs, allowing them to offer outdoor education to their residents. This activity has increased by 27% year on year over the 3 years we have been contracted and generates additional income for the centre.

2.4.2.5 In line with the Leisure & Culture Development Team's transformation plans (TOM) the centre has identified gaps in the adult professional market for providing professional qualifications to those who want to be a Thames Boatman, Yacht Skippers, Crew and Cruise Liner staff, etc., all who require specific qualifications to be able to work professionally at sea. The centre is believed to be just one of 2 establishments in London able to offer this service. This addition to our product range has been embraced under the Wimbledon

Park Marine Technical College remit and evidences the continuous improvement and diversification into more commercial activities as identified and expanded upon within the Team's TOM.

2.4.2.6 The introduction of Multi Media and Micro Marketing has increased online courses we offer. The centre predicts the growth in this area to continue. This year to date (End May 2015) the centre has already recorded increased numbers of completed courses from 946 in 2014 to 1110 over the same period in 2015.

2.4.2.7 The increase in demand has also provided pressure on the training of instructors to allow the expansion of the business. To assist in this development, the centre has developed a volunteering scheme whereby young people volunteer for us during their school holidays. Once they have completed 4 weeks on the job volunteering they are offered an assistant instructor course. On successful completion of the course we are then in a position to offer them work, which in turn allows us to offer more courses to the public, schools and contractors.

2.4.3 Sports Blast

2.4.3.1 This Sports Blast programme takes place across 9 of Merton's most disadvantaged wards in the east of the borough. The project is delivered through two strands: The Urban Hub, delivering an "all year round" inclusive physical activities and wellbeing programme in 8 housing estates, while the Family Hub, located in the Figges Marsh, Longthornton wards area, delivers a variety of family orientated sports and physical activities.

2.4.3.2 The project has been put together by our key partners – Tooting & Mitcham United, LTA, Fulham Football Foundation, St Marks Academy, Merton Saints BMX Club, England Netball, YMCA, Circle Housing, MOAT and London Sport and by using Merton's Culture & Sport Framework we have successfully secured £120,000 of external funding from Sport England to increase participation in sport and active recreation, making more inactives – active, particularly in the 14-25 year old age range.

2.4.3.3 The project has just completed its first year of a 3 year programme, seeking to achieve local outcomes in:

- Improving learning, skills and employability
- Improving Wellbeing
- Improving cultural facilities
- Improving community engagement
- Increasing Physical Activity.

2.4.3.4 As part of the project, local participants will be recruited and given full support and training to obtain coaching qualifications, so they can eventually lead the project and make it sustainable.

2.4.3.5 Funding over the life of the project is: £236,640.00 in cash, with a further £44,700 received in-kind, making a total of £281,340 for the three years.

2.4.3.6 The project has met its year one target of 1165 new users.

2.4.3.7 Sports Blast is going some way towards increasing the participation and wellbeing targets with those in ethnic minority groups, who according to the Active People survey are decreasing in their engagement in sport and physical activity in Merton.

2.4.4 Merton Active Plus

2.4.4.1 Merton Active Plus is the product whereby leisure development creates, coordinates and offers holiday courses for children and young people, primarily aged 8-16 years. In doing this they are seeking to encourage engagement in healthy living and lifestyle changes through increased involvement and participation in sports, arts, cultural and physical activities and events.

2.4.4.2 The Development Officer works with partners to provide activities and events that not only provide coaching and learning experiences, but also increase participation and let our young people have fun. The programmes make use of local facilities and they seek out both innovative and traditional programmes available in the borough and beyond for our youngsters. New partners for 2015 include Be Creative and Dundonald Development Football

2.4.4.3 All courses, activities and events are done through the online booking and payment system which is in line with the Leisure & Culture Development Team's TOM plans seeking to modernise service provision, improving ease of access and use for our customers, whilst generating efficiencies within our day to day operations.

2.4.4.4 This service falls into the commercial part of the team's business as detailed in the team's TOM and service plan and as such it has increasing income targets year on year and a direction of travel that will encourage participants from outside the borough to use and benefit from our services thus adding to our income levels.

2.4.4.5 In support of this commercialisation agenda officers are increasingly using social media and online tools such as Mailchimp, websites, Facebook, twitter, etc. to meet customer needs as well as constantly researching and marketing with our customers and residents to provide what they want.

2.4.4.6 This programme works across the themes of Merton's Culture & Sport Framework particularly contributing to the Children & Young People's Plan in areas such as:

- Increase the proportion of people achieving a healthy weight and participating at the recommended levels of physical fitness.
- Promote positive contribution of children and young people
- Increase the cultural offer for young people
- Develop (where appropriate) user friendly feedback systems for customers to use as part of online bookings

2.4.4.7 Table 9 – Income from Merton Active Plus

2013/14	2014/15	2015/16*	2016/17*	% Increase Target 2016/17 on 2013/14 actual
£ 42,229	£ 47,854	£ 55,000	£ 60,000	42%

* Targets for these years.

In years where the income target was not quite achieved the expenditure was contained to ensure that the project budget returned a correct net position.

2.4.5 Leisure Services - Online Booking & Payment System

2.4.5.1 The Leisure & Culture Development Team have been rolling out an online booking and payment system as part of the transformation plans (TOM) for both

their own services and some provided for within the Greenspaces Team. Initially the Merton Active Plus and Sports Pitch Bookings were rolled out and these were followed by further developments to do online event ticketing and watersports activities and events. This system will be replaced as part of the council wide Customer Contact Programme.

2.4.5.2 The system has been a big success, when a payment is made the income is collected directly through the council's payment system, Civica, and thus the income is immediately accounted for correctly in the general ledger. This has improved our income collection, reduced bad debts and made back offices efficiencies freeing up staff time to carry out other duties generating more business and developing more products.

2.4.5.3 Examples of the products added to the online booking and payment system include advance tickets for Fireworks and Tennis Car Parking as well as the staff tennis ticket draw.

- Fireworks Displays – The Leisure & Culture Development Team delivered pre-purchasing of tickets and payments online which then ensured that those with advance tickets could get faster direct access into the event, easing crowd control and improving public health and safety. They also significantly improved the cash handling processes on the sites as well as reducing the need to collect the cash that had already been taken online. It is noted that all expectations of advance sales on this event were exceeded for this first year of operation.

Table 10 – Firework Ticket Sales

	Online Pre Paid	Manual	Total
Net Sales	£42,712.50	£114,301.67	£157,014.17
Percentage	27% *	73%	100%

* 2,562 transactions

- Wimbledon Tennis Championship – Car Park 10 – Following the success of the Fireworks Tickets sold on line the system has been set up to offer advance booking and pre-purchasing of car parking spaces in Wimbledon Park – Car Park 10 for the Wimbledon Tennis Championships. Bookings have come from as far away as Australia, evidencing how we are able to transform our services not only for our local people but for tennis fans from around the world.

2.4.6 BMX Track

2.4.6.1 Merton BMX Track, Mitcham, opened in 2013 following successful funding bids from London Marathon Trust, Mayors Legacy Fund, St Marks Academy and LB Merton Section106 Funding.

Table 11 – BMX Track - Project Funders

London Marathon Charitable trust	£ 60,000	74.2%
PlaySport London – Mayors Legacy Fund	£ 47,800	
St Mark's Academy School	£ 50,000	
London Borough of Merton	£ 55,000	25.8%
Total	£ 212,800	

2.4.6.2 The track is Regional standard which allows high profile BMX events to be held, all top UK riders must compete and win in a regional event in order to take part in the National Event and then the World series.

2.4.6.3 Since opening the track 20 primary schools and 3 secondary schools have benefited from the use of the track. St Marks, Lonesome and Harris Morden all have after school clubs running from the track each week. Melrose and the Smart Centre are also at the track weekly with their pupils. Eagle House School Mitcham are also attending weekly in the spring term as an alternative class for selected pupils.

2.4.6.4 Out of borough schools have booked coaching at the track. Two Cycle clubs have a regular event at the track Sutton CC and Big Foot Cycle club, both road cycle clubs offer the BMX as an alternative to their riders annually.

2.4.6.5 The track is open most days for community use and each School break activities are run for LB Merton Active Plus holiday programme. We have seen over 500 riders join in an activity since the track opened during the school holidays. The activities are low cost at just £2.50 or £5 for two hours. Other community sessions include the Sports Blast programme where we have exceeded our target of 50 new 14-25 year olds visiting the track from July 2014 to date; the sessions are grant funded and thus free to any eligible user.

2.4.6.6 Social media is used for the BMX Track population and since starting we have seen 3809 “likes” to our Facebook page; this is a high number in a very short time.

2.4.6.7 Quotes from users

“Hi, yes we did come along and both our kids had an awesome time thank you so much!! We will be back very soon.”

“The boys had a ball! I've had lots of nice messages to say how much they enjoyed it.”

2.4.6.8 A new BMX club was formed in 2013, Merton Saints BMX Club the committee of 7 (all volunteers) were quickly recruited and club sessions started each Saturday morning with numbers increasing rapidly they now boast around 100 members including children and Adults. The club has 6 Voluntary Club Coaches and 2 youth coaches. The club has its own identity and races in competition on a regular basis also hosting events at the Merton Track.

- BMX Regional race 2013-15
- London Youth Games BMX Event 2014
- London Series Track event 2014/15

2.4.6.9 Merton enter the London Youth Games event annually with the support of Merton Saints BMX Club this year's competition has just completed and Merton were in the top ten which is a great result for a fledgling club.

2.4.6.10 The project is now moving into its final development stage with a transfer of operation to the Merton Saints BMX Club. A phased hand over has commenced.

2.4.7 St. Mark's Academy

2.4.7.1 The Leisure & Culture Development Team have been working with St. Mark's Academy for a number of years, developing and improving the sports and

leisure facilities as well as introducing community activities and programmes for the local community and schools benefit. Developments have included the installation of the floodlit BMX track, the development of the Merton Saints BMX Club, the redevelopment and upgrading of the tennis courts for netball and tennis with LED floodlighting for all year round use and the introduction of the Sports Blast programme.

2.4.7.2 Sports Blast partners now provide fitness, tennis, BMX and netball sessions

2.4.7.3 Quotes from users:

“We had a great night. It was kicking”

“Absolutely wonderful, motivational, active, positive, fun with pain and gain... I thank you for working my butt so hard.”

2.4.8 Netball & Tennis Development Initiatives

2.4.8.1 Partnership working with England Netball since late 2014 has resulted in 5 new weekly Netball sessions running in Merton for women over 16 years of age. This will improve the results for female participation in 1x30 minutes of exercise per week. This is an area where Merton performance has fallen by 6.3% to 30.5%, slightly below the London average.

2.4.8.2 Over one hundred women have attended to date and the first team has now entered into a league. A recent Guardian article quoted:

http://www.wimbledonguardian.co.uk/yoursay/news/12923947.Over_100_women_get_Back_to_netball_in_Wimbledon/

2.4.8.3 Some of the reactions from these sessions include:

“Back to Netball has made a big impact on my life, from not playing for 20 years, I now play twice a week and have a wonderful new set of friends.”

“It is an excellent and affordable way of keeping fit and meeting new people. I really enjoyed it and recommend it to lots of my friends.”

2.4.8.4 Links with AELTC continue as does the work of their Wimbledon Junior Tennis Initiative. WJTI tennis coaches visit one school a week and deliver a day of Tennis for pupils and working with the teachers to help them to continue to deliver tennis in their schools. The WJTI also offers some talented pupils free coaching sessions in Wimbledon.

2.4.8.5 The Tennis Blast, two days of community tennis will take place again for 2015 at Wimbledon Park on 3rd & 4th July. Ten schools including Perseid will receive tennis coaching on the Friday, whilst the Saturday will be an open tennis fun day for all the community with an expectation of circa 300 young people attending. This event is delivered in partnership with the AELTC and the LTA.

2.4.8.6 In 2014, the Tennis Blast also provided the ideal event for Merton to award Freedom of the Borough to former Wimbledon Tennis Championships Singles Winners. Virginia Wade (Winner, 1977), Ann Haydon-Jones (Winner, 1969) and Angela Mortimer (nee Barrett) (Winner, 1961) all received their awards from the Mayor of Merton, Councillor Agatha Akyigyina accompanied by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Alambritis and Chief Executive, Ged Curran. Prior to this event, the Mayor and Leader met Andy Murray (Winner 2012) at the All England Club to also bestow on him the Freedom of the Borough. The Leisure & Culture Development Team ensured that all the planning, approvals and delivery of this event was carried out in an exemplary manner.

2.4.8.7 Links with the LTA has resulted in a Social tennis session starting at Wimbledon Park – Tennis Tuesdays. Just three weeks into the scheme and 8-10 people have taken part in an informal tennis session on a weekly basis. These are male and females residents who had previously not been part of a group, community or club. The LTA are also a partner in the Sports Blast programme delivering family tennis on the newly refurbished courts at St. Mark's Academy.

2.4.9 Community Events & Activities

2.4.9.1 Every year Merton enters teams in the London Youth Games. The following year's competition commences almost as soon as the last one finishes, with competitions spread throughout the year, but with the bulk in the summer months and the grand finals in July each year. In 2014 Merton entered 33 sports with over 400 young people. The highest placing was 5th place which was achieved by teams for BMX, angling and female football. Our overall placing was 28th with 777 points.

2.4.9.2 All of our team managers and coaches are volunteers. We have a small budget of £11,000, which includes the £7,400 entry fee. The remainder covers Merton team 'T' shirts, travel and some sports specific sundry items that are required.

2.4.9.3 Merton also sends a representative team to take part in the annual London Mini Marathon. The event is open to 11-18 year olds, who live or attend an educational establishment within the borough. The children are split into age groups as well as boys and girls to provide 6 smaller teams of 8 each team for the category races. We recruit an additional dozen volunteers to help on the day and the whole group of some 60-70 people travel up to the start by tube.

2.4.9.4 Participation in these events contributes to the council's strategic outcomes of:

- Promote the positive contribution of children and young people
- Meet the wider needs of children and young people
- Improved skill and attainment

2.4.9.5 Community Sport & Physical Activity Network (CSPAN) – Merton operates a local CSPAN at two levels. For those local people employed locally in the delivery of community sport for the people of Merton we host a regular termly forum to exchange knowledge, ideas and plans with regard to sport and physical activity in the borough. It is through this group that the Sports Blast programme was developed and the successful bid written. It is some of these partners that are also delivery partners for the Sports Blast programme.

2.4.9.6 Representatives on this partnership include Merton School Sports Partnership, YMCA, GLL, Tooting & Mitcham United, Fulham FC, AFC Wimbledon, The Wimbledon Club, Wimbledon Squash & Badminton Club, Surrey County Cricket, LTA, England Netball, Public Health, London Sport, etc.

2.4.9.7 The other level is where the engagement with community sports clubs, volunteers and other organisations and individuals with an interest in sport and physical activity takes place. This is done through two public meetings a year at which there is always an update on activities in the borough as well as funding updates and advice on accessing external funding. There is also a chance for participants to share information and network.

2.4.9.8 One of the funding pots that our local sports providers regularly bid to is the small grants Sportivate Fund operated by London Sport and is aimed at increasing participation by 14-25 year olds. The Leisure & Culture Development

Team support groups to access this funding and the main CSPAN reviews all applications and prioritises them to best meet local needs.

Table 12 – Sportivate Funding

	Funding Received	Completed Participants
2012 -13	£ 22,980.00	1,199
2013 - 14	£ 22,719.37	940
2014 -15	£ 26,753.00	935

2.4.9.9 There are many partners with whom we work, both within the council and across the borough. Without these people and organisations the breadth and depth of the sports, leisure and physical activity benefits to our residents and schoolchildren would not be possible. The Leisure & Culture Development Team co-ordinate, guide and work in partnership to facilitate, empower and deliver with these services.

2.4.10 External Funding / Facility Developments

2.4.10.1 Recent external success has seen awards for development of a Floodlit Multi-Use Games Area at Canons Leisure Centre. Funding from London Marathon Charitable Trust - £80,000; Sport England - £95,000; Public Health - £25,000 and S106 - £40,000. This funding has enabled us to build on a previously derelict tennis court area and construct a high quality facility. The £25k Public Health investment has secured some free court use for local primary schools for 3 years

2.4.10.2 In addition in 2014, we were successful in bids to Sport England - £75,000; to London Marathon Charitable Trust - £35,000 and to S106 - £52,000 for refurbishment of tennis courts and installation of LED floodlights at St Marks Academy. This funding has enabled us to refurbish the courts to LTA standards and ensure courts are open to the public outside of school hours. The LED lights are amongst the first in the country to be installed on tennis courts.

2.4.10.3 The Heritage Lottery Funded project at South Park Gardens was completed in February 2015 and although it was not a specific Leisure and Sport initiative, it has an indirect benefit to the Leisure and Culture Development work stream in that the improved building and facility has enabled new and existing groups to carry out a diverse range of leisure and fitness activities.

2.4.10.4 There are further plans to develop The Canons as part of a major £4 million Heritage Lottery Fund bid which is currently being developed through Stage 2 of the bid process. The impact of this on leisure and sport in the area will be through consultation with local partners such as GLL, who manage the leisure centre in the bid area.

2.4.10.5 All of this work and the continuing drive to refurbish, upgrade and develop new sports and leisure facilities in the borough is aligned to the boroughs strategic vision of 'Bridging the Gap' across the east – west divide as well as meeting the Sustainable Communities Thematic Vision with improved physical environments and access to leisure opportunities. It also meets the service outcome in the Cultural & Sport Framework whereby development of cultural activities in the east of the borough leads to a service outcome of opportunities more accessible to all, a strategic outcome of sustainable growth and benefits of improved image and identity.

2.4.11 Morden Leisure Centre

2.4.11.1 The work to replace Morden Park Pools with a new Family Friendly Morden Leisure Centre in Morden Park is well underway. Various land and site surveys have been undertaken and key consultants have been appointed. Cabinet have agreed the preferred location and the core components for the scope of the facility.

2.4.11.2 This is a very exciting project which will see a new leisure centre built and open by early 2018. Alongside this work, we are working with the local Morden Park Playing Field Community Trust (MPPFCT) to ensure that plans they have for sports & leisure developments within Morden Park can be jointly planned and developed for mutual advantage.

2.4.11.3 The next steps include appointment of the technical team, production of the concept designs for consultation and approvals, tendering for the main contractor and progress to a planning application by the year end.

2.4.11.4 Regular updates on the progress of this can be found at:
<http://www.merton.gov.uk/leisureformorden>

2.4.12 Wimbledon Park Masterplan

2.4.12.1 The early development of the project scope is underway and discussions have already been held with The Wimbledon Club regarding their proposals for the park. We will shortly be going out to tender to procure a specialist master planning company to assist us with this work and will then undertake further discussions with key stakeholders as the process gets underway. Surveys and site investigations will follow and early in the New Year some emerging proposals will be available for wider discussion and public consultation.

2.5 Reports of Overview and Scrutiny Commission/Panels

2.5.1 The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel, as part of its 2014/15 work programme, has scrutinised the project plan for the development of the new Morden Leisure Centre site. The Panel have continued to receive updates on the delivery of the project and will continue to oversee the delivery of this development as part of its 2015/16 work programme.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1 Not applicable – this report is for information only.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1 Consultation and feedback on our service provision is undertaken at every possible opportunity and where it adds value to the service provision. On major pieces of work that we deliver such as the Morden Leisure Centre and Wimbledon Park Masterplan there will be ongoing discussions, consultation and partnership working. These dates and details will be published as they become available and updates will be provided at Community Forums when that is also appropriate.

5 TIMETABLE

5.1 Performance information is published on the dashboard each month and is available to view via the Intranet and Internet.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial, resource or property implications arising from this information report. All related services are delivered within existing resources or are only delivered once external funding is secured.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no legal or statutory implications arising from this information report any legal or statutory implications which are project related are dealt with under those specific project management and reporting processes.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no specific human rights implications arising from this information report; however leisure and sport services and opportunities available through sport & leisure do contribute to addressing inequalities and community cohesion issues.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this information report however leisure and sport services and opportunities available through sport and leisure do contribute to addressing crime and disorder issues.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are currently no risk management or health and safety implications arising from this information report, however as the major projects develop any risk management and health and safety implications will be picked up through those project management and council processes

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

Appendix I: Table of Sustainable Communities with an emphasis on Sports & Leisure Performance Indicators – performance for year to end March 2014 and April, May 2015

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Table 7	Leisure & Culture Development – External Funding
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Table 9	Income from Merton Active Plus

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Table 11	BMX Track - Project Funders
Table 12	Sportivate Funding

















13 REFERENCES

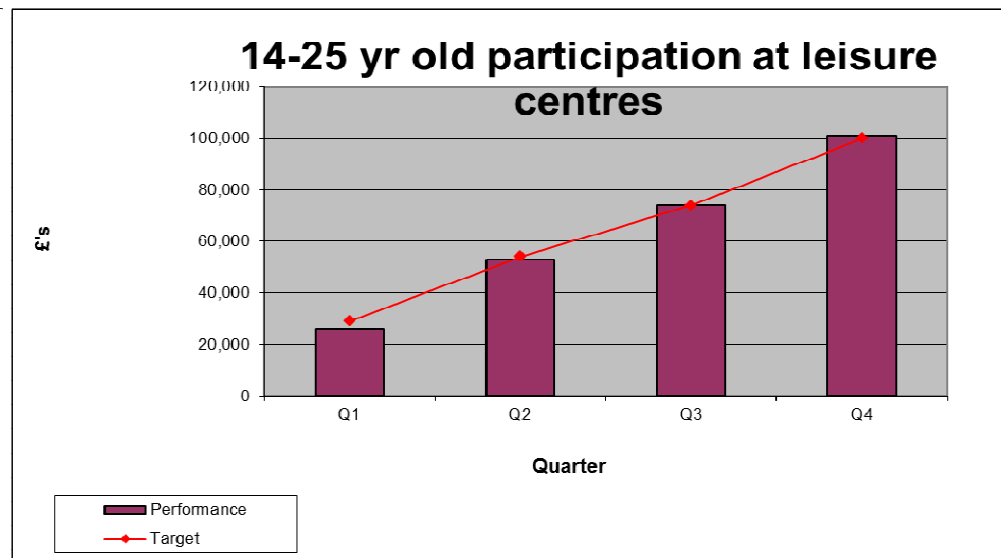
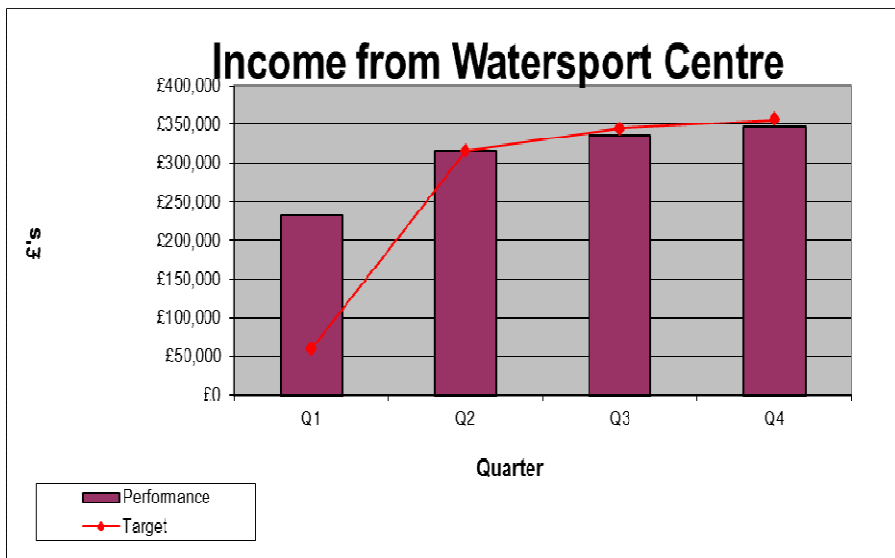
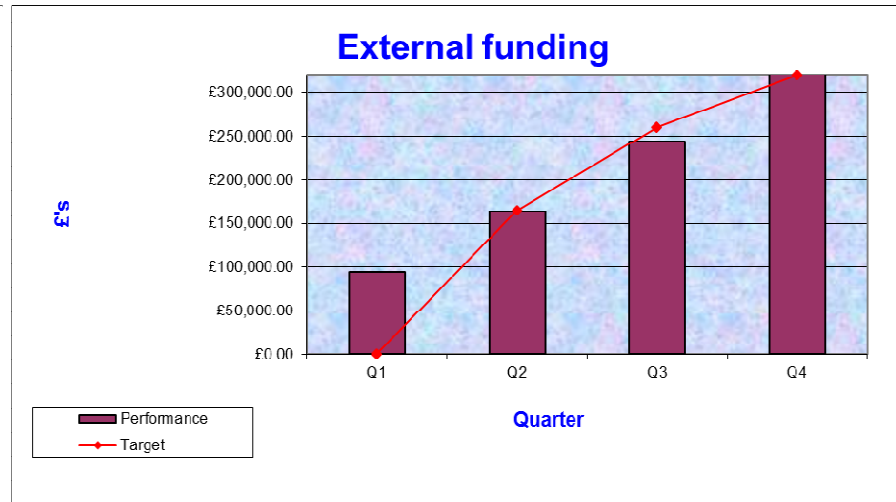
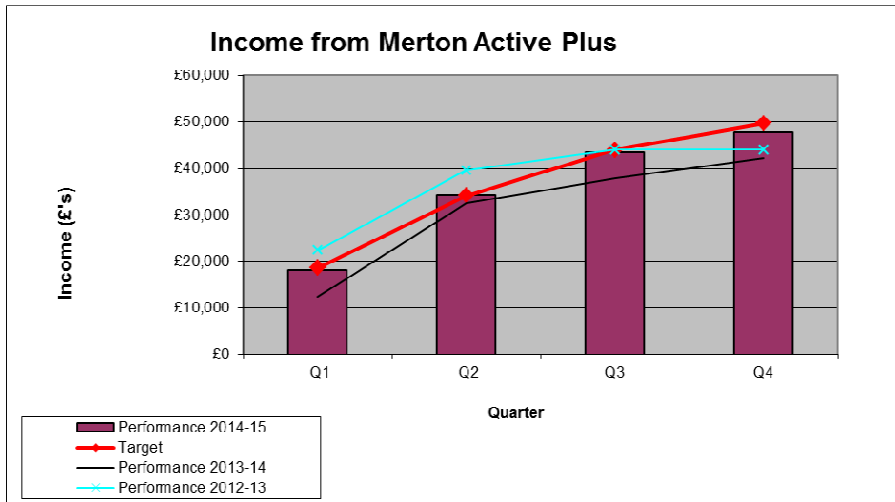
1. Community Plan, 2009 - 19

14 BACKGROUND PAPERS

2015-19 Council Business Plan

Leisure and Culture Development Performance Indicators – Performance for 2014-15 and 2015 -16 to end May 2015

PI Code & Description	May-15					YTD Result	Annual YTD Target	YTD Status
	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend			
SP 015 Income generated - Merton Active Plus activity	£3,724	£4,000				£13,422	£12,000	
SP 251 Income from Watersports Centre	£21,085	£20,260				£31,715	£30,890	
SP 314 External funding and internal investment £	Quarterly measure						£100,000	
SP 325 % of residents rating Leisure & Sports facilities Good to Excellent (annual)	Annual measure						51.50%	
SP 349 14 to 25 year old fitness centre participation at leisure centres	9,427	8,310				18,842	16,740	
SP 405 Total number of users of Merton's leisure centres	64,084	64,690				133,607	129,920	
SP 406 Total number of users of Polka Theatre	Quarterly measure							



Wimbledon Community Forum 10 June 2015 Chair's Report

The meeting was held in the Mansel Road Centre, and chaired by Councillor James Holmes with assistance from John Hill, Head of Public Protection, Merton Council. More than 20 residents attended, as well as eight other Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the cancellation of the meeting in March due to a problem with the venue.

Police Updates

PC Matt Rigby from the Wimbledon Village Safer Neighbourhood team provided an update and responded to questions. PC Rigby explained the new neighbourhood policing arrangements in Wimbledon. Each ward has one designated PC and PSCO with remaining officers used flexibly across the sector. There is also a new Town Centre team for Wimbledon made up of one sergeant, two PCs and 2 PCSOs.

In response to questions about dangerous cycling PC Rigby said that police would stop cyclists and either speak to them or in some cases issue fixed penalty notices but would be more flexible with small children. Work is being done to improve cycle safety as part of the Mayor of London Quietways programme. In response to a question about use of CCTV in bars PC Rigby said that for serious incidents police would review footage from either the bars or the Council but CCTV footage within a business premises was not allowed to be viewed by the public. It was agreed that a tour of the CCTV suite at Merton Council could be arranged for concerned residents.

Future Wimbledon

Tara Butler, Programme Manager, from the Future Merton Team in Merton Council, presented an update on the Future Wimbledon Competition and responded to questions. The presentation can be found at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/wimbledoncommunityforum.htm>

The Future Wimbledon competition had a wide range of different ideas submitted but some key themes had emerged, in particular a need to 'green' the town centre and create more quiet open spaces. These ideas are being brought together and will be developed into a Master Plan for the Town Centre. The Master Plan will involve residents, businesses and other stakeholders and is being supported by Love Wimbledon. All the submissions to Future Wimbledon can be found at <http://www.futurewimbledon.co.uk/Ideas-Competition>

Crossrail 2 was likely to have a significant impact on any plans and developments, in particular any new bridges over the railway line. More information about Crossrail 2, including the land being safeguarded, can be found at <http://crossrail2.co.uk/>. Several concerns were raised about the quality of communications from Crossrail 2 and this will be taken up with the organisers.

Tara also discussed the development of Neighbourhood Plans. To develop a plan a panel of 21 people who represent a focused geographical area. The group would then set the priorities for the area, and then develop a plan that is put to a vote. The group would need

to fund the work needed to create the plan but the Council would organise the vote. Several organisations offer support to communities developing a plan, such as:

<http://locality.org.uk/projects/building-community/>

<http://www.pas.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning>

<http://www.ourneighbourhoodplanning.org.uk/>

In response to questions about new homes and school places Tara said that now the Community Infrastructure Levy was in place developments faced a set fee based on the size and floor space so this was no longer a negotiated process. The target for new homes in London has recently been increased by the Mayor of London by a third so it seems unlikely this demand will be met.

Planning applications:

- Greyhound stadium: the applicant is providing amended plans to take into account the comments received, including addressing concerns about transport, parking and flood risk. As a result there is likely to be further public consultation before the application can be considered by the Planning Applications Committee. This is could be in the autumn. Merton has been working with Wandsworth to look at the potential impact on demand for school places.
- Gap Road: an application for storage and new homes has been submitted but the land has been safeguarded by Crossrail 2. A tree preservation order is being contested by the landowners.

Love Wimbledon

Helen Clark Bell from Love Wimbledon provided a presentation on the work of the Wimbledon Business Improvement District. The presentation can be found at

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communityforums/wimbledoncommunityforum.htm>

The BID was voted in for five years in 2012 and local businesses contribute 1% of rateable value. They have three main priorities: promote the town centre; clean and green; provide business support services. Major events coming up in the town centre include:

- Big screen for the tennis on The Piazza
- Ride London on 2 August
- Winter Wonderland on 28 November
- Autumn Arts in September and October to support Merton Arts Trail and Bookfest
- Monthly markets on The Piazza

In response to questions Helen said that they supported businesses to get involved in the local community but Raymond Kinsella, Business Engagement Manager at Merton Chamber of Commerce, would be the best person to contact. Helen also said that whilst Love Wimbledon worked with other areas, including the Village, the BID had a defined area it was accountable for.

Motions to council

James Holmes introduced this item as a new approach for community forums. Due to the shortage of time James invited residents to suggest items that could be developed for discussion at the next meeting. Items suggested included:

- The proposed Energy from Waste facility in Beddington – residents were concerned about potential health implications
- Lights being left on in offices when not in use
- Traffic congestion and pollution
- Provision of cycle lanes

Soap box

A resident raised a concern about the compulsory installation of smart meters by Thames Waters. Scientific evidence has shown that these add to pulse magnetic fields which can cause health problems. It was agreed to invite Thames Water to respond to these concerns at a future meeting and consider this as an issue for a motion to council.

Dates of future meetings:

Tuesday 22 September 2015 at The Mansel Road Centre, Trinity United Reformed Church, Mansel Road, London SW19 4AA

Wednesday 2 December 2015; at Wimbledon Methodist Church, Griffiths Road, Wimbledon, SW19 1SP

Monday 14 March 2016 at The Mansel Road Centre, Trinity United Reformed Church, Mansel Road, London SW19 4AA

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COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2015

NOTICE OF MOTION

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

This Council therefore welcomes the various clean up events arranged in the borough - both by the council and other community organisations and representatives - including as part of the recent Community Clear Up Day 2015, and pays tribute to the on going efforts of local campaigning groups, including Sustainable Merton and Merton Matters, which - together with many other local residents – are working to assist the council in addressing the problem of street cleanliness in the borough.

This Council is however concerned that:

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

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

This Council therefore resolves to call on Cabinet to:

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

- e) Join a borough-wide, cross party anti-litter campaign as proposed by the Merton Matters campaign group;
- f) Strenuously enforce fixed penalty notices for the minority of people who litter our streets; and
- g) Ensure that road gutters/gullies, which residents frequently complain remain filled with litter and dead leaves, are cleared on a regular basis.

Cllr Michael Bull

Cllr John Bowcott

Cllr David Dean

Cllr Daniel Holden

Cllr Abdul Latif

Cllr Jill West

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2015

NOTICE OF MOTION

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

Council thanks officers, the police and the courts on their recent work to move on travellers illegally camping on some of our parks and open spaces.

However, it is frequently the case that travellers evicted by the Council from one site then simply move on to occupy another site in the vicinity. This has been going on for many months in and around Merton, usually at the expense of public funds where it is public land being occupied, although there have also been encroachments on private land.

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

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

This Council therefore resolves that it should:

- Take a proactive approach to secure public parks in the borough by working closely with Friends groups, councillors and local residents on practical and innovative solutions that help prevent illegal encampments whilst maintaining access for residents;
- Adopt a stronger stance in order permanently to prevent travellers from illegally occupying public parks and other public spaces in the future;
- Take full advantage of the summary recently published by the Government of the powers that public bodies, such as Merton, have to help them deal with unauthorised traveller encampments;
- Consider measures to improve communication with local residents when unauthorised encampments do occur; and
- Put into practice the outcomes of the review of the welfare assessment procedure being carried out by officers to identify ways of speeding up the process whilst continuing to abide by the legal requirements.

Cllr Charlie Chirico

Cllr James Holmes

Cllr Abdul Latif

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COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2015

NOTICE OF MOTION

This Council notes with concern that it is now more than 9 months since an independent investigation was commissioned into the whistle blowing allegations of corruption and mismanagement within Circle Housing Merton Priory's (CHMP) repairs and maintenance service.

This Council welcomes CHMP's admission that their repairs contractor, Keepmoat Property Services, has been overcharging for works and their announcement that they are now undertaking a wider investigation to assess the scale of overcharging and to identify ways of improving the system to stop contractors from overcharging.

However, despite the severity of the allegations and the number of people potentially affected, the full audit report is still yet to be released to residents and councillors and no firm timetable for publication has been forthcoming.

Furthermore, this Council is disappointed with CHMP's continued inability to manage repairs and strongly believes that it is important to identify a way forward as Merton residents have had to put up with inadequate repairs for too long.

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

- a) Calls on CHMP to take urgent steps to ensure the repair service is radically overhauled so that residents get the service they deserve and already pay for;
- b) Urges CHMP's senior officers to attend the next Sustainable Communities scrutiny panel to answer questions from councillors and residents on the issue of repairs;
- c) Demands the immediate publication by CHMP of the independent audit report on alleged fraud and repeated overcharging of residents by its repairs contractor, Keepmoat Property Services;
- d) Requests that any other such investigations conducted in the future in relation to CHMP or any of its contractors, including by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), are published in a timely fashion to ensure full transparency and accountability; and
- e) Calls on the Cabinet as a matter of urgency to set out clearly how best to use the legal powers available to the Council under the terms of the housing stock transfer agreement to safeguard the needs of residents on Merton's housing estates and hold CHMP to account on the quality of its repairs and maintenance service, particularly in light of the HCA Regulatory Notice served on Circle Anglia Limited in February 2015.

Cllr Michael Bull

Cllr Janice Howard

Cllr Linda Taylor

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Committee: Ordinary Council Meeting

Date: 8 July 2015

Agenda item:

Wards: All

Subject: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2014-2015

Lead officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services

Lead member: Councillor Peter Southgate, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission

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

Recommendations:

A. That Council receives the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Council is invited to receive the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.

2. Details

2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission is required to produce an annual report outlining the work of the overview and scrutiny function over the course of the Municipal Year. This year the Commission has used the report as an opportunity to draw attention to some of the outcomes achieved as well as covering in detail the work covered by each Panel/Commission during the year.

2.2 The report (attached as appendix 1) therefore includes:

- a foreword by the 2014/15 Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Commission
- a brief explanation of the term 'overview and scrutiny'
- scrutiny achievements 2014-2015
- a report from each Panel and the Commission on activities during 2014/15
- a description of how local residents and local voluntary and community organisations can get involved in scrutiny

2.3 The report was approved for submission to Council by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 25 March 2015.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission would be in breach of the constitution if it did not produce an annual report and present it to Council.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission approved the content of the Annual Report. Each Panel Chair and Vice Chair was consulted on the section relating to their work.

5. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are none specific to this report.

6. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission is constitutionally bound to produce an annual report for the overview and scrutiny function and to present the report to the full Council. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission would be in breach of the constitution if it did not do this.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

7.1 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. Examples of how this aim is achieved are included in the annual report under the community engagement section.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The Police and Justice Act 2006 requires every Council to have a scrutiny committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken by the Council and the other responsible authorities in the exercise of their crime and disorder functions.

8.2 In Merton this responsibility lies with the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and its work on these issues is described in the Commission's section of the Annual Report.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none specific to this report.

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

10.1 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2014-2015.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 None.



Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/15

London Borough of Merton

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2014/15

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Foreword

A new council, and new opportunities and challenges for scrutiny. Last year's local elections saw many newly elected members joining our scrutiny panels. I was encouraged by their evident enthusiasm at the induction event and topic workshops held in June. Scrutiny gives all members the opportunity to contribute based solely on their interests and willingness to get involved – you don't need years of experience as an elected member.

A new council brought with it recognition of the increasing challenges we face in continuing to provide key services for residents while maintaining a balanced budget. We have to accept that difficult savings cannot be put off to another day, yet scrutiny members do not have the knowledge or experience to suggest alternatives. With few savings available to scrutinise before the December round of scrutiny, members were unable to add as much value to the budget process as in previous years. The lesson to be drawn from this is that budget scrutiny needs to be a near continuous process, monitoring achievement against savings targets for the current year even as proposals for the next year are being developed.

After a rather quiescent period, a number of Cabinet decisions were challenged through the call-in process, notably the decisions to move to a commissioning basis for Merton Adult Education, and to outsource the maintenance of parks and greenspaces through the South London Waste Partnership. Call-ins provide a valuable opportunity for backbench members to interrogate Cabinet decisions in a public forum – particularly important if the timetable has precluded the option of pre-decision scrutiny. If the call-in is to be effective, members must be willing to analyse the evidence and justify their reasons for accepting Cabinet's decision or referring it back for reconsideration. I look forward to a more rigorous approach as new members develop confidence in this role.

Fortunately our new members have old hands to guide them, and scrutiny in Merton benefits from having a well established team of chairs and officers. I would like to thank Councillors Jeff Hanna, Russell Makin and Peter McCabe for chairing their panels with professionalism and impartiality and for their constructive contributions to the work of the Commission. But as members we all recognise how much we depend on the dedication and hard work of our officers, and I would like to thank Julia Regan, Stella Akintan and Rebecca Redman for their commitment to scrutiny in Merton, making it amongst the best in London.

Councillor Peter Southgate
Chair, Overview & Scrutiny Commission

What is overview and scrutiny?

Overview and Scrutiny was introduced by the Local Government Act 2000. Merton operates a Leader and Cabinet model, where the Cabinet makes the executive decisions of the authority on behalf of local residents.

Overview and Scrutiny's main roles are:

- holding the Cabinet to account
- improving and developing council policies
- examining decisions before they are implemented
- engaging with members of the public
- monitoring performance of the council and its partners

Scrutiny can look into services provided by other agencies and other matters of importance to the people of the borough. Scrutiny has legal powers to monitor and hold to account local health services (Health and Social Care Act 2001) and to scrutinise crime reduction and community safety issues (Police and Justice Act 2006).

Principles

Overview and Scrutiny at Merton is:

- open to the public
- informed by methodically gathered evidence
- based on careful deliberation and discussion
- conducted in an appropriate manner

How Overview and Scrutiny works in Merton

Merton Council has an Overview and Scrutiny Commission, which acts as a coordinating body supporting three Overview and Scrutiny Panels with individual areas of responsibility:

- Children and Young People
- Healthier Communities and Older People
- Sustainable Communities

Commission and Panel meetings take place throughout the year and members of the public are welcome to attend. Dates, agendas and minutes for these meetings can be found on the council website: <http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/committee.htm>.

More information about Scrutiny at Merton can be found at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny.htm> or by phoning the scrutiny team on 020 8545 3864 or emailing scrutiny@merton.gov.uk.

Scrutiny achievements 2014-2015

It has been a busy year for Scrutiny. The elections in May led an influx of new councillors, many of whom have been actively involved in scrutiny.

We were very pleased that so many members of the public and local organisations have also been involved in scrutiny this year, sending in suggestions of issues to scrutinise, attending meetings and taking part in task group reviews.

The e-safety task group has had focus group discussions with groups of young people including the children in care council, scouts and girl guides, school councils youth parliament and the Wimbledon police cadets. Seven housing associations from across London have contributed to the housing supply task group. More than a hundred local residents have attended call-in and other Panel meetings.

The Healthier Communities Panel has recruited three co-opted members to bring their experience to Panel meetings and task group work. The Commission is in the process of seeking new co-opted members with financial and community safety expertise.

The scrutiny team was successful in bidding to become one of the pilot authorities for scrutiny of improving take up of immunisations, thus receiving five days free support from a centre for Public Scrutiny Adviser which has enabled the task group to adopt new approaches, particularly in getting wider input to the scoping of the review and measuring the return on investment on conducting a scrutiny review.

This year, scrutiny councillors have carried out three in depth task group reviews, details of which can be found under the relevant Panel headings:

- Being safe online, e safety strategies in schools - Children & Young People Panel
- Immunisations for under 5s - Healthier Communities Panel
- Housing supply - Sustainable Communities Panel

Monitoring the outcome of previous scrutiny reviews has demonstrated that scrutiny does bring about real change in policies and in service provision. Examples of implementation successes include:

Volunteering – development of more flexible ways for busy people to volunteer, increased communication plus recruitment campaigns and work to encourage young people to volunteer

School leadership – a survey and subsequent action plan to support the recruitment and retention of black and minority ethnic staff in senior and middle management in schools

Climate change – drafting of a business case for an Energy Savings Company “ESCo” whereby the council would provide energy at a lower cost to schools and local businesses in the first instance, thereby also creating an income stream

Overview and Scrutiny Commission

The Overview and Scrutiny Commission is responsible for the scrutiny of cross cutting and strategic issues, crime and disorder and issues relating to the council's "corporate capacity". The Commission acts as a coordinating body in supporting the three Overview and Scrutiny Panels and has responsibility for developing and keeping scrutiny under review.

In 2014/15 the Commission oversaw a programme of training that included an introduction to scrutiny for new councilors, questioning skills, performance information and budget scrutiny as well as promoting events run by the London Scrutiny Network.

Scrutiny reviews

Volunteering

The Commission has continued to monitor and is now satisfied that all recommendations have been implemented. It received an annual update on volunteering and praised the extensive progress made, discussed ways of encouraging more people to volunteer and work being done to support employers who take on young volunteers,

Strategic issues and pre-decision scrutiny

At the start of the year the Commission received a presentation from the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to set out their priorities for 2014/15 and the financial challenges facing the council.

It has continued to scrutinise the customer contact programme at each stage of the competitive dialogue process and examined the contract award decision in detail.

Other strategic issues scrutinized this year include:

- CCTV - visited the control room, examined findings of an independent review and received update on measures taken to improve management of the service, procure new equipment and review existing contracts
- welfare reform and financial resilience action plans – welcomed work undertaken by the council and partners to protect the most vulnerable people and made recommendations for future action, including one relating to support for disabled people to help them with medical assessment interviews
- domestic violence needs assessment – noted findings of independent review and requested implementation update in 2015/16
- My Merton – scrutinised cost and distribution. Made recommendation to explore potential for increased commercial income
- Equality Strategy – examined action plan and priorities for the coming year
- Rehabilitation of repeat offenders - examined role of probation and the council

Policing in Merton

The Commission has examined crime data and was pleased that crime rates have remained low in Merton. It has questioned the Chief Superintendent on two occasions regarding local policing issues (such as the controlled drinking zone, CCTV and drug dealing) and the deployment of police officers within the borough. The Commission will receive further updates as part of their 2015/16 work programme.

Call-in

Further to pre decision scrutiny on this issue by the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel, In March 2015 the Commission reviewed Cabinet's decision to move the adult education service to a commissioning model. The call-in signatory and external speakers challenged the consultation process and raised considerations relating to use of the Whatley Avenue site. Cabinet Members and the Director responded to points made and addressed financial issues. The Commission voted on the call-in and resolved to uphold Cabinet's decision.

Finance and performance monitoring

The financial monitoring sub-group was re-established in 2014 and has continued to monitor quarterly reports. In particular, it has scrutinized the forecast overspend, capital programme and lack of progress on achieving savings in some service areas. It has identified areas of concern to be prioritised for scrutiny in 2015/16 – capital programme, community transport, commercial waste, HR metrics and estate management.

Scrutiny of the budget

The draft business plan and proposed budget savings proposals were scrutinised in detail, alongside equality impact assessments for each of the savings. Recommendations were made to Cabinet regarding the predicted overspend for 2014/15 and the need to vigorously challenge the capital programme to remove items that will not be used. The commission expressed concern about proposed reductions in youth services, planning enforcement and daycare centres. It recommended that Cabinet identify savings that could be brought forward and consider alternative sources of revenue.

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

This Panel has responsibility for the scrutiny of issues relating to children and young people. This includes education, children's social care, child protection and youth services.

Scrutiny reviews

The Panel set up a task group to look at the role of schools and the council in ensuring that children remain safe online. The task group met with a range of stakeholders in this process, including young people, head teachers, school councils, youth parliament and parents to produce a number of recommendations that cover e-safety within and outside of schools. The task group will shortly engage the Chair of the Merton Safeguarding Children Board and report their findings and recommendations in June 2015.

Strategic issues and pre-decision scrutiny

At the first meeting of the municipal year, presentations were given on the key challenges faced by those delivering services to children and young people and priorities for the year ahead.

The Panel also received a report at each meeting on the developments in the Children, Schools and Families department covering national and local developments that fell within the remit of the Panel, which enabled Members to maintain a strategic overview.

The Panel has considered a number of strategic issues including:

- Children and Families Act 2014
- The Local Authority Role in promoting Access to Child Care and Early Education for Families
- Looked after Children and the Safeguarding of Children
- The Role of Schools in Promoting the Broader Wellbeing of Children and Families
- Raising the Participation Age and Career Pathways for Young People
- Local Authority role on reducing particular vulnerabilities faced by girls
- Marketing Merton's Schools
- Secondary School Places Strategy
- Survey of BAME teachers

Performance monitoring

The Panel receives a performance monitoring report at each of its meetings and has reviewed the performance indicators it wishes to receive.

The Panel also receives an annual report to provide greater detail on performance measures relating to education, including test and examination results, school attendance and exclusions and standards in the Celebrating Success – Standards and Achievement in Merton Schools report, and which also provides information on the provision of support and intervention provided to our schools by CSF officers.

Members also received progress updates on the following:

- Transforming Families Initiative
- Youth Offending Service including Preventative Approaches
- Public Health Services for children and families

The Panel participated in a development workshop which focused on the performance management framework and the approach that the Panel could take to the specific areas of performance that fall within its remit. As part of this training, members looked at how certain indicators and performance could be analysed and interpreted and discussed how best to respond in terms of monitoring, evaluating and establishing improvement has been made. This resulted in a revised approach to performance monitoring by the Panel to ensure the process added value to the work of the department.

Outcomes of the previous task group review on school leadership succession planning were considered to ensure that agreed timescales for implementation of the Panel's recommendations were met, and that anticipated benefits and outcomes had been realised.

Financial monitoring

The Panel scrutinised the proposed budget for 2015/16 in November 2014 and January 2015.

Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

This Panel has responsibility for the scrutiny of issues relating to health, public health and adult social care. This includes promoting good health and healthy lifestyles, mental health issues, and reducing health inequalities for people of all ages.

Recruitment of co-opted members

This year the Panel agreed to refresh its approach to recruiting co-opted members to ensure the process is open, transparent and all sections of the community have the opportunity to apply for a position. After an advertising campaign and interview process involving Human Resources, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Panel, three co-opted members were appointed.

Strategic Issues

Visits to Merton Dementia Hub

Following an invitation from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health, a number of panel members visited Merton Dementia Hub, a modern facility offering services to people who have been diagnosed with dementia, their carers and people needing information and advice. The service is delivered in partnership with Merton Council, the Alzheimer's Society and other health partners. The Panel will consider further work with the Hub as part of their topic selection and work programming process for 2015/16.

Health Partner's challenges and priorities for 2014/15

At the start of the municipal year, this panel traditionally receives updates from local health providers. This year Merton Clinical Commissioning Group, Public Health and Adult Social Care came along to discuss their priorities and challenges for the year ahead. A couple of issues to emerge were succession planning for retiring GP's and waiting times to get doctor appointments. The Panel asked for further updates on these issues.

The Director of Public Health attended the meeting and spoke about their work to reduce health inequalities across the borough. The Panel heard about the work of health champions, who are representatives from within local communities in Merton to support people and signpost them to the right services.

The Director of Community and Housing attended the meeting and discussed the new opportunities and challenges raised by the Care Act and the increasing demand for services due to the ageing population. The panel were keen that the council maintain high standards in domiciliary care and were reassured that this takes place through monitoring of contracts as well as feedback from customers.

Strategies for improving GP services in Merton / Waiting times at surgeries

Some Panel members had heard concerns from their constituents that they experienced difficulties or long waiting periods to get an appointment with their GP. The Panel wished to look at this issue in more depth and invited NHS England, who commission GP services and receive reports on GP data. Healthwatch Merton were also invited as they had recently conducted a review on GP services and written a report with recommendations asking for some improvements to services.

After a discussion on the issues, the Panel would like to see extended hours and flexibility in obtaining GP appointments which are synchronised with opening times at pharmacies. NHS England updated the panel on pilot schemes that are running and could lead to extended hours in GP surgeries in future. The Panel supported the recommendations within the Healthwatch Merton Report and asked for an update once responses had been received from NHS England and Merton Clinical Commissioning Group.

Changes in the provision of primary care services in Merton

The Panel were approached by NHS England in line with their statutory duty to consult scrutiny about substantial variation in services. The Panel heard that the Vineyard Hill Surgery faced possible closure as the current GP's were going into retirement. NHS England were consulting on proposals to disperse patients to other local surgeries, none of which were in the current ward area. The Panel heard representations from the Ward Councillor and local residents. The Panel had concerns about the proposals given the distance that patients would need to travel to a local surgery. The Panel asked NHS England to look at continuing the surgery at the current location or finding a suitable alternative within the Wimbledon Park Ward.

End of life Care

At the topic suggestion workshop last year, a local resident expressed concern about people being able to exercise choice about where they die, therefore the Panel asked for an update on end of life services. Panel members asked a number of questions around partnership working and learning from best practice. It was also suggested by a panel member that the terminology should be changed from 'A Good Death' to 'A Peaceful Death'. Merton Clinical Commissioning Group agreed to take the feedback on board.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The Director of Adult Social attended the Panel to discuss the refresh of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and particularly their work to reduce health inequalities between the East and West of the borough. The Panel supported the general direction of the Strategy particularly the focus on prevention. They would like to see positive actions taken to encourage healthy behaviour, such as teaching people to cook healthy meals rather than just telling people to stop doing things.

Cancer screening

In March the Panel considered a report from NHS England on screening for breast, bowel and cervical cancer. It was reported that the South West London uptake rate for Breast cancer screening is 65% which is higher than the average for an outer

London area. In South West London screening rates for Bowel and Cervical Cancer have increased from 67% -73% which is above the London average of 70%. The national target is 80%.

The Director of Public Health attended the meeting as she is required to ensure that all the systems and processes for immunisations and screening are working effectively. The public health team also have a number of initiatives to improve the uptake of screening and immunisations including using health champions and the health guide, which provides information to communities. The team meet with GP's and provide comparative data on take up rates. They have also developed a set of top tips on the things GP's could be do to improve uptake of immunisations and screening.

Panel members were concerned that the national targets are not being met and suggested a number of creative measures that can be used to increase up-take of cancer screening.

South West London and St Georges Mental Health Trust Quality Accounts

The Service Director attended the meeting to present their quality account indicators for 2015-16. These set the priority areas for maintaining high quality services. Themes included co-ordinated discharge planning, Service Responsiveness and Web Consultations as well as Physical Health and Learning Disability.

Panel members asked about support to carers, if their handbook was made available in other languages and the impact of the budget cuts in their services. The Panel were informed that the Trust are doing the best they can with the resources available. Merton typically has low spend on mental health but still provides high quality services. The Panel thanked officers for their work and supported the general direction of the Trust but are concerned about how much can be achieved with limited resources.

Scrutiny of the budget

Budget 2015/16

This year the Panel were required to consider a number of savings across Adult Social Care. The Panel members expressed concern about the impact on vulnerable people but many felt they were faced with no choice given that the service had been protected thus far but the council needed to make considerable savings. Some members felt that the savings should be taken from elsewhere from the council's budget. The Panel reluctantly agreed to accept the savings and asked Cabinet to ask officers to look again at the equality impact assessment of all the savings taking into consideration those all those who will be affected and particularly looking at the knock on effects on the voluntary sector.

Response to the Adult Social Care consultation

The Panel also considered a response to the council's consultation on changes to adult social care. Again Panel members expressed concern about the impact that the proposed savings may have on disabled people, including social isolation,

increased burden on carers and entry to residential care at an earlier stage.

Scrutiny reviews

Diabetes Task Group

This year the Panel will be looking at Diabetes as an in-depth review. This review was prompted by a report from the London Assembly which highlighted the increase in type two diabetes across London driven by lifestyle and genetic factors. Task group members are due to meet shortly to decide which area to focus on.

Improving uptake of immunisations in the 0-5 Age Group

This year the scrutiny function received support from the Centre for Public Scrutiny to conduct a review on improving the uptake of Immunisations. The Panel agreed to look at immunisations from birth to five years age group as this was the area with the lowest rates. The task group gathered evidence from a wide range of sources including NHS England, Merton Clinical Commissioning Group, Sutton and Merton Clinical Commissioning Group and Public Health Merton. Recommendations are around improving local co-ordination and to supporting parents through the immunisations schedule.

Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

This Panel has responsibility for the scrutiny of issues relating to housing, environmental sustainability, culture, enterprise and skills, libraries and transport.

Scrutiny reviews

The Panel undertook a task group review of Housing Supply in Merton. The task group sought to establish how the supply of affordable housing to meet identified need in the borough could be facilitated, looking at the role of the council as an enabler of housing development and opportunities for partnership working and the business case for the council as a provider of social housing.

The Task Group have engaged a range of stakeholders to date including, housing associations across London, think tanks, charities, providers of alternative models of housing and organisations such as the National Housing Federation.

The groups work is ongoing as they are gathering further evidence and exploring good practice in relation to the use of NHS surplus land, mixed use sites, policy development and innovative approaches to financing housing development. The Task Group will report in September 2015.

Strategic issues and pre-decision scrutiny

The Panel have undertaken pre decision scrutiny on the following strategic issues and priorities of the council. This included:

Inward Investment Strategy – The Panel had made recommendations regarding the development of the council's inward investment strategy as part of their task group review of adult skills and employability and asked to comment ahead of their consideration by Cabinet. The Panel made recommendations on the nature of the activities the council could undertake to promote the borough as a great place for business.

Economic Development Strategy – The Panel received a progress update on delivery of the councils economic development strategy.

Circle Housing Merton Priory (CHMP) Regeneration Proposals –The Panel have received briefings on the development of CHMP Regeneration Programme and master planning for their housing estates in Merton.

20 Mph zones/road safety – The Panel considered the outcome a review of the operation of 20mph zones and limits by an independent consultant and considered the options for Merton. The Panel supported 20mph zones and limits be considered on a case by case basis in the borough and recommended that Cabinet investigate

radar based technology and signage, and associated costs and benefits to manage speeds.

Morden Leisure Centre – The Panel have committed to being involved at the appropriate intervals in the roll out of the project for Morden Leisure Centre and, to date, have considered and made recommendations on the initial decisions taken by Cabinet on the site and facility mix.

Street Lighting - The Panel considered the councils approach to street lighting and possible technology that could be used, including the position of the council's street lighting contract.

Merton Adult Education (MAE) Service – options for achieving a value for money service – The Panel undertook pre decision scrutiny of the recommended commissioning mode for delivery of the MAE service which they supported and requested that there be a commitment to the commissioning principles proposed.

Performance monitoring

The Panel has regularly undertaken a performance monitoring role by reviewing performance results against key performance indicators (KPIs) and making recommendations to the appropriate service.

Performance Workshop - The Panel participated in a development workshop which focused on the performance management framework and the approach that the Panel could take to the specific areas of performance that fall within its remit. As part of this training, members looked at how certain indicators and performance could be analysed and interpreted and discussed how best to respond in terms of monitoring, evaluating and establishing improvement has been made. This resulted in a revised approach to performance monitoring by the Panel to ensure the process added value to the work of the department.

Circle Housing Merton Priory: Stock Transfer Commitments - The Panel meet with Circle Housing Merton priory (CHMP) every six months to receive a performance update on the delivery of the commitments within the stock transfer and in relation to the repairs and maintenance of CHMP housing stock. Members also receive a quarterly performance report as part of their monitoring role.

Outcomes of Task Group Reviews - The Panel continued to keep an overview of the delivery of the recommendations and action plans resulting from their previous task group reviews of Adult Skills and Employability and Climate Change and Green Deal Task Group, with the support of the Member Champion, Councillor James Holmes.

Town Centre Parking and Parking at Neighbourhood Shopping Parades – The Panel monitored progress with implementation of the action plans resulting from the earlier reviews of town centre parking and parking at neighbourhood shopping parades.

Town Centre Regeneration – The Panel receive a presentation every six months on progress with delivery of the regeneration programme for each of the town centres in Merton.

Libraries – The Panel consider the Library and Heritage Service Annual Report and made comments on the demographics of library users and looked at how improvements and innovative solutions that have been rolled out have impacted on the use and enjoyment of libraries in Merton.

Financial monitoring

The Panel scrutinised the proposed budget for 2015/16 in November 2014 and January 2015. In order to understand specific proposals in more detail, the Panel set up a special meeting with the Director of Community and Housing and the Business Partner to explore the options appraisal for savings within the Merton Adult Education Service to inform their recommendations and comments to Cabinet at the second round of budget scrutiny in January 2015.

Panel asked for amendments and consideration of a number of savings relating to building and development control, dog waste options, joint procurement of waste services and housing service options.

Call In

The panel heard the call in of the following decisions that have been taken and made recommendations which were accepted by Cabinet:

- South London Waste Partnership – opportunities for joint procurement of waste collections, street cleaning and associated services
- Merton Adult Education – Options Appraisal
- Tariff changes to on street parking

Get involved

The involvement of local residents, community organisations and partners is an important part of the scrutiny process and councillors are committed to responding to the views and concerns of residents.

Getting involved in scrutiny is one of the best ways to influence decision making at the council, as councillors will hear your experiences first hand. There are a number of ways you can get involved in the work of scrutiny at the council:

Suggesting an issue for scrutiny

The council's website contains an online form which can be used to make suggestions on issues and topics for future scrutiny:

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/scrutiny/scrutiny-getinvolved.htm>

Suggestions may also be made in writing, by email or by phone to the Scrutiny Team – contact details overleaf.

All suggestions received will be discussed by the relevant scrutiny Panel and the person who made the suggestion will be contacted to let them know what has happened to it.

Attending meetings

All scrutiny meetings are open to the public except where confidential information has to be discussed. A list of meeting dates and agenda items can be found on the council's website. <http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/committee.htm>

If you would like to attend a meeting simply come along to the meeting venue or, if you want more information, contact the Scrutiny Team – details overleaf.

Providing information and views

Members of the public can send in written views or speak on issues that are under discussion at the Overview and Scrutiny Commission or one of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

Information on current task group reviews and any deadlines for submission on information can be found on <http://www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny> or by contacting the Scrutiny Team – details overleaf.

Contact the Scrutiny Team

The Scrutiny Team provides independent and professional support and advice to the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and the three standing Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

You can contact the Scrutiny Team using one of the following methods: -

In writing:

Scrutiny Team
Corporate Services
Merton Civic Centre
London Road
Morden
Surrey SM4 5DX

By emailing:

scrutiny@merton.gov.uk

By phoning:

Julia Regan – Head of Democracy Services
020 8545 3864

Stella Akintan –Scrutiny Officer
020 8545 3390

Rebecca Redman – Scrutiny Officer
020 8545 4035

For further information about overview and scrutiny at Merton please access our web pages using the following address <http://www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny>

Committee: Council

Date: 08/07/2015

Wards: All Wards

Subject: Members' Declaration of Interest

Lead officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance

Lead member: Councillor Mark Allison, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

Contact officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance

Recommendations:

1. To review the Members' declaration of interest form and guidance.
 2. To agree the form and guidance should be updated to include declaration of trade union membership.
 3. To agree the form and guidance should be updated to include declaration of third party organisations in the borough where a Councillor or Co-opted Member holds a position of management or control.
 4. To ensure all councillors are guided by the Monitoring Officer on the new requirements that come into effect on 1st September 2015.
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to carry out a routine review of the register of interest form and accompanying guidance for Councillors and Co-opted Members. The review aims to ensure the Council's approach is consistent with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and subsequent guidance published after the existing local form and guidance was agreed.
- 1.2. This report went to Standards Committee on 16th June 2015. Standards Committee agreed the recommendations. Standards Committee also recommended that further guidance based on the questions most frequently received should be developed.
- 1.3. This report went to General Purposes Committee on 25th June 2015. General Purposes Committee agreed the recommendations and agreed to recommend to Council the changes to the declaration of interest form and guidance.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. Since 2011 it has been a statutory obligation for Councillors and Co-opted Members to declare pecuniary interests and any other interest as is required by the Authority (Localism Act 2011). Any arrangement to declare non-pecuniary interest is to be considered locally.
- 2.2. In July 2012 Standards Committee did not recommend that non-pecuniary interests should be included within the Council's code. Standards Committee

and General Purposes Committee agreed that the form and accompanying guidance should be kept under review by the monitoring officer and the new Standards Committee. Since that decision, DCLG guidance 'Openness and Transparency on Personal Interests' was published and this report considers that guidance and the Council's experience.

- 2.3. The 2013 DCLG guidance on registration of personal interests explains that registration of personal interests 'should be guided by... [the] duty to act in conformity with the seven principles of public life.' The guidance states that membership of any Trade Union will 'necessarily' be a personal interest to be declared under these principles. The guidance supports the inclusion of other interests on the form that assist members in complying with the seven principles of public life.
- 2.4. In 2014 an Internal Audit Report reviewed Merton's arrangements and confirmed that the existing form is compliant with the compulsory elements of the statute in relation to pecuniary interests. The report recommended that the Council should consider expanding the current register of interests to also include a declaration by members of third party organisations within the borough in which they hold a position of general control or management. Members are used to making such declarations at Council meetings when required, such as when they are a school governor, trustee or committee member of an organisation in the borough. It is recommended that adopting this new requirement to register such interests would promote transparency.
- 2.5. An amended registration of interests form (attached at Appendix A) incorporates the above. The form has also been amended to make it clear that Company Directorships are pecuniary interests that must be disclosed.
- 2.6. For the purposes of the register, an interest of a spouse or civil partner **is** the disclosable pecuniary interest of the member. There is no requirement to differentiate between the pecuniary interest of the member and those relating to their spouse or civil partner. The form has been amended to reflect this.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. One further option is to continue with the current register of interest form which is compliant with the compulsory elements of the Localism Act 2011 in relation to declaration of pecuniary interests.
- 3.2. However the DCLG guidance 'Openness and Transparency on Personal Interests' (2013) updated the guidance on registration of personal interests in accordance with the seven principles of public life, which includes membership of any trade union. The existing Merton guidance does not state this and is therefore not consistent with this guidance.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. This report will be taken to Standards Committee, General Purposes Committee and Council.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. It is proposed that an updated form and accompanying guidance if agreed would come into effect on the 1st September 2015 (01/09/15).

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are no financial, resource or property implications arising from this report.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 defines the disclosable pecuniary interests required to be registered under the Localism Act 2011. The regulations or Act do not require members to specify who the disclosable interest relates to – it is seen as the members' interest regardless of whether it relates to them or their partner. Failure to declare disposable pecuniary interests is a criminal offence under section 34 of the Localism Act.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. There are no anticipated human rights, equalities or community cohesion implications arising from this report.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

The review of the form and guidance is intended to minimise the risk that Councillors and Co-opted Members may inadvertently fail to follow the compulsory elements of the statute or the government guidance.

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

- A) Amended register of interest form and guidance

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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Notification by a Member of a London Borough of Merton of interests (2015)

Every elected or co-opted member is required to notify the Monitoring Officer (within 28 days of being elected or co-opted onto the authority) of all current "disclosable pecuniary interests" of which they are aware.

Failure to register any such interest, failure to register within 28 days of election or co-option, or the provision of misleading information on registration without reasonable excuse, will be criminal offences. Prosecution is at the instigation of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Every elected or co-opted member should notify the Monitoring Officer (within 28 days of being elected or co-opted onto the authority) of all current "non-pecuniary interests" of which they are aware.

I (print full name)

A Member of the Council of the London Borough of Merton, give notice that I have the following disclosable pecuniary interests under sections 29-34 of Localism Act 2011.

These interests apply to myself or my partner (which means spouse or civil partner, a person with whom I am living as husband or wife, or a person with whom I am living as though we are civil partners), in so far as I am aware of his/her interests.

I also give notice that I have the following non-pecuniary interests.

Disclosable pecuniary interests

Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried out for profit or gain.

You should show every employment, office (including Company Director), trade, profession or vocation that you and your partner have to declare for income tax purposes.

Provide the name of the employer and give a short description of the activity concerned; for example, "Computer Operator" or "Accountant".

Where you hold an office, give the name of the person or body which appointed you. In the case of a public office, this will be the authority which pays you. In the case of a teacher in a maintained school, the local education authority; in the case of an aided school, the school's governing body.

Sponsorship received in respect of carrying out duties as a member of the authority, or towards my election expenses

You should declare the name of any person or body who has made any payments to you in the last year towards your expenses as a councillor or towards your election expenses. You do not need to declare the amounts of any payments: only the name of the person or body making them.

This would usually mean a political party at election time.

Contracts between myself (or body in which I have a beneficial interest) and the London Borough of Merton (or organisation contracted to carry out business on its behalf)

You should list any contract made between yourself or your partner or a body in which either of you have a beneficial interest and the London Borough of Merton (or an organisation contracted to carry out business on its behalf):

- a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and
- b) which has not been fully discharged.

Address of property or land in the London Borough of Merton in which I have a beneficial interest

You should include any land in the area of the borough in which you or your partner have a beneficial interest. You should give the address or a brief description to identify it. If you live in the borough you should include your home under this heading whether as owner, lessee, or tenant.

You should also include any property from which you receive rent, or of which you are the mortgagee.

“Land” includes any buildings or parts of buildings.

Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the London Borough of Merton for a month or longer

You should include land in the area of the borough which you or your partner have a right to occupy, but neither own nor have a tenancy of. You should give the address or a brief description to identify it.

“Land” includes any buildings or parts of building.

Any tenancy where (a) the landlord is the London Borough of Merton; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest

Any beneficial interest in securities (stocks, shares, bonds...) of a body where (a) that body has a place of business or land in the London Borough of Merton; and (B) either (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) of the share capital is of more than one class, the total nominal value of any one class in which I have a relevant interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class

You should list the names of any companies, industrial and provident societies, co-operative societies, or other bodies corporate that (to your knowledge) are active in the Borough and in which you or your partner have a substantial interest. You do not need to show the extent of your interest.

Non-pecuniary interests

Any trade union which you are a member of

Any position of management or control that you hold in any third party organisation within the borough

You should list school governor, trustee and committee roles and other roles where you hold a position of management.

--

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

NOTE: A Member must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any change to the interests specified above, provide written notification to the authority's monitoring officer of that change.

Sensitive Information

Where you consider that disclosure of the details of an interest could lead you, or a person connected to you, or a person connected with you, being subject to violence or intimidation, and the Monitoring Officer agrees, any published version of the register will exclude details of the interest but may state that you have an interest, the details of which are withheld.

Committee: Council

Date: 8 July 2015

Wards: All

Subject: Appointment of independent persons

Lead officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director Corporate Governance

Lead member: Councillor Mark Allison, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

Contact officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services, 0208 545 3864

Recommendations:

1. That Council agrees to appoint Suresh Patel and Derek Prior as independent persons for the purposes of Chapter 7 of the Localism Act. The independent persons will be invited to attend meetings of the Standards Committee in that capacity
 2. That the appointments are made for a period of three years from 12 July 2015
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. To seek Council's approval of the appointment of two independent persons which we are required to appoint under Chapter 7 of the 2011 Localism Act.
- 1.2. The functions of the independent person, set out in the council's constitution, are:
 - the independent person must be consulted and views taken into account before the authority takes a decision on any allegation it has decided to investigate;
 - the independent person may be consulted by the authority in circumstances where the authority is not taking a decision whether to investigate the allegation;
 - the independent person may be consulted by a member of the authority against whom an allegation has been made.
- 1.3. The independent persons will also be invited to attend meetings of the Standards Committee in that capacity.
- 1.4. Standards Committee appointed an interview panel comprising one councillor nominated from each political group to interview and recommend the appointments to Council.
- 1.5. The interview panel comprised Councillor Peter McCabe, Peter Southgate and David Williams. Paul Evans, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, attended as an observer. Interviews took place on 24 June 2015 and the panel recommended the appointment of Suresh Patel and Derek Prior to the posts.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

2.1. The Council must appoint at least one Independent Person.

3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

3.1. None.

4 TIMETABLE

4.1. The appointments made by Council will take effect on 12 July 2015 for a period of three years.

5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Independent persons are paid £100 per meeting. The recommendations in this report will not lead to any increase in the overall budget for allowances.

6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. See body of the report.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

7.1. None specific to this report.

8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8.1. None specific to this report.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None specific to this report

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

- none

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1. None

Committee: Council

Date: 8 July 2015

Wards: All

Subject: Amendment to standing orders

Lead officers: Paul Evans, Assistant Director Corporate Governance, and Dean Shoesmith, Joint Head of Human Resources

Lead member: Councillor Mark Allison, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources

Contact officer: Paul Evans, 0208 545 3338

Recommendations:

- A. That Council authorise the changes to the council's constitution (set out in paragraphs 2.4 and 2.5 below) in order to comply with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. To seek Council's authorisation of the changes to the constitution that are required in order to comply with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.
- 1.2. Standards Committee and General Purposes Committee have discussed the matter at their meetings on 16 June and 25 June 2015 respectively and agreed to forward the proposed changes to Council.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 require councils to modify their standing orders to implement these Regulations no later than the first ordinary meeting of the council after the Regulations come into force on 11 May 2015.
- 2.2. The Regulations simplify and localise the disciplinary process for the Head of Paid Service, the monitoring officer and the chief finance officer.
- 2.3. The changes that are required to the council's standing orders are:
Constitution – Part 4H Officer Employment Procedure Rules
- 2.4. Paragraph 7.1, replace:
“No disciplinary action may be taken in respect of the Head of Paid Service, the Chief Finance Officer or the Monitoring Officer except in accordance with a recommendation in a report made by a Designated Independent Person i.e. as set out in the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2001”
- 2.5. With:
“No disciplinary action to dismiss may be taken in respect of the Head of Paid Service, the Chief Finance Officer or the Monitoring Officer except after

having taken into account any advice, views or recommendations of a Panel, the conclusions of any investigation and any recommendations of the relevant officer i.e. as set out in the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015”

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. Council is required to make these changes in order to comply with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. None for the purposes of this report.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. Council is required to make these constitutional changes no later than the first ordinary meeting of the council after the Regulations come into force on 11 May 2015.
- 5.2. A report was taken to Standards Committee on 16 June and General Purposes Committee on 25 June 2015.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are no significant financial implications.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. Council is required to make the changes to its standing orders as set out in the Regulations described above..

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. None for the purposes of this report.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. None for the purposes of this report.

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

- None

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1. None.

Committee: Council

Date: 8 June 2015

Subject: Changes to Membership of Committees and related matters

Lead officer: Ged Curran, Chief Executive

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

democratic.services@merton.gov.uk

Recommendations:

- A. That the changes to the membership of Committees that were approved under delegated powers since the last meeting of the Council are noted.
 - B. To note that the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission rejected the request for the use of Special urgency (Rule 15) in relation to a delegated key decision.
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report asks the Council to appoint a member of the Standards Committee and note the membership changes made under delegated powers since the publication of the agenda for the Council meeting held on 13 May 2015.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The following membership changes have been made under delegated powers in accordance with section A4 of part 3F of the Constitution:
- 2.2.

Committee	Member resigning	Replaced by	Date
Standards Committee	Councillor Tobin Byers	Councillor Pauline Cowper	16 June 2015
Standards Committee	Councillor Pauline Cowper	Councillor Tobin Byers	30 June 2015

- 2.3. On 5 June 2015 the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission was asked to approve the use of the special urgency procedure (Part 4-B Parga 15) in relation to a key delegated decision in respect for the Award of Public Space CCTV Maintenance /Small Works and Traffic Enforcement Renewal and Maintenance contract.
- 2.4. In considering the request the Chair of the Commission was not satisfied that any delay in taking the decision would seriously prejudice the council's or the public's interests (Part 4-E Para 17(a), thus he therefore decided that the justification provided to him was not sufficient to invoking Rule 15 (Special urgency) as defined in Part 4-B of the constitution.

- 2.5. As a result the decision was delayed to allow the consideration report to be made public for the required five days before the decision was taken. It also enabled the decision once taken to be subject to call-in.

3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 3.1. N/A

4 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. None for the purposes of this report.

5 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

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

6 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. None for the purposes of this report.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

8 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. N/A

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

None.

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Committee: Council

Date: 8 June 2015

Subject: Petitions

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

Lead member: Leader of the Council

Contact officer: Democratic Services, democratic.services@merton.gov.uk

Recommendation: That Council

- 1) receives petitions (if any) in accordance with Part 4A, paragraph 18.1 of the Council's Constitution; and
 - 2) note the response given by officers in respect of the petitions presented to the 15 April 2015 Council meeting.
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. At the meeting held on 15 April 2015, Council received the petition detailed below. Any petitions received by Council are referred to respective departments with responsible officers asked to advise the presenting member in each case of the way in which the petition is to be progressed.
- 2.2 *Petition on 'Costa Coffee Planning application - Stop the planning form going ahead,' submitted by Councillor Linda Taylor.*

Unfortunately a mistake was made by the Democratic Services team in not processing this petition fast enough, due to lack of appreciation of its time sensitive nature. The petition took the form of an objection to an on-going planning application, whose deadline was the Friday immediately following the Council meeting (i.e. two days later). Regrettably the petition did not reach the planning service, via the Directorate until the following Wednesday (22 April 2015), which meant the decision had already been made on the application before the petition was received.

As a result of this issue an improved process has been adopted within the Democratic Services team to ensure that any petition received at Council will be passed across to the appropriate Directorate the day after it is received. Apologies have been sent in respect of the mistake made on this petition.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. None for the purpose of this report.

- 4** **CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**
- 4.1. None for the purpose of this report.
- 5** **TIMETABLE**
- 5.1. None for the purpose of this report.
- 6** **FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**
- 6.1. None for the purpose of this report.
- 7** **LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**
- 7.1. None for the purpose of this report.
- 8** **HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION
IMPLICATIONS**
- 8.1. None for the purpose of this report.
- 9** **CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**
- 9.1. None for the purpose of this report.
- 10** **RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**
- 11** **APPENDICES**
- 11.1. None.
- 12** **BACKGROUND PAPERS**
- 12.1. None.