

Merton Council

Council meeting

Membership

The Mayor: Councillor Marsie Skeete

The Deputy Mayor: Councillor Judy Saunders

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

Date: Wednesday 12 July 2017

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 3616](tel:02085453616).

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

Council Meeting

12 July 2017

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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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COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING 17 MAY 2017

(7.15 pm - 8.08 pm)

PRESENT Councillors (in the Chair), Agatha Mary Akyigyina, Stephen Alambritis, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Hamish Badenoch, John Bowcott, Michael Bull, Adam Bush, Mike Brunt, 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, Joan Henry, Daniel Holden, James Holmes, Janice Howard, Mary-Jane Jeanes, Abigail Jones, Philip Jones, Sally Kenny, Linda Kirby, Abdul Latif, Najeeb Latif, Brian Lewis-Lavender, Gilli Lewis-Lavender, Edith Macauley MBE, Russell Makin, Peter McCabe, Oonagh Moulton, Ian Munn BSc, MRTPI(Rtd), Katy Neep, Jerome Neil, Dennis Pearce, John Sargeant, Judy Saunders, David Simpson CBE, Marsie Skeete, Peter Southgate, Geraldine Stanford, Linda Taylor OBE, Imran Uddin, Gregory Patrick Udeh, Jill West and Martin Whelton

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jeff Hanna; Andrew Judge and David Williams

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Joan Henry and Jerome Neil.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

No declarations of pecuniary interest were made.

3 ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR THE FORTHCOMING MUNICIPAL YEAR AND MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR (Agenda Item 3)

It was moved by Councillor Stephen Alambritis, and seconded by Councillor Edith Macauley that Councillor Marsie Skeete be elected as Mayor for 2017-2018.

(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

Councillor Marsie Skeete 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 her Deputy Mayor of the Municipal year 2017-2018 would be Councillor Judy Saunders. Councillor Saunders signed the declaration of acceptance of office and was invested with the Deputy Mayor's badge of office.

The Mayor announced that her consorts would be Arexa Skeete, Yeuton Crandon, Dolores Bishnouth and Stephen Sanders. The Mayor's chaplains would be Reverend Gerry Stanton and Reverend Peter Jeffrey.

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

The Mayor, Councillor Marsie Skeete, thanked Council for her election for the forthcoming year and announced that her Mayoral two charities as Mencap and Commonsides Community Development Trust.

(A copy of her 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 Brenda Fraser 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 spoke in praise of Councillor Brenda Fraser's year in office.

(A copy of 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 Brenda Fraser, for the dedicated manner in which she has served as Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the year 2016-2017.

6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 6)

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

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

The report was moved by Councillor Stephen Alambritis and seconded by Councillor Brenda Macauley.

RESOLVED:

1.
 - i) that the constitution of committees, sub-committees and scrutiny bodies set out in Appendix A to the report be agreed; and
 - ii) that the allocation of seats, chair and vice-chair positions and the appointment of members to those seats be agreed.
2.
 - i) that the constitution of consultative forums and other bodies set out in the revised tabled Appendix B to the report be approved; and
 - ii) that the appointment of members to those seats be approved.
3. the allocation of seats and appointment to the outside organisations as detailed in the revised tabled Appendix C to the report be agreed.
4. the terms of reference of consultative and other bodies appointed by the Council, detailed in Appendix D to the report be agreed.
5. to note that the Executive Leader has made no changes to appointments to his Cabinet or to their respective portfolios, outlined in Appendix E to the report.
6. notes the membership and Terms of Reference of the London Borough of Merton Local Authority Property Company Sub-Committee, as set out in Appendix F.
7. that the Council's Constitution be amended to incorporate any changes resulting from the approval of recommendations 1 to 6.

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The nomination of Cllr Marsie Skeete

For Mayor of Merton 2017-2018

By Cllr Stephen Alambritis

Who is the Leader of the Council

At the London Borough of Merton

On Wednesday 17 May 2017 in the Council Chamber

Madam Mayor,

We are blessed to have the headquarters of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development in this borough

That organisation is all about excellence in the work place

They are about good relations between employers and employees

And they are about that dreaded form...the job description

That got me thinking about the kind of job description needed for

Our Mayor

Our Mayor of Merton

Our First Citizen of this borough

Well, we always need those essential skills in a Mayor

Of warmth

Of compassion

Of kindness and of generosity

Of a love of people and of children

Then there are those desired skills

Of Punctuality (I know Carl is listening)

Of brevity

Of Patience

Then there are the required qualifications

Someone who has placed themselves before the people of the borough

Someone who has been elected to serve the people of this borough

Someone who is a sitting councillor

I was also thinking about

Reporting relationships

And if that was about the Mayor

Reporting to me

But no I hear you say

And yes I know my place

Our Mayor reports to Carl!

And so the councillor I am about to nominate for the position of Mayor of Merton for the municipal year 2017/18

The councillor who fits our job description for Mayor

Who has the qualifications and the skills to be our First Citizen of our Borough

That councillor, that person is Cllr Marsie Skeete

Madam Mayor

Cllr Skeete was elected to Merton Council in 2014 and has served Longthornton Ward since then

She has also has served on many **important committees**

Committees that reflect her passion for people

Cllr Marsie Skeete is a member of the following committees:

Activities in Learning Disability Day Centres

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations

Licensing Committee (we will come back to this and especially to the subject of Rum later)

Preventing Loneliness and Social Isolation in Merton

That last committee is in keeping with Marsie's full time occupation

Marsie works in the Prison Service working with prisoners and helping them to get out

When they have served their time!!!

To get back into the world of work when they are released

Madam Mayor

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

I also know Marsie will name her chosen Charities and there again I will leave her to name them

Those are her choices but I now want talk about Marsies choice in Rum

Marsie is from the wonderful country that is called Guyana and they do love their Rum there

Her Favourite rum is from the Demerara Rivers Finest Sugar Canes the true gold that is El Dorado Rum

In Marsie we indeed have true gold

Madam Mayor

On the subject of Rum it is appropriate that we are overlooked in this chamber by Lord Horatio Nelson

When this gallant fighter died in battle there was a need to bring the body back to these shores

Madam Mayor

As far as I understand it Nelson's body was immersed in a cask of Guyanan Rum possibly from the Demerara River and quite probably El Dorado Rum

The ship the body was brought back in, so they say, was HMS Pickle

There you have it Madam Mayor a bit of history from me

And importantly for this occasion, we have not got ourselves into a pickle over this nomination

It has been very straightforward among my colleagues in particular

I asked some of them them for the first word that comes to their mind when Marsie is mentioned

The following sprung to mind

Tall

Glamorous

Passionate

Vivacious

Strong

Knows what she wants (watch out Carl!)

Madam Mayor

Tonight we look forward to our next municipal year and I know that Cllr Marsie Skeete will spring some wonderful and surprising events on us in the forthcoming year and I for one cannot wait!

So, Madam Mayor

It gives me great pleasure to nominate and I urge this council to then elect Cllr Marsie Skeete as Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the Municipal year 2017-2018

Councillor Edith Macauley MBE - Speech for Mayor-Making

Madam Mayor, my sincere congratulations to Councillor Marsie Skeete, First Citizen for the London Borough of Merton 2017/18.

I first met Councillor Skeete during one of our canvassing sessions in Colliers Wood and Lavender Fields ward over 5 years ago.

After the end of canvassing, I spoke to Councillor Skeete to find out if she enjoyed speaking to residents and also her views about meeting different people in the community. The feedback was quite positive and she was really fascinated by the issues which residents were raising. I was not surprised that she enjoyed the canvassing session as during our conversation she seemed to be politically motivated and it was quite clear that she had excellent skills dealing with people as in her full time job she was used to meeting and dealing with people of all races.

I was absolutely delighted when she was elected to become Councillor for Longthornton as during the first selection process, I interviewed her for Lower Morden and it became quite obvious that Councillor Skeete was a professional person with exceptional skills.

I have no scintilla or iota of doubt that as a young, vibrant, glamorous, stylish and classy Mayor, she will raise the profile of the borough as the First Citizen and also uphold the dignity of the Mayor's office. I welcome Councillor Skeete to the London Mayor's Association and also as a Member of the chain gang.

**In support of the nomination of Marsie Skeete
Councillor Oonagh Moulton**

Madam Mayor

I am pleased to speak in support of the nomination of Cllr Marsie Skeete for the important position of Mayor of Merton for the municipal year 2017-18.

I am sure that Cllr Skeete's work as a lecturer and turning round lives at High Down Prison will give her a great foundation on which to work with members of our community.

I note that on her blog she has stated that she enjoys 'doing her bit to improve the lives of individuals and our society' and I'm sure she will find ample opportunity to do so as our First Citizen of the Borough.

Cllr Skeete has been just over 3 years on the Council but she has a strong record of committee membership including the Children & Young people and the Healthier Communities & Older People Overview & Scrutiny Panels plus the Licensing Committee.

Madame Mayor as you know I will always encourage our Group to support the Mayor, community events and the Mayor's Charities.

We look forward to supporting your successor as we have yourself!

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Mayoral Speech – 17 May 2017

Honoured and distinguished guest, family, friends, colleagues and fellow councillors, I would like to welcome and thank you for showing your interest and support by being here this evening. I am thrilled and privileged to stand here as the elected Mayor of this great, stimulating and diverse Borough of ours, Merton.

I would not have been here tonight without the unwavering support of my family, fellow councillors, friends and the community which I serve; my debt to you all is incalculable. I am truly grateful to my leader and fellow councillors for their trust in me.

I take this responsibility and the confidence bestowed upon me seriously. I am consigned to serving the people of the Borough of Merton to the best of my ability with earnestness, solitude and allegiance to our community. I will constantly reflect on Life's two rules #1. Never quite #2.

Always remember rule. I also give thanks to my colleagues for the challenge support, and trust over the years, for electing the first Black Female Guyanese as Mayor of the Borough of Merton. This borough stands proud of its divergent and vibrant community. Thank you so much! In this milestone, I arrived in the UK in 2001 and followed on with my career as an educator.

I obtained my teaching qualification at London Southbank University then went on to impart my knowledge at TBG Learning College in Brixton, St Mark's Academy, and currently enabling offenders an opportunity to gain a qualification thus enabling them to minimise re-offending at HMP High Down.

During my pre – Britain years, I attended, Cumberland Nursery, Cumberland Primary School, BHS, Cyril Peter College of Education, and the University of Guyana where the schools curriculum covered similar subjects as in British curriculum. My duties included managing schools, representing parents, children answer stand in a daily basis.

I was always keen on the Mayors and their glitz, glamour and grandeur that come with the history and tradition of Britain. Little did I know, or even dreamt that I would become the Mayor of the London Borough of Merton and adorn myself with the red robe to add pulchritude to my glamour and style.

Today I say, dreams do come true, to become Mayor of this magnificent borough is not just an honour; it is a gargantuan responsibility and elephantine opportunity to make a difference in Merton. I am committed to work with the entire community,

voluntary and charitable groups to add sparked to the lives of the residents in Merton and here I will conclude with this thought from an unknown author; Go where you are celebrate- not tolerated, if they can't see the real value of you, it's time for a new start.

I am not going anywhere because I am celebrated here in Mitcham, so let's celebrate together.

Thank you.

Appendix C

Cllr Stephen Alambritis, Leader of the Council, London Borough of Merton, Moves the Mayoral Citation and the Vote of Thanks at the Annual Council Meeting of Wednesday 17 May 2017 in Honour of Councillor Brenda Fraser, Mayor of Merton 2016-2017

Councillor Fraser enjoyed the distinction of being the first ever female Jamaican Mayor in Merton.

A respected member of the community, Councillor Fraser is a magistrate and has had to juggle her responsibilities to the Bench with her mayoral duties.

Her career has been in the health sector and the police.

It is perhaps natural that her chosen charities should both have a focus on health and wellbeing.

Age UK Merton has a passion for making the borough a great place to grow old.

The Avanti Club, seeks to empower local residents with mental health issues to use their skills to progress and develop.

A number of fund-raising events have benefitted these charities during the Mayoral year.

The Avanti Club hosted the Mayor's Charity Live Gig Night, while Age UK guests raised a glass at the Mayor's Charity Wine Tasting evening.

South Thames College hosted the Mayor's Christmas Dinner.

And a 'Winter Warmer' celebration of Merton music-making was held at St Mark's C of E Academy.

Ambience in Wimbledon was the venue for a Mediterranean Night

And Tooting and Mitcham Community Sports Club hosted an Afro-Caribbean Night with a Jamaican theme.

Councillor Fraser's Caribbean roots were also celebrated at the Mayor's Ball, with the All England Lawn Tennis Club resonating to the sounds of steel pans.

As a college governor herself, it was particularly pleasing for the Mayor to host a reception for more than 35 school governors where she was able to thank them for their commitment and dedication.

October saw Silver Sunday, a celebration of the achievements of older people.

The citizens of the future were welcomed to the Civic Centre during Democracy Week.

A sporting highlight of the year was the promotion of AFC Wimbledon to Sky Bet League One

This was celebrated with a breakfast at the Wimbledon Centre Court Shopping Centre before Councillor Fraser joined the players on their open top bus victory parade.

Councillor Fraser has been a conscientious, dedicated and hard-working mayor but her duties have always been a joy – not least when she proved she could herself still master two wheels when she launched the fund-raising for the new scooter park adjacent to Poplar School.

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 Stan Anderson, and his wife, Deputy Mayoress Mrs Jennifer Anderson.

Between the Mayor and her Deputy, they have attended over 400 engagements and many planned meetings in addition to the official engagements.

The Mayor was ably and lovingly supported by her:

Husband and Principal Consort Lloyd

And her daughter and Consort Gillian, family, and friends.

Mayor Fraser is recognised by the council for her enthusiasm in reaching out to all parts of our community and her work representing the London Borough of Merton.

Her enthusiasm, compassion and warm personality have contributed to her very successful year in Merton.

But, Finally Madam Mayor

We now need to **Resolve unanimously**: that the council places on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to Councillor Brenda Fraser, for the dedicated manner in which she has served as Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the year 2016-2017.

I Beg so to Move

Vote of thanks for Mayor of Merton – Cllr Brenda Fraser

Madame Mayor it gives me great pleasure to second this vote of thanks to Cllr Brenda Fraser for her dedicated service to our Borough for the Municipal year 2016 to 2017.

Cllr Fraser has been a great supporter of health & wellbeing and that was her focus over her year and with her chosen charities – Age UK Merton and Avanti.

I would also like to endorse the thanks paid to her Principal Consort plus her daughter and Consort Gillian for their work too over the Mayoral year. I must also pay tribute to the outgoing Deputy Mayor Stan Anderson and his wife Jennifer. The Mayoral team ably supported by Carole, Steve and Carl have attended around 400 engagements which is a tremendous achievement.

Our group have been pleased to support the many fund-raising events held by the Mayor for her charities and I myself have particularly enjoyed the Christmas Dinner, the winter warmer celebration of Merton Music and her Jamaican Afro-Caribbean night. It was also a fun moment to both attend the wonderful Thank You party for the Mayor's charities and supporting organisations whilst also supporting my husband Tom's Rock Choir performance at it!

The icing on the cake was the excellent Ball at the All England Club, which I am pleased that members of our Group both supported and actively helped with the fundraising for it.

Madame Mayor I know I speak for our whole Group in thanking Cllr Fraser for her dedicated work over her year for which she can indeed be proud and I endorse the citation.

Councillor Oonagh Moulton

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Every Mayor brings his or her own passions and priorities to the role when elected to office, and one of the privileges of being the first citizen of the borough is the opportunity to do something about them. And so we can see reflected in Cllr Fraser's many activities during her Mayoral year, her professional interests in health and in justice, both in the police and as a magistrate. That experience on the bench has stood her in good stead when addressing a wide range of different audiences, not least this council chamber. She has commanded our attention every time.

Each Mayor's year is different, reflecting their involvement in the unique events that shape our borough and our city each year. I was privileged to be invited to join the Mayor for the service of hope and reconciliation at Westminster Abbey which followed the attack on Westminster Bridge and the tragic deaths of PC Keith Palmer and innocent bystanders. The service was a moving demonstration of unity in defiance of a senseless act of terrorism, with our Mayor to represent Merton with all 32 London boroughs and the City.

In a more celebratory mood, the crowds turned out for the triumphal open top bus parade when AFC Wimbledon won promotion to League One at the end of last season, and prominent among the guests of honour were our Mayor and consort on the top deck.

But it's not always the big, set piece events that evoke the sharpest recollections. At the launch of Dementia Friendly Merton in February, Mayor Brenda managed to upstage the guest of honour, the still very glamorous Angela Rippon, by arriving spectacularly late in the middle of la Rippon's speech – I'm sure it was unintentional. She then went on to deliver a very credible speech of her own.

She proved she didn't mind getting down and dirty when she donned a hi-viz tabard and litter picker to join the Morden town centre clean up in March, and encouraged a host of youngsters from the Ahmadiyya youth and a goodly number of not so young councillors to join her.

And who can forget Mayor Brenda mounting a scooter still in her elegant high heels for the launch of Poplar Primary school's scooter park, surrounded by hordes of excited children? Admittedly I don't remember her scooting as opposed to posing for photographs, but she helped to make it a memorable day for the children at Poplar and boosted the appeal to raise £20,000 to complete the scooter park.

In fact it's been a memorable year throughout, for both the large and the not so large events. On behalf of the Merton Park Independents, I'd like to thank her and her consort Lloyd for all the effort and hard work they've put into the Mayoralty this year.

Cllr Peter Southgate

Committee: Council

Date: 12 July 2017

Wards: All

Subject: Strategic Objective Review – Safer and Stronger Communities

Lead officer: Ged Curran, Chief Executive /

Chris Lee, Director of Environment and Regeneration

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

Contact officers: John Dimmer, Head of Policy, Strategy and Partnerships /
Neil Thurlow, Head of Safer Merton / Evereth Willis, Equalities and Community Cohesion Officer

Recommendations:

A. That Council consider the content of this report.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Council at its meeting on 1 March 2017 approved the Business Plan 2017-2021.
- 1.2 The Business Plan sets out how the council will deliver the Community Strategy, which is grouped into five strategic themes: sustainable communities, safer and stronger communities, healthier communities, older people and children and young people. Performance against these themes, plus an additional theme of corporate capacity, is monitored by Council. Each meeting of Council will receive a report updating on progress against one of these strategic themes.
- 1.3 This report provides Council with an opportunity to consider progress against the priorities that are to be delivered under the theme of Safer and Stronger Communities.
- 1.4 The key outcomes set out in the Business Plan relating to this theme are reducing the fear of crime, reducing alcohol related violence and supporting those who are affected by alcohol misuse and reducing anti-social behaviour and its effects on communities as well as individuals. Also to empower local people to have a greater choice and influence over local decision-making and to increase community cohesion and integration.
- 1.5 This report focuses on progress in relation to Equalities and Hate Crime. The portfolio holder is Councillor Edith Macauley MBE.

- 1.6 The report sets out the council's partnership approach in regard to tackling hate crime, our four year strategic delivery plan and the local victim, offender and location profile within Merton. It also, sets out the council's approach to equalities, including how we meet our statutory requirements.

2 DETAILS

2.1 Equalities

- 2.1.1 The responsibility for meeting the council's Public Sector Equality Duty rests primarily with senior managers, the Corporate Management Team and Cabinet. The Director of Children, Schools and Families supported by the Equality and Community Cohesion Officer is the Corporate Management Team's equality champion and chairs the Corporate Equality Steering Group. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission undertake a regular review of the Council's Equality Strategy.

Progress in meeting objectives under the Equalities Strategy 2013-17

- 2.1.2 The previous Equality Strategy 2013-17 expired in March 2017. Over the past four years progress has been made towards embedding equality practice throughout the Council and promoting community cohesion. Notable successes include:

- improved educational attainment for Looked After Children;
- commissioned preventative services continue to be available for children and young people with disabilities including family-based overnight short breaks;
- establishment of BAME Voice and the refresh of the independent LGBT+ Forum;
- high quality civic events that promote community cohesion including the commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day, Interfaith quiz event and the commemoration event for George Cates VC in Wimbledon;
- high levels of civic involvement and volunteering enabled by the council's support of the Merton Voluntary Service Council;
- a thriving and growing voluntary and community sector supported by a new partnership Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Strategy agreed in February 2017;
- embedding Equality Analysis in service planning.

Equality Strategy 2017-21

- 2.1.3 The refreshed strategy setting out the council's new equality objectives meets the legislative requirements of the Equality Act 2010 to publish equality objectives every four years. Following the agreement of Cabinet, the refreshed strategy combines equality and community cohesion commitments into a single strategy. The strategy was adopted by Council on 12 April 2017.
- 2.1.4 Based on GLA trend-based projections, Merton's population is projected to increase by around 13,000 between 2014 and 2020. During this time the age profile is also projected to change, with the most notable growth coming in the numbers of those aged under 16 and those over 50. Merton's ethnic

composition is also forecast to change, with the proportion of BAME residents set to increase to 40%.

- 2.1.5 The borough's growing diversity is reflected in the number of people that live in the borough that come from different backgrounds. According to data collected from the 2011 Census the three largest migrant populations by country of birth are Polish (3.5%), Sri Lankan (3.2%) and South African (2.8%). 34.9% of school pupils in Merton have a first language known or believed to be other than English.
- 2.1.6 The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) were updated in September 2015 and ranks Merton as 7th least deprived out of the 33 London boroughs and 212 out of 354 local authority areas (where 1 is the most deprived) for the rest of England. This overall lack of deprivation does, however, hide stark inequalities in the borough between deprived wards in the east of the borough (Mitcham) and more affluent wards in the west (Wimbledon).
- 2.1.7 The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Merton highlights health inequalities that are based on gender, ethnicity and where people live. It is evident that there is a difference between the most and least deprived areas within the borough for life expectancy of 7.9 years for men and 5.2 years for women. Linked to deprivation, those in the east of the borough have a much higher chance of serious illness and early deaths from illnesses such as cancer and heart disease. In 2015 13.5% of residents in Merton that are of a working-age were recorded as having a disability or long-term health condition.
- 2.1.8 Although Merton is a diverse London Borough it has a strong, resilient and integrated community supported by a strong track record of partnership working. This is reflected in the results of the Residents Survey with 93% of residents who think people from different backgrounds get on well together. This is underpinned by the council's commitment to equality and diversity set out in the new Equality and Community Cohesion Strategy.
- 2.1.9 The Equality and Community Cohesion Strategy 2017-21 aims to address key issues such as:
- bridging the gap between the levels of deprivation and prosperity in the borough;
 - improving understanding of the borough's diversity and foster better understanding between communities;
 - improving understanding of 'hidden' disabilities and the challenges that disabled residents face in all aspects of their lives. We aim to work in a cross-cutting way and take a holistic approach to more effectively address the needs of disabled residents;
 - supporting those who do not usually get involved in decision-making to better understand how they can get involved and get their voices heard;
 - supporting residents to access on-line access services;
 - providing services that meet the needs of a changing population;
 - employing staff that reflect the borough's diversity.
- 2.1.10 Outlined below are the 6 Equality Objectives that have been developed to narrow the gap in outcomes between residents in the east and west of the borough:

1. Ensure key plans and strategies narrow the gap between different communities in the borough;
2. Improve equality of access to services for disadvantaged groups;
3. Ensure regeneration plans increase the opportunity for all Merton's residents to fulfil their educational and economic potential and participate in the renewal of the borough;
4. Promote a safe, healthy and cohesive borough where communities get on well together;
5. Encourage recruitment from all sections of the community , actively promote staff development and career progression opportunities and embed equalities across the organisation;
6. Fulfil our statutory duties and ensure protected groups are effectively engaged when we change our services.

- 2.1.11 The activity that populates the accompanying action plan has been closely linked to the council's performance framework so that commitments are aligned with departmental service plans to ensure effective implementation.
- 2.1.12 In developing the strategy extensive consultation was undertaken with a range of stakeholders which included meetings with user groups and a web based survey.
- 2.1.13 The implementation of the strategy will be monitored by departments and annual monitoring report will be given to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) with Ethnic Minorities and CMT.

2.2 Tackling Hate Crime

The Merton hate crime profile

- 2.2.1 Hate crime is defined, by the Mayors Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) as, *"any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a personal characteristic; specifically actual or perceived race, religion/faith, sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity"*
- 2.2.2 In the four years of 2012-2016 Merton saw an increase in hate crime reporting levels which were higher than the London average.
- 2.2.3 Merton's increase was higher than London as a whole due to low level reporting initially
- 2.2.4 In order to better understand the Merton picture a detailed profile was completed for the 12 month period 01/10/15 – 30/09/16. For these 12 months we found 310 reports of hate crime were made to Police. These figures break down as follows
- 76%, or 236, racial hate;
 - 11%, or 34, faith based hate;
 - 8%, or 25, homophobic hate;

- 4%, or 12 disability hate crime;
 - 1% or 3, transgender hate crime.
- 2.2.5 These numbers suggest that there is still more to do in terms of how we engage our disabled and LGBT+ communities to encourage reporting.
- 2.2.6 The Merton Centre for Independent Living (CIL) undertook a piece of work to look at disability hate crime and their report estimates that there are 500 crimes a year. The 4% figure above represents 12 crimes so Safer Merton and the Merton CIL are working closely together to explore how to better increase the reporting rate
- 2.2.7 When analysing matters such as peak months, days and times over the 12 month period we found there were no sufficiently evidenced patterns of reporting to allow us to designed “targeted campaigns” during the peak demand periods.
- 2.2.8 Our analysis also showed that there were, however, clear correlations between notable hate crimes taking place such as the murder of Lee Rigby and the Charlie Hebdo shootings. Following these, a short time period where reports of hate crime surged. Following such surges reported offences then returned back to “normal” after two or three months. At the time of writing there were no noticeable increases in reports following the London Bridge terror attack in June 2017.
- 2.2.9 When looking at the wards which voted to leave the EU, and the wards where hate crime offences occurred, it should be noted that there is no strong correlation between the two.
- 2.2.10 The national focus on hate crime is becoming ever more focused. The UK has seen three terror attacks in as many months and as such we, as a partnership and as a community must stand together to condemn those who perpetrate such crimes and support those whom are victims of the ramifications of such matters.
- 2.2.11 Merton has a strong community and the Safer Merton service, as too the council as a whole, are fortunate to have excellent partners in the voluntary and community sector who are helping us drive this agenda forward.
- 2.2.12 We must ensure we respond appropriately, swiftly and in a co-ordinated fashion. We will work with colleague across the council and externally to provide that support and guidance to our communities, work to ensure communities feel safe and seek to achieve a safe, cohesive borough which is not immeasurably impacted upon by the few but is, rather, celebrated by the majority.

Our response

- 2.2.13 In order to create a true partnership approach to tackling hate crime, ensuring that the community were at the forefront of this work, a task and finish group was formed. The group, involving a range of statutory and community partners, worked together to create a four year strategic work plan to run between 2017-21. The plan works to four key themes:
- (i) Co-ordination – Designed to ensure that we develop an understanding of the victims’ needs and their journey through the criminal justice system to ensure that Merton’s residents can access reporting and support services easily and efficiently.
 - (ii) Prevention - Provide our residents with the knowledge and skills to stay safe, whilst challenging those who identify with the perpetration of hate crime. Developing and strengthening community cohesion through unifying our residents.
 - (iii) Provision - Work with partners and the community to provide a range of support services which assist in a practical sense with regards to the reporting (and potentially trial) procedures while also providing emotional support to victims.
 - (iv) Protection - Ensure that the police and partners are given equalities and diversity training and so can identify factors which could flag a regular crime as being motivated by hate, in the process ensuring these are taken seriously and acted upon accordingly.
- 2.2.14 Safer Merton secured additional resources to undertake this work utilising the graduate management trainee programme. Following that resource coming to an end after the six month attachment period, we have replaced it with a new resource, this time from the Police for three months. It is to be noted that this work is being driven forward in partnership with community organisations but without fixed LBM employees which presents a risk in regard to continuity and service delivery moving forward. This will require careful attention.
- 2.2.15 Alongside the work to develop and commit to a four year strategic hate crime plan the partnership has undertaken some key community engagement work:
- Hate Crime Awareness Week (HCAW)* – running between Saturday 08 and Saturday 15 October 2016 HCAW saw nine engagement events held and a strong social media campaign delivered. Through HCAW we engaged many people from a range of backgrounds across all strands of hate crime and provided a strong reassurance message to all residents that Merton’s partnership takes hate crime seriously and that we will take action against those whom perpetrate hate crime.

International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT). IDAHOT was held for the first time in Merton and was marked, on Wednesday 17 May, via a flag raising ceremony and speeches from a range of key personal. The event was following by the publication of the partnerships hate crime strategy

- 2.2.16 Alongside the Merton strategic plan we are now working with the MOPAC Police and Crime Plan and the details contained within for hate crime. The Mayor of London is committed to providing safe reassurance for victims to come forward and to ensure that robust enforcement action is taken. In May 2017 he launched the Mets new online hate crime team who will be working with local borough police to tackle cyber hate crime. The Police and crime plan runs until 2021 dovetailing nicely into our work.
- 2.2.17 As we move forward and work with MOPAC, London Councils and others it is hoped that Merton will have a key role to play in setting out visions and the London context as the Head of Safer Merton performs a dual role as London lead for victims and hate crime for all 32 London Community Safety units.

Next steps

- 2.2.18 Over the coming year we plan to deliver all of year one milestones within the hate crime strategic plan and we believe that these are all achievable given the timelines and resources we currently have available. We do, however, face some challenges.
- 2.2.19 Third party reporting – an aspirational aim for the hate crime working group. How third party reporting looks and will be delivered remains unknown and this could become quite an unwieldy piece of work should we not deliver a clear, refined and concise vision for this
- 2.2.20 Support for victims – in the draft MOPAC police and crime plan hate crime IDVAs were proposed. In the finalised document these have disappeared and now we have to understand what offers of support Victim Support and/or other charitable organisations can offer those victims of crime
- 2.2.21 Development of a zero tolerance approach to offending with our social landlord colleagues. We want to explore the routes forward to ensure that any social tenant who commits hate crimes is held to account for his/her actions and that the social landlord explores further sanctions up to, and including, tenancy breach powers
- 2.2.22 Annual refreshing of the hate crime profile. It is important to understand who our victims are and where the crimes are taking place. We will continue to track and monitor this to ensure we can respond via an intelligence lead approach
- 2.2.23 Whilst Article 50 has been triggered there remains much that is uncertain about the terms of the UK's exit from the EU. It is important that we, as a collective, prepare for the exit from the EU and any further impact this may have on EU nationals residing within Merton.

2.3 Proposed changes to borough territorial policing

- 2.3.1 As Council may be aware the Metropolitan Police are currently undergoing a revision to their service delivery structure.
- 2.3.2 For a significant period of time Police have operated along with local authorities on a model of splitting London into 32 areas. Each area has its own senior leadership team, its own response officers, investigatory officers and neighbourhood officers. Each borough sees variations in policing numbers which is calculated using various formulas.
- 2.3.3 Due to the current economic climate, as has been well publicised, the police are facing significant financial reductions. For London, following in excess of £400m of savings being made already they now must save a similar amount again.
- 2.3.4 To help achieve these savings, the police are now seeking to create cluster areas which will reduce London from 32 police command areas to 12. A Metropolitan Police briefing pack is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.3.5 Merton will become part of the southwest cluster alongside Kingston, Richmond and Wandsworth. This will create a policing area of some 650,000 residents and a police force of approximately 1,500 based on current levels. This ratio is in line with other cluster areas.
- 2.3.6 Currently there are two pathfinder areas working to this cluster model. There is one pilot in the East of London – Redbridge, Havering with Barking and Dagenham alongside a second, in North London, Islington and Camden. Early, anecdotal feedback is mixed but the Police, and MOPAC, are to undertake a full evaluation of the pathfinder boroughs over the summer months.
- 2.3.7 With the pathfinder boroughs yet to be evaluated, a new police commissioner in post and, due to recent terror attacks across the country, there are no timescales attached, currently, to further rollouts. However, it is foreseeable, and reasonable to suggest, that due to the burgeoning savings police need to achieve that we may see full deployment and implementation of the revised model by the end of financial year 2018-19 at the latest (should the model be fully implemented).
- 2.3.8 The new structure will see a different management command structure implemented with one borough commander covering four boroughs and with one superintendent per borough responsible for delivery of work, partnership engagement alongside holding a thematic portfolio such as safeguarding. The relationship between local government and local police will, by default, change.
- 2.3.9 The pathfinders will soon be in a position to highlight what works well, what does not work and how problems have been resolved. This feedback will form the evaluation to shape next steps and will, most likely, dictate the timescales to which police work for these changes. Members will be constantly updated on progress for this work.

3. REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSIONS/PANELS

3.1 Safer Communities

- 3.1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission has continued to hold the Police and safer Merton to account in relation to crime, policing and anti-social behaviour. The Borough Commander has attended twice-yearly and has been asked questions on a wide range of issues including the model of policing and deployment of officers in Merton, hate crime, traffic speed enforcement, street drinking and the work of police officers in local schools.
- 3.1.2 The Commission has examined and discussed crime data with the Borough Commander and was pleased that crime rates continue to remain low in Merton and are on a par or better than most neighbouring boroughs. The Borough Commander has explained in detail the steps being taken to address the spike in motorcycle crime, and the impact of stricter recording standards on levels of violent crime.
- 3.1.3 The Commission also discussed the Mayor of London's policing priorities with the London Assembly Member for Merton and Wandsworth. They also discussed the operation and performance monitoring arrangements for the proposed four-borough Basic Command Unit model of policing.
- 3.1.4 The Commission welcomed the work being done by Merton Centre for Independent Living to identify, measure and draw attention to the problem of disability hate crime. It was assured that the Safer and Strong Partnership Board, comprising the Council, Police and partner organisations, would receive and respond to Merton CIL's report.
- 3.1.5 The Commission heard from the Probation Service and the London Community Rehabilitation Companies about how low, medium and high risk offenders are managed locally and requested an update to show the progress being made.

3.2 Stronger Communities

- 3.2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission has continued to take a close interest in Merton Partnership's equality strategy and to review the action plan on an annual basis. A draft of the new equality and community cohesion strategy was shared with the Commission and changes were made in response to Members' comments.
- 3.2.2 The Commission has also championed volunteering and the voluntary sector for many years. The Chief Executive of Merton Voluntary Service Council attended in November 2016 to discuss the voluntary sector and volunteering strategy. The Commission endorsed the strategy's direction of travel and made some comments on the draft that were taken into account in producing the final document, notably on the development of definitions for social value and updated guidance in the council's contract standing orders.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1 None for the purposes of this report.

5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The work to drive forward the council's contributions to hate crime sits within Safer Merton. The resources to drive this work do not come from existing provision as the service is too small to take on this additional work rather; it comes via Police officers who are attached to the service. These attachments, three months in duration, are reliant on Police being able to service this need. As Police resources constrict in the future delivery of hate crime may become more challenging
- 5.2 Safer Merton, along with numerous other services and departments within the council, benefit from police providing onsite resource, for free. The MASH has a team of several officers, the YOS one, Safer Merton three, all of whom work to support the delivery of safeguarding and enforcement. There is an unknown risk in regard to how such posts may be filled within the new proposed Policing structures
- 5.3 The Equality and Community Cohesion Strategy will be delivered within existing resources.

6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 On 6 April 2011 the Equality Act 2010 introduced the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which requires the Local Authority, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a "protected characteristic" and those who do not. "Protected characteristics" are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation and, in relation to the duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination only, marriage and civil partnership.
- 6.2 With effect from 12 April 2012 the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulation 2011 requires the council to prepare and publish equality objectives and subsequently at least four-yearly. The objectives must be specific and measurable. The Equality and Community Cohesion Strategy fulfils these requirements.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 By developing and producing a new Equality Strategy, the Council has re-affirmed its commitment to human rights, equality and community cohesion. Merton's approach to equality and diversity is driven by its overall vision of Merton – a great place to live, work, learn and visit. The draft strategy will encourage a wider public debate about equalities in Merton and the actions needed to address inequality.

8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There is a risk of increased hate crime activity directed towards certain groups if there is no commitment to eliminate discrimination and harassment.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None for the purposes of this report.

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

- 10.1 Appendix 1: Strengthening Local Policing, Metropolitan Police, November 2016

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 The hate crime strategic work plan 2017-21
- 11.2 The Equality and Community Cohesion Strategy 2017-21 report to Full Council 12 April 2017

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Strengthening Local Policing

Future

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November 2016

A Plan to Deliver the Priorities

ONE
MET
MODEL 2020

The MPS ambition is to be the safest global city in the world

- Every Community Safer, through: accountable and visible policing at the most local level, a step-change in the effectiveness of our services and a focus on protecting the vulnerable

A Safer London, through: tackling new and growing threats, freeing up 1,000 officers from existing services and better management of demand

- A Transformed, Modern and Efficient Met, that looks and feels more like London, with officers with the skills, tools and approach necessary to police London effectively,



Every Community Safer



A Safer London



A Transformed, Modern and Efficient Met

Our strategic priorities emerging from the forthcoming Police and Crime plan

- Delivering “real” Neighbourhood Policing
- Protecting Children and Young People
- Violence against women and girls
- A criminal justice system for all Londoners
- Hate crime, Terrorism and Extremism

Reduce high volume low risk demand



Focus on high risk, low volume priority areas

The Strengthening Local Policing Programme responds to these strategic drivers

- We will deliver local policing in a way that is **more personal and responsive**. It will also tackle crime and disorder effectively and efficiently across London as a whole.
- We will deliver this change in a way that **engages, involves and motivates our officers and staff** and that prepares the way for future change across London.
- We will **manage change in a way that empowers and devolves responsibility to our leaders** - so that they own and drive the change and that will deliver benefits to London.

Benefits – investment in priorities

ONE
MET
MODEL 2020

Neighbourhoods

- A minimum of 2 Dedicated Ward Officers (DWOs) and one PCSO per ward that will be 'ring fenced' from abstraction
- Additional DWOs to a total of over 1700 across London, allocated to higher demand wards through local consultation to address local priorities
- 281 Youth and Schools Officers rising to 600 working full-time in schools, PRUs and other educational institutions to prevent crime and protect young people – again allocated through local consultation
- Partnership and Prevention teams in every BCU (approximately 300 officers in total) providing specialist crime prevention/problem solving advice in line with 'Prevention First', owning strategic problems affecting the BCU as a whole and working jointly closely with partners
- All staff will be locally based, and work to deliver on local priorities developed via local consultation

Protecting Vulnerable People

- This will bring together local and previously centrally managed services that have been dealing with child abuse, rape and domestic violence in one place
- Bringing these resources together will enable us to provide a more joined up, victim-focused service, by delivering larger, more resilient multi skilled teams
- A 'single front door' bringing together MASH and CAIT referral arrangements will offer more efficient referrals, support, information sharing and effective partnership engagement
- Strengthened local accountability in delivering our joint safeguarding responsibilities
- Create a new, response functions to get the specialist skills straight to the scene of more serious crimes. Delivering immediate investigator – victim contact and reassurance at the earliest stage.
- Increased staffing – an additional 400 officers across London



METROPOLITAN
POLICE

TOTAL POLICING



Benefits – greater efficiency

ONE
MET
MODEL 2020

Response teams

- These teams will respond to emergency calls and deal with ongoing incidents. They provide a taskable resource in response to crime trends, public order aid and force mobilization.
- More efficient management will improve cross border deployments (currently only 1%) and improve call allocation to ensure the nearest unit attends the call (currently only occurring in 22% of calls)
- Investigating PIP Level 1 crime to offer immediate victim – investigator contact to improve victim care and ownership of investigations
- Reduced 'handover' of investigations improves efficiencies and prevents re working of enquiries already completed during an investigation.
- Management of their own prisoners will ensure effective evidence capture at the scene and more efficient processing
- Efficiency savings and demand reduction will allow reallocation of staff by 2020 to focus on risk and vulnerability.

Local Investigations

- Teams of investigators will respond directly to the more serious and complex PIP Level 2 crimes, offering immediate victim – investigator contact.
- They will also deliver a proactive response to crime, disorder and offending, utilising traditional uniformed tasking teams alongside proactive units dealing with local priorities
- A new approach to tasking & co-ordination will mean that the BCU has increased visibility of and access to specialist teams
- Pathfinders will test more joined up response to organised crime at the local level



Leadership

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MODEL 2020

One BCU Commander – Chief Superintendent

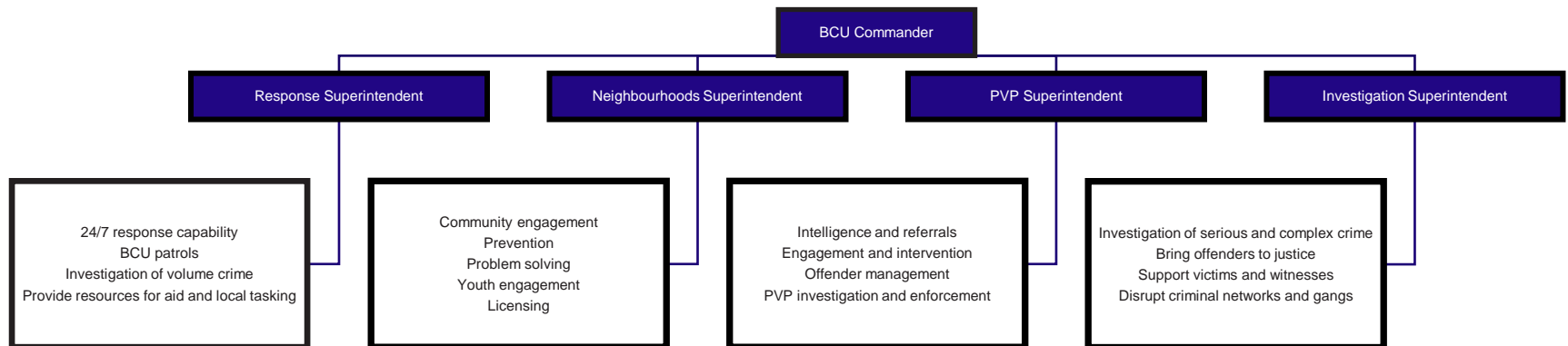
- Single point of contact and responsibility for the BCU
- Reduced number of BCU Commanders who are more empowered and influential across the MPS
- Maintain key relationships with Leaders and Chief Executives
- Enables removal of one 'chief officer' rank

Four Superintendents responsible for functional service delivery across the BCU

- Improved 'specialism' within each function
- Ensure officers are responsible for similar demands and resources across the MPS
- Ensure senior officers are suitably trained and equipped for the portfolio they oversee
- Allows a 'delayed' management structure - removal of one rank within the BCU – giving streamlined decision making by empowered staff at the right level and reducing management costs

Borough Commanders at Superintendent level

- Each borough will have one of the superintendents accountable for overall service delivery in the borough and providing a single point of contact for local stakeholders



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POLICE

TOTAL POLICING



Pathfinder sites

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MODEL 2020

Governance

Pathfinder sites overseen through joint governance approach with local authorities

- 'Oversight Boards' co-chaired with local authority
- 'Project Boards' co-chaired with local authority
- 'Local Implementation Boards' chaired by BCU Commander
 - To deliver joint and transparent overview of
- Partnership and engagement processes
- Service impact at both BCU and individual borough levels
- Development of local priorities and performance monitoring, particularly with regard to vulnerability and youth services
- Impact on local relationships and ability of MPS to respond to local issues

Success Factors

Critical success factors for the Pathfinders include:

- Does the BCU model support partnership through effective engagement and joint working?
- Does it position the MPS to deliver the requirements of the Policing and Crime Plan?
- Abstractions of DWOs and Youth officers will be monitored and reported on a monthly basis
- Delivery of improved outcomes for protecting vulnerable people
- Effective relationships with stakeholders will have been established and working
- Emergency response, crime levels, ASB and investigative/criminal justice performance will be maintained at both BCU and Borough level against corporate standards – reported monthly
- Success criteria will be finalised in conjunction with the Oversight Boards



How many commands for London?

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MODEL 2020

Demand and resources vary across boroughs resulting in inconsistency and inefficiency

➤ Resource: 282 officers in Kingston but 1185 in Westminster

➤ Crime: 48,000 PIP level 1 crimes in Westminster but only 9,900 in Kingston

➤ Emergency response: 21,000 '1' trade calls in Lambeth but only 6,800 in Richmond

➤ Domestic abuse: 3600 crimes at Croydon to 900 at Kensington and Chelsea

➤ Command: Borough Commander at Richmond commands 24% of the staff of Westminster

➤ Command team vary from 3 – 8 officers spread between 3 ranks C/Supt, Supt to C/Insp

Considerations;

- Commands to be of similar size and demand to offer standardisation and consistency – and a more even workload/level of risk for officers of the same rank
- Borough boundaries retained for Local Authority engagement
- Build team size around demand and apply consistent and more effective supervision ratios across London

We have considered options between 11 and 16 BCUs

➤ We have considered options in a range from 11 to 16 BCUs. Fewer than 11 means too broad a management ratio (greater than 1:10 superintendents to inspectors)

➤ More than 16 means that there is too much variation in size/demand (largest is 3x smallest)

➤ Teams (eg in emergency response) need to operate at sufficient size and scale to generate flexibility and realise efficiencies

➤ smaller commands make PVP teams with right level of specialism unsustainable (eg CAIT teams below 32 officers are not viable)

➤ Leadership structures need to be organised 'functionally' to get benefits from consistency and professionalism – more BCUs makes it increasingly inefficient (eg reducing PCs in favour of management and preventing consistent functional leadership across London)

➤ This led to a preference for a 12 BCU model as the best scale to realise the operational and organisational benefits



METROPOLITAN
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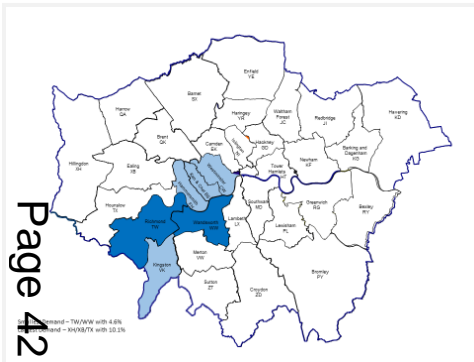
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NEW
SCOTLAND
YARD

What factors affect configuration of BCUs?

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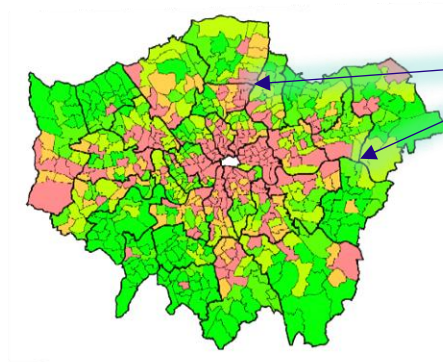
1. Existing relationships



Key considerations: eg

- Wandsworth and Richmond Local Authority
- Kingston (with its existing links to Richmond)

2. Infrastructure that influences deployment



Notable physical boundaries, eg

- Lea Valley corridor
- River crossing particularly East London

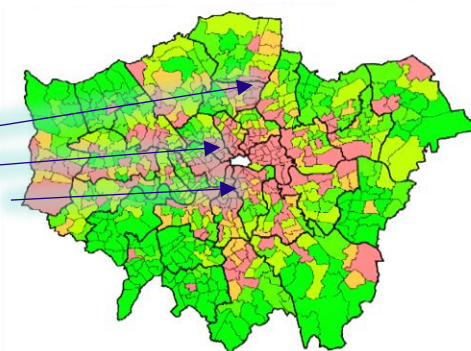
Major transport routes

3. Operational factors

There are some notable cross-borough crime patterns, eg

- Enfield and Haringey
- Camden and Islington
- Lambeth and Southwark

Total Notifiable Offences
2016



4. Build of options in manageable and achievable configurations

Key considerations:

- Central London – should Westminster be with Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea?
- Optimum scale and configuration of BCUs in South and East London
- Viability of any single borough command.



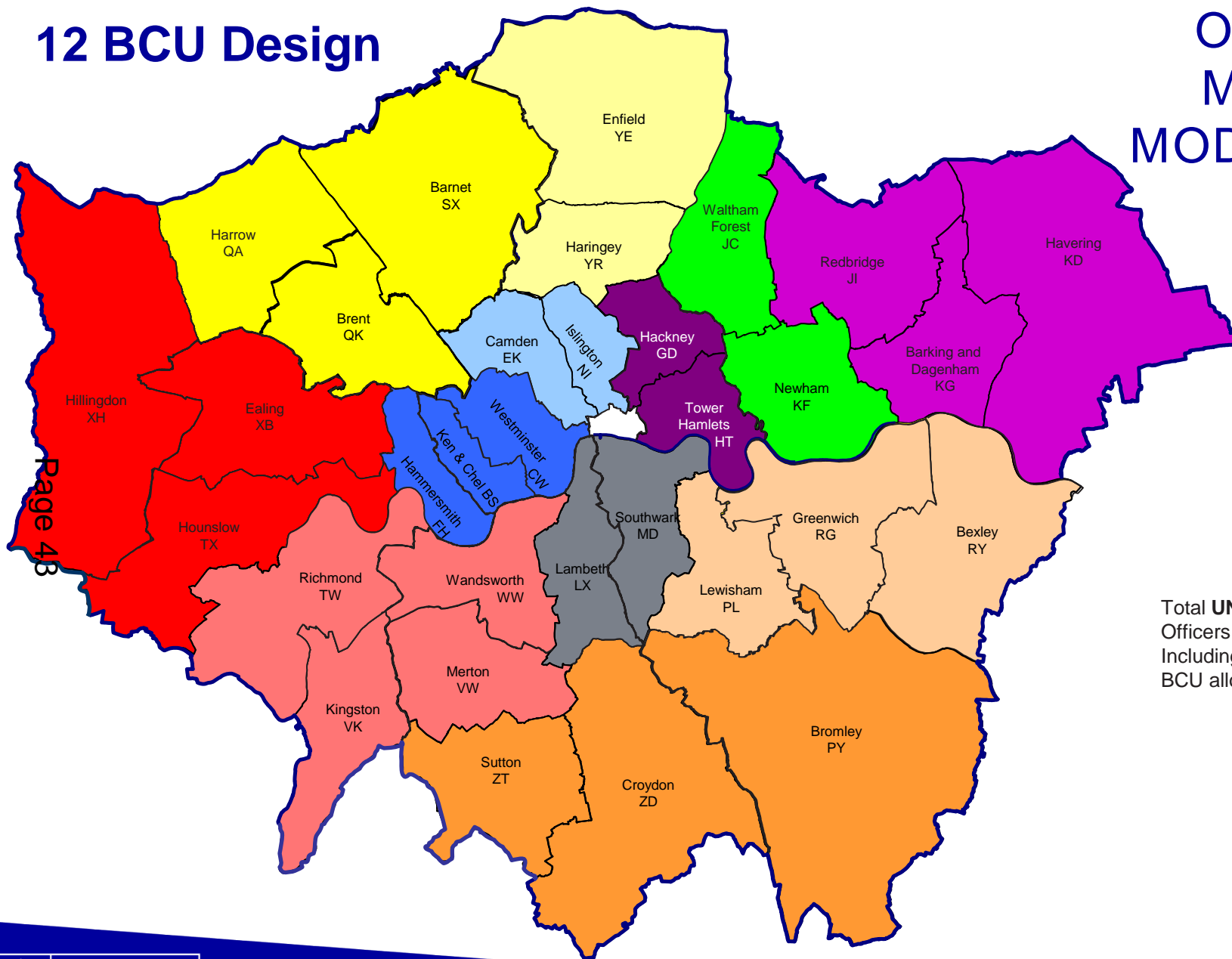
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POLICE

TOTAL POLICING

NEW
SCOTLAND
YARD

12 BCU Design

ONE
MET
MODEL 2020



Page 48

Total **UNFUNDED**
Officers in 2020
Including SCO17
BCU allocation



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

TOTAL POLICING



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Raynes Park Community Forum Wednesday 15 June 2017 Chair's Report

The meeting was held in Raynes Park Library Hall, and chaired by Councillor David Dean, with Chris Edge from the Raynes Park Association (RPA). Approximately 35 residents attended, as well as Merton Councillors, Stephen Hammond MP, and officers from the council and its partners. Chris Edge opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and introducing Councillor Dean as the Chair.

Open Forum

'Suspension of parking bay' signage

A resident asked if suspensions and the dates that they apply could be made more clear, citing the signs on Coombe Lane as unclear. Councillor Dean agreed to follow up the matter.

Council car park (Waitrose)

A resident questioned why the car park by Waitrose is run by the council and why there is a charge for Sunday parking. Councillors and other residents felt in general that the car park functions well with reasonable charges applying; and whilst Sunday parking could be free, this would result in higher costs elsewhere.

Proposed CPZ for Errol Gardens and Barnard Gardens

Some residents voiced concerns about the proposed CPZs for these roads, commenting that too many parking places will be lost to double-yellow lines, with a negative impact on neighbouring roads. Councillor Dean suggested residents speak to their local councillors about the matter.

Another resident voiced dissatisfaction with the diesel charge levy, commenting that conversely, free on-street parking for electric vehicles is impractical because cars cannot be charged when they are parked on the street.

Wheelie Bins

Helen Alexander-Allen updated residents on her campaign opposing the new wheelie bins, explaining that she is proposing alternative bins. Surveys she has undertaken indicate that 82-95% of residents do not want wheelie bins, therefore she encouraged those who are opposed to sign her [online petition](#).

Overhanging vegetation

A resident expressed concerns about overhanging vegetation from people's gardens, which is impeding footpaths, especially for the partially sighted. She pointed out that residents are responsible for cutting vegetation back to their own boundary lines, and if they don't do it, the council has to but at residents' expense. It was suggested that advice about the matter could be included in the Raynes Park Residents' Association's newsletter to increase awareness. Residents were also asked to water newly-planted trees if they live close to any.

Plans for the South Side of Skew Arch

Tony Edwards explained that Network Rail will not allow the Raynes Park Residents' Association to go onto the site; however they are not clearing the vegetation themselves. As such, the situation regarding landscape management is still unclear. Chris Edge added that he and Chris Larkman met with Network Rail and South West Trains and suggested that the residents' association might be willing to put forward funds for maintenance of the site, but as yet, no progress has been made.

With regard to the Skew Arch and making the south side better, the removal of the bins has had no ill effect. Due to the possibility of Crossrail 2, the consensus is that a lot of money should not be spent, therefore the hope is to put down synthetic grass. £2,000 has been raised from a Tesco grant and £500 obtained from the London clean-up fund, but the artificial grass is still too expensive, so the aim is to try to get off-cuts of grass for free.

Crossrail 2

Stephen Hammond MP informed residents that he expects to hear about the next set of plans before the end of July. Raynes Park may still be included within these plans, and if so, a new round of consultation is to be expected in the autumn. Mr Hammond said he would ask Crossrail 2 to include a public meeting within this consultation. Councillor Dean added that it is hoped a public meeting for Dundonald ward can also be arranged regarding Crossrail 2.

Counter Terrorism

Matt Bryan from the Counter Terrorism division at Merton Police returned to the forum to show residents the 'Operation Fairway' video about reporting suspicious behaviour and what to do in case of a terror incident.

There is an anti-terrorism hotline: 0800 789 321, but in the case of an immediate threat, people can ring 999. The police will respond to any 999 calls even if the caller is unable to speak at the other end.

Campaigns such as Wrap and Prevent are in place to try to spot signs of radicalisation, strange behaviour and mental health problems such as PTSD, which might lead to someone being a terror threat. Anyone identified as such is given support from social services and a mental health assessment.

Information updates

My Raynes Park Festival

Tom Underwood, Chair of the My Raynes Park Festival noted that this is the eighth year of the festival, which will run from 23rd June to 2nd July, with a variety of events and entertainment for all ages. As part of the festival, a community fun day – Raynes Lark in the Park – will take place on 2nd July from 12.30-4.30pm.

Christmas Fair

The Raynes Park Christmas Fair will take place on Friday 1st December from 3.30-7pm. Further information will be available at the next forum meeting.

Ride London

The Prudential Ride London is taking place on Sunday 30th July.

Local flooding and plans to reduce occurrences

Tom Sly, Flood Risk Management Engineer at Merton Council, assisted by Will Graham from Veolia and Claire Walshe, a Neighbourhood Client Officer at the council, spoke to residents about flooding in Raynes Park. It was explained that the council is trying to work out a programme for emptying gullies and for general flood prevention. Since the Pitt review following the summer floods in July 2007, Merton has increased gully cleansing in known flood risk areas, therefore almost all of Raynes Park is covered by our high risk gully cleansing programme each winter.

Residents were also encouraged to report flooding to Thames Water as well as Merton, whenever it occurs. This is so that Thames Water will recognise there is a flooding issue in Raynes Park, as they currently do not hold many reported incidents of flooding in the area. Responding to a resident who said that flooding in Dupont Road was reported last year but Thames Water still have not dealt with the infrastructure there, Tom said he is in ongoing talks with the organisation about how it can be more pro-active when it is known that heavy rain is due. Likewise, discussions about Edna Road are ongoing: Thames Water put in a sewer lining, which has blocked some of the road gully outlets into the sewers. The council has repaired some of this, but it is Thames Water's responsibility to ensure the sufficient working of the sewer system.

Shannon Corner, because it is an A-road, is the responsibility of TfL. The council has met onsite with TfL to discuss flooding.

Blocked gullies, cement in drains, or blockages from leaves should, in the first instance, be reported online via the council's 'Report It' tool. There is also an app called 'Love my streets', where blockages can be reported, and for those who are not online, they can call the council.

Chris Edge commented that the sewer under Raynes Park Road Bridge is not very effective and suggested that if Crossrail 2 is going to dig up the whole area, Thames Water could put a new sewer along the whole road, up to the high street. Tom agreed that the whole network needs to be reviewed as part of any major infrastructure project and is speaking to both Thames Water and Crossrail 2 about it.

It was added that the National Flood Forum website has information on how householders can protect their properties against flooding in order to decrease insurance premiums.

Feedback from LBM Raynes Park Champion

Apologies were given for Neil Milligan, who was unable to attend the meeting but had provided a written update, which was read out by Councillor Dean:

- **Wyke Road** - 17/P0609: There is currently an application for 10 flats on the site next to the railway track. A recent appeal for houses was refused by an Inspector.

Also the car garage on Wyke Road has been using the pavement and verge for parking their vehicles. Many customers have written to the council asking they be allowed to continue the parking for the sake of the business. Enforcement action was instigated due to highway safety reasons. The garage submitted an application for a parking layout last year but failed to follow up on the detail. They have now been given the opportunity to again try to regularise a form of safe parking on the site.

- **579-589 Kingston Road** – Former Manuplastics site and land to the west. Discussions with the applicant and agent are ongoing on this major mixed-use development with regard to affordable housing and design matters.
- **641 Kingston Road** – an application was approved at the April planning committee for retention and remodelling of an earlier scheme to enlarge the extend the vacant pub to provide a hotel.
- **577 Kingston Road** – Dundonald church site. There is an application for the redevelopment of the site to provide a new church with 15 flats above. The application is being assessed.
- **80-86 Bushey Road** – the Council is awaiting a letter from the National Casework Unit, allowing the council to proceed with issuing a decision. In the meantime, there is ongoing work to finalise a S106 agreement.
- **Albany House, Burlington Road** – major flatted development. Discussions on S106 are stuck with applicant who is resisting agreeing to a clawback and review mechanism in the draft S106.
- **Rainbow Industrial Estate** – there have been at least two enquiries from prospective purchasers regarding more intensive development of the site and the delivery of more affordable housing. The enquires are at a very early (not a formal pre-app) stage and therefore the details are confidential.
- **Transfer of land and widening footpath on southern station entrance** – National Rail have agreed to this but the matter is still under review by the legal department of the council, therefore there is currently no change.

The Chair thanked residents for attending and closed the meeting.

Dates of future meetings all at 7.15pm, in the Library Hall: 14 September 2017; 7 December 2017; 8 March 2018.

Wimbledon Community Forum 21 June 2017 Chair's Report

The meeting was held at the Wimbledon Arts Space, and chaired by Councillor Michael Bull as Councillor James Holmes was unwell. 12 residents attended, as well as three other Merton Councillors. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, introducing the councillors present at the meeting.

Soapbox

At a previous meeting a resident asked about the signage in the 20mph zone in central Wimbledon. Kris Witherington, Community Engagement Manager for Merton Council, said that colleagues had explained that some 20mph signs that appear to have been removed for reasons unknown. The Council will look to reinstate 20mph signs where appropriate as part of a town centre signage review we are currently undertaking. New signs are programmed this financial year. Some residents felt that 20mph limits should be the standard and are supporting the 20s Plenty Campaign.

Residents asked for an update on the Wimbledon Masterplan and for the website to be updated. Kris provided an update on behalf of Paul McGarry, Head of Future Merton:

“Thank you to everyone who took part in the workshops. There was an incredible amount of data and feedback to sift through and organise; particularly the photos and maps. The team are still collating the information for the full feedback report. The mapping is taking longer than we anticipated due to the detail and number of comments. We hope to provide feedback by the end of July. Apologies that this is slightly longer than we anticipated.

The team are also starting to prepare the masterplan in the background, with the info we have collated already. We anticipate the first draft being available in the autumn.

The team are also involved in a public enquiry for the Estates Regeneration project in the first week of July which has placed additional pressure on our urban design capacity.

There is no further update re. Crossrail 2 and we'll be happy to provide an update in person at the September forum”.

A resident asked if a new date for the Public Transport Liaison Committee had been confirmed. Kris replied that the meeting will hopefully take place in the autumn but no date has been agreed as yet.

Reporting street scene issues on the new website has proved difficult to some. A resident asked if a demonstration could be provided at a future meeting.

A resident asked if the Durnsford Road Bridge would have the same curb height added to the south west side as has been implemented on the other side. This will be taken up with colleagues.

UPDATE following the meeting - The intention was to introduce a safer footway on both sides of the bridge; however, due to the structure of the bridge and the extremely shallow

utilities' apparatus / equipment's and a few other constraints, the scheme became unviable. As a result only one side was improved.

An update on Morden Park Pool was asked for. This can be found at <http://www2.merton.gov.uk/leisure/sport/facilities/leisurecentres/leisureformorden.htm>

A resident asked about gully clearance to improve drainage.

Love Wimbledon update

Helen Clark Bell gave an update on Love Wimbledon's plans and upcoming events. There is a new Love Wimbledon website <http://lovewimbledon.org/> that has details of all listings as well as a monthly newsletter.

Events coming up include:

- Monthly market – next one will be on 1 July
- Wimbledon tennis – 3 to 16 July. There will be a big screen and deckchairs on the piazza, ambassadors in the town centre to guide visitors, and St Marks Place will have live music and street food. A head of the event pavements will be jet washed and lamppost banners put up. If there is no tennis on the middle Sunday the big screen will show the athletics from the Anniversary Games.
- 17-28 July – picnic benches will be available in the piazza to encourage meeting up
- Ride London – 30 July with a street party and live music. There will be road closures and changes to bus routes.
- Arts Trail – September. There will be an arts themed market on 23 September.
- Bookfest – will be launched on 3 October
- Winter wonderland – 3 December

In response to questions Helen said that Love Wimbledon will target shops and businesses to request they clear up problems they create, for example oil from fast food outlets. Residents are encouraged to raise any issues they experience with Love Wimbledon or directly with the businesses. Helen explained the BID had only recently renewed its agreement for another five years so there could not be any changes to the BID boundaries until the end of their second five year term. A new BID covering the South Wimbledon Business Association on the industrial estate will begin on 1 July, the third BID area in Merton.

Centre Court is responsible for the planting outside their Centre, Love Wimbledon have adopted some areas like those outside Lloyds and TK Maxx. Love Wimbledon is working with Metro Bank to identify improvements to the side of their premises. Whilst planters can improve the image of the area they can also constitute clutter so a balance must be struck. They also look to improve seating where they can but similarly clutter can be an issue.

The chair thanked Helen and residents for attending and closed the meeting.

Date of future meetings:

Thursday 28 September 2017 at Wimbledon Arts Space

Tuesday 5 December 2017 at Wimbledon Methodist Church

Thursday 1 March 2018 at Wimbledon Arts Space

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 12 JULY 2017

NOTICE OF MOTION

This Council welcomes the public meeting held recently by local campaign group, Clean Air Merton, to discuss how best to tackle the serious problem of air pollution in the borough, and notes with concern that:

- 1) Over 12,000 people in Merton are estimated to be exposed to toxic levels of pollution;
- 2) Various locations in Colliers Wood (Western Road and Colliers Wood High Street), Mitcham (London Road and Church Road), Morden (Crown Lane and London Road) and Wimbledon (The Ridgway, Merton Road and Haydens Road) exceed the legal nitrogen dioxide legal limit of 40 ug/m³;
- 3) 13 nurseries and schools across the borough are situated in areas with illegal air quality; and
- 4) Plans submitted to Merton Council for construction of a concrete batching plant at Waterside Way have led to a large number of objections citing the potential adverse impact on the air quality in neighbouring residential streets and at the nearby primary school and children's playground.

Emissions from road traffic have been identified as a major source of pollution in the borough and this Council recognises that Merton has sought in recent years to address levels of air pollution by encouraging local motorists to switch to less polluting vehicles. This has been through various measures, including the installation of a network of electric vehicle charging points; a reduction in the cost of parking permits for electric cars; provision of more on-street cycle parking facilities; and a year's free membership to an electric car club for Merton residents.

However, this Council understands that, whilst local authorities are already responsible for improving air quality in their area, under the government's proposed new air quality plan they will now be expected "to develop new and creative solutions to reduce emissions as quickly as possible, while avoiding undue impact on the motorist".

Given the above, this Council welcomes the work being undertaken in this area both by the borough's Air Quality Task Group, which was established through Scrutiny last year, and by council officers working on the refresh of the Air Quality Action Plan. It is clear there is still more that can and must be done to improve air quality across Merton, particularly by looking at the following:

- Tackling congestion hotspots in the borough and focusing on the worst-offending areas for air pollution;
- Introducing anti-idling measures as has been done in neighbouring Wandsworth;
- Expanding the use of air quality monitoring equipment, including to those locations, such as Plough Lane, where monitoring is no longer taking place;
- Initiatives to incentivise cycling and walking as alternative means of transport and to promote car sharing;

- A further reduction in the parking permit charge for electric vehicles as part of a comprehensive emissions based parking scheme;
- Cleaning up the many diesel vehicles that form the majority of Merton's own transport fleet and lobbying the Mayor of London for cleaner buses; and
- Increased co-operation across the South West London sub-region on air quality.

This Council therefore resolves to redouble its efforts to tackle air pollution and the danger it poses to the health of Merton's residents, and it calls on the Cabinet to:

- a) Look at new and bold ways that the borough can address this issue, in conjunction with the Mayor of London and national government, for incorporation into the 2017-22 Air Quality Action Plan due to go out for public consultation this year; and
- b) Ensure that this consultation is widely promoted and publicised by the Council and that ideas and suggestions to improve air quality are encouraged from individuals, residents' associations, local campaign groups, community organisations and business representatives right across Merton for consideration prior to final adoption of the new Action Plan.

Cllr Michael Bull

Cllr Daniel Holden

Cllr Abdul Latif

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 12 JULY 2017

NOTICE OF MOTION

This Council recognises that, whilst it is Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) that commissions support for people with neurological conditions, including Motor Neurone Disease (MND), many decisions about services used by residents with MND, such as social care, housing adaptations and support for carers, are made here at local authority level.

This Council therefore resolves to adopt the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Charter, which sets out the care and support that people living with MND and their carers deserve and should expect.

In adopting the MND Charter, this Council agrees to promote the Charter within the borough and to make it available to all councillors, council staff, partner organisations and health and social care professionals who deliver services for the council. This will serve to raise awareness of MND and demonstrate what good care looks like for those living with this devastating disease. It will also assist the council, working closely with Merton CCG, positively to influence the quality of life for local people with MND and their carers living in our community.

Cllr Suzanne Grocott

Cllr Daniel Holden

Cllr Oonagh Moulton

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Committee: Full Council Meeting

Date: 12 July 2017

Agenda item:

Wards: all

Subject: Locally listed buildings

Lead officer: Chris Lee, Director of Environment & Regeneration; James McGinley, Head of Sustainable Communities;

Lead member: Councillor Martin Whelton, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment & Housing.

Contact officer: Jill Tyndale, conservation officer

Recommendations:

That the Full Council:

- A Considers the buildings and structures proposed to be added to Merton Local List and agree the additions to the Local List set out in paragraphs 2.2 to 2.11 or the report.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Periodically Merton's Local List is reviewed and additions are agreed. In April 2016 the Borough Plan Advisory Committee advised on a new approach to reviewing Locally Listed buildings and structures which was incorporated into the BPAC Terms of Reference at full council in May 2016
- 1.2 Additions to Merton's Local List are put forward by members of the public, community groups and council officers. The additions are assessed by the council's conservation officer against seven criteria identified in Merton's guidance for selection of buildings and structures to be considered for Local Listing. The criteria are; architectural style, age and history, detailing, group value, building materials and subsequent alterations.
- 1.3 This report went before Borough Plan Advisory Committee on 8th March 2017 and went before Cabinet on 3rd July 2017 who agreed with officer's recommendation that all items with the exception of 34-40 Morden Road should be added to the Local List.

2 Proposals

2.1 Proposals for buildings and structures to be added to the Local List are set out below. All are recommended for addition to the Local List by officers apart from 34-40 Morden Road, South Wimbledon;

- Bramcote Court & Parade, Bramcote Avenue, Mitcham
- Lampstands, gates and railings. The Lodge, Madeira Road, Mitcham
- Cast Iron Gas Lamp Post, Jubilee Corner, Mitcham Cricket Green
- Mitcham Running Track, Grounds of Park Place and Canons
- Rodney Place, South Wimbledon.
- London 2012 Gold Post Boxes
- The Hill House and Tudor Cottage, 118 & 118a Wimbledon Hill Road
- The Gate House, 4 Ellerton Road, West Wimbledon
- Menelaus, 16a Arterberry Road, Raynes Park
- Far House, 20 Hillside, Wimbledon
- 34 – 40 Morden Road, South Wimbledon

2.2 **Bramcote Court and Parade, Bramcote Avenue, Mitcham, CR4 4LR.**

Proposed by the Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage .
1930s residential development of 43 flats with some retail in the moderne style located in Mitcham Cricket Green Conservation Area.

2.2.1 **Architectural style:** “An impressive four storey red brick block of flats of 1930’s flats with shops in the ground floor of the curved corner block. The flat roofed ends and hipped roof centre block feature curved corner glazing and horizontal banded panels in the ‘Moderne’ style. Somewhat out of scale with its neighbours it is nevertheless a good example of its type and time” Mitcham Cricket Green Conservation Area Appraisal.

2.2.2 **Age and history:** Permission granted in 1936. Architect was T Spencer Rutter of Avondale, NW10

2.2.3 **Detailing:** As stated above. Additionally, decorative panels in brick relief between the evenly placed windows on the wide corner curve at first and second levels.

Distinctive curved balconies on the residential wing.

- 2.2.4 **Group value:** This is a development of flats and shopping parade which forms its own group value and needs to be considered as one.
- 2.2.5 **Building materials:** Constructed using red brick, concrete lintels and render. Originally the whole building would have had Crittall windows. Originally the whole building would have had Crittall windows.
- 2.2.6 **Subsequent alterations:** Possibly small changes at high level, yellow render. Unfortunately the windows have been changed with the exception of the stair well windows which remain the single glazed Crittall windows. Windows on the curved sections would probably have followed the curves but the replacement windows do not.
- 2.2.7 No comments received in response to Consultation.



Fig 1



Fig 2

2.2.8 Recommendation: Borough Plan Advisory Committee agreed to recommend the addition of Bramcote Court and Parade to the Local List. Concern expressed regarding the shop fronts.

2.3 Pair of cast iron lampstands, gates and railings. The Lodge, Madeira Road, Mitcham CR4 3ND

Proposed by the Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage .

2.3.1 Architectural style: These gates, section of railings and two lampstands are considered to be a possible surviving entrance and boundary to Canons House. The heavy cast iron relatively simple form is possibly Georgian.

2.3.2 Age and history: Possibly Georgian or earlier. The Lodge was built about 1870 but it thought that the boundary wall and the gates may be of this time but they could be earlier and relate to the Canons.

2.3.3 Detailing: Relatively simple design featuring circles and four sided supports for lamps.

2.3.4 Group value: No group value

2.3.5 Building materials: Cast Iron

2.3.6 **Subsequent alterations:** The railings and gates could benefit from some maintenance. There are no lamps in place.

2.3.7 One response was received from Scott T. of Merton Historical Society. He quoted that Eric Montague in his 'Mitcham Histories 11' that the Iron gates may be current with the Lodge.



Fig 3



Fig 4

2.3.8 **Recommendation:** Borough Plan Advisory Committee agreed to recommend the addition of Pair of cast iron lampstands, gates and railings to the Local List. The Lodge already forms part of the Local List.

2.4 Cast Iron Gas Lamp Post, Jubilee Corner, Mitcham Cricket Green

Proposed by the Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage .

This gas lamp post is one of a very few examples of historic street furniture in Merton. Positioned at Jubilee Corner it is included in Merton Council's Historic Furniture List, incorrectly identified as a vent pipe.

2.4.1 **Architectural style:** Unusual example of Victorian street furniture

2.4.2 **Age and history:** Probably erected in the early 1850s as part of a contract for fitting of 50 'iron lamp posts with lamps and fittings complete for lighting the same with Gas' South Eastern Gazette, 8th November 1853.

2.4.3 **Detailing:** Relatively ornate lamp post on a square base upon which is a rectangular section with corner detail and relief beading on each face.

2.4.4 **Group value:** No group value as this would appear to be only one to survive.

2.4.5 **Building materials:** Cast Iron

2.4.5 **Subsequent alterations:** The gas lamp part has not been in place for a very long time.

2.4.6 One response was received from Cooper L. Street Works, Future Merton supporting Local Listing of Victorian Lamp Post on Mitcham Cricket Green.



Fig 5



Fig 6

2.4.6 **Recommendation:** Borough Plan Advisory Committee agreed to recommend the addition of the Cast Iron Gas Lamp Post to the Local List

2.5 Mitcham Running Track, Grounds of Park Place and Canons

Proposed by the Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage .

This is a historic running track associated with the former News of the World Sports Ground. It has been identified as being of 'considerable significance' in the Landscape Appraisal undertaken by Southern Green.

2.5.1 **Architectural style:** Cinder running track, originally 407yards and 5 lanes.

2.5.2 **Age and history:** Constructed in 1922 this historic running track is the last evocation of the historic News of the World Sports Ground, home to Mitcham Athletic Club which was based at the track until the early 1960s. International athletes who trained here include high-jumper Dorothy Tyler (nee Odam) 1936 Olympic Silver Medallist, long-jumper, Jennifer Pawsey (nee Taylor), Jennette Towel (nee Neil), sprinter, Jill Bamborogh (nee Hall) and middle-distance runner Ann Smith.

2.5.3 **Detailing:** Cinder track in an oval form. But probably had a 100yds straight parallel to Cold Blows.

2.5.4 **Group value:** No group value

2.5.5 **Building materials:** Rare example of an original cinder running track which is still visible.

2.5.6 **Subsequent alterations:** The grass is gradually taking over and the track has possibly been altered slightly over the years.

2.5.7 Two responses were received. Scott T. of Merton Historical Society pointed out that there a straight section of track which may have formed a 100yd sprint. The content has been amended. Turner J. of Greenspaces, E&R is concerned that Local Listing should not hinder future development.



Fig 7

2.5.8 Recommendation: Borough Plan Advisory Committee agreed to recommend the addition of Mitcham Running Track to the Local List

2.6 Rodney Place, South Wimbledon.

Proposed by the Jill Tyndale, Conservation Officer.

- 2.6.1 Rodney Place was developed by the City and South London Railway who owned the land, possibly for railway workers. The City and London Railway was the first deep-level underground 'tube' in the World. It first opened in 1890 between King William Street and Stockwell. It was first extended to Clapham Common in 1900 and on to Morden in 1926. Rodney Place was developed on Nelson's Fields which was just south of the site of Lord Nelson's house. Sixteen Houses were built in a horseshoe arrangement in a number of small terraces. The first occupants moved in 1924.. They are lovingly maintained by the current owners.
- 2.6.2 **Architectural style:** Small two storey terraces, 2 of 4 houses and one of 8, probably built to Tudor Walters standards. Each house had an upstairs bathroom, some had an upstairs toilet while the smaller houses had a toilet at the rear just outside via a covered porch. The kitchens had a larder, coal store, hot water tank. They were fitted with a kitchen dresser.
- 2.6.3 **Age and history:** Built in 1924. It would appear that commencement of building of the houses was early 1924 as the plans were lodge in January. The first tenants moved in mid October 1924. The pressure for housing was even greater at that time than it is now.
- 2.6.4 **Detailing:** Built in yellow stock with red stock corbels and red vertical detailing on either side of the windows and dogtooth detail at the eaves level in some places. The front doors have arched entrances with a decorative feature fanlight above. The window cills are formed with horizontal tiles. The roofs are tiles.

Unfortunately there are few original metal windows left as most have been replaced with upvc. The front boundaries are formed by mature hedges which is an important feature of Rodney Place.

2.6.5 **Group value:** Strong group value

2.6.6 **Building materials:** Built in Yellow Stock Brick with Red Brick detailing and Clay roof tiles.

2.6.7 **Subsequent alterations:** A number of replacement windows and front doors.

2.6.8 O'Grady H. Supported the Local Listing of Rodney Place. Stated that there are coal shoots at the rear. However she is concerned about the loss of the Old Lamp Works and the impact of the new development on Rodney Place.



Figs 8 & 9

2.6.8 **Recommendation:** Borough Plan Advisory Committee agreed to recommend the addition of Rodney Place to the Local List.

2.7 London 2012 Olympic Gold Post Boxes

Proposed by the Jill Tyndale, Conservation Officer.

- 2.7.1 To commemorate British gold medal winners at the 2012 Summer Olympics and 2012 Summer Paralympics, 53 post boxes in home towns of the medal winners and other significant places were painted gold. It marked the first occasion in modern times that the colour of post boxes in the United Kingdom had been changed from their traditional red. Originally it was to be a temporary colour change but in response to positive public feedback it was later decided that gold post boxes would be a permanent tribute to the medallists. The gold post boxes also now have commemorative plaque identifying the individual medallists written in lettering and braille.
- 2.7.2 Gold Post Box situated at the junction of Somerset Road and Church Road. Fig 10
- 2.7.3 This Gold Post Box commemorating Andy Murray Gold Medal Win at the 2012 Olympics. Andy Murray is one of the few medallists who has two Gold Post Boxes. One is in this position close to the All England Tennis Association Ground where he won his medal and the other one is in his home town.



Fig 10

- 2.7.4 Gold Post Box situated in Worple Road close to the junction with Wimbledon Hill Road commemorating Sophie Hosking Gold Medal win for rowing. Figs 11 & 12



Fig 11

- 2.7.5 **Architectural style:** Typical Elizabeth II post boxes
- 2.7.6 **Age and history:** The 2 Boxes are both Elizabeth Regina post boxes.

2.7.7 **Detailing:** Painted gold. Andy Murray's Box is a single Box while Sophie Hoskins' is a double Box

2.7.8 **Group value:** Two in Wimbledon. There are 53 post boxes painted Gold for Olympic winners

2.7.9 **Building materials:** Cast Iron, painted

2.7.10 **Subsequent alterations:** Was red now painted gold and will remain gold.



Fig 12

2.7.11 One response was received from Cooper L. of Street Works, Future Merton supporting Local Listing of the Gold Letter Boxes.

2.7.12 **Recommendation:** Borough Plan Advisory Committee agreed to recommend the addition of the London 2012 Olympic Gold Post Boxes to the Local List

2.8 The Hill House and Tudor Cottage, 118 & 118a Wimbledon Hill Road, SW19 7QU

Proposed by the Jill Tyndale, Conservation Officer.

2.8.1 This is one of the few farm houses remaining in Wimbledon. The house has gone through a couple of transformations. About 1920/30s the dairy was turned into living accommodation, the part of the building that faced the main road was made into a separate dwelling now know as Tudor Cottage. The whole building was given a facelift influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement but behind this

façade is a considerably older building. Much of the original layout was retained. In the late 1960s the main house was made into two flats. Again, apart from losing the internal staircase, much of the original layout has been retained.

- 2.8.2 **Architectural style:** In keeping with Arts and Craft movement it is brick at ground floor level with white painted brick and beams at first floor level with tiled roof. It has a beamed jettied projection over the oak front door and decorative brickwork on the chimneys.
- 2.8.3 **Age and history:** It appears on 1865 map at which time the fields to west had begun to be developed. The rear part of the ground floor was the dairy.
- 2.8.4 **Detailing:** Tudor Cottage; red brick at ground floor level with white painted brick and beams at first floor. Stone surround to the oak front door. Leaded light windows. The Hill House; Decorative brick work feature on the beamed projection over the front door. Cantered bays at ground floor level. White painted brick. Tall decorative chimneys.
- 2.8.5 **Group value:** No group value
- 2.8.6 **Building materials:** Red Brick, white painted brick, beams, clay tiled roof.
- 2.8.7 **Subsequent alterations:** Bay windows have been changed to plain sashes which is possibly reverting to prior the Arts and Crafts transformation. Extensions within the garden.
- 2.8.8 No comments received in response to Consultation.
- 2.8.9 **Recommendation:** Borough Plan Advisory Committee agreed to recommend the addition of The Hill House and Tudor Cottage to the Local List. A negative comment was made regarding the decorative beams added in 1920s.



Fig13

2.9 The Gate House, 4 Ellerton Road, West Wimbledon, SW20 0EP

Proposed by the Jill Tyndale, Conservation Officer.

- 2.9.1 Built for Ralph Peacock, portrait painter, 1868-1946. The house originally had a double height studio on the first floor facing north with a picture store off it. It had dark room on the ground floor in the centre of the house.
- 2.9.2 **Architectural style:** Influenced by the Arts and Craft Movement this house has a prominent central section with wings set back on either side. It was built as a two storey house with room in the loft for storage. Later, converted to accommodation. It has square leaded panes set in metal windows in wooden frames.
- 2.9.3 **Age and history:** Built in 1929 at the time the Drax Estate was first being developed. The architect was Sir Edward Guy Dawber, President of RIBA and friend of Ralph Peacock It is a large house designed specifically as an artist house for himself and his housekeeper.
- 2.9.4 **Detailing:** Red brick in a Flemish Garden Wall Bond. Mainly hipped clay tile roofs but incorporating some flat roofs. Tall leaded windows in the hall staircase areas. It has cantered bays to either side of the entrance. The added brick porch gives extra dimension to the front elevation. Internally it has an Art Deco staircase built by Italian masons.
- 2.9.5 **Group value:** No group value
- 2.9.6 **Building materials:** Built in red brick with clay tiled roof.

2.9.7 **Subsequent alterations:** The double height studio was altered in 1950s. The white rendered tower and two small front dormers were added in the 1990s to make use of the attic. The projecting porch was added in 1969 for Oliver Reed, actor.

2.9.8 One response was received from McLaren Tipping H. who have more information about the property. She stated that there were 2 cantered bays, Sir Edward Guy Dawber, president of RIBA was the architect and friend of Peacock. Originally the house had a tall chimney. The double height studio has been changed in 1950s. The House has an Art Deco staircase. Content has been amended.

2.9.9 **Recommendation:** Borough Plan Advisory Committee agreed to recommend the addition of The Gate House to the Local List



Fig14

2.10 Menelaus, 16a Arterberry Road, Raynes Park, SW20 8AJ

Proposed by the Jill Tyndale, Conservation Officer.

2.10.1 Architectural style: This is a two storey contemporary double pitched roofed property.

2.10.2 Age and history: Designed by Norman Plastow built in 1960s. Reviewed in 'Decorative Art in modern interiors' Studio Books 52 and other publications.

2.10.3 Detailing: Open plan at ground floor level with a glazed double height living area which fills the interior with light and connects the interior with the garden. The single storey living area has a timber panelled ceiling. The interior features an open stairway supported on a central load-bearing central pillar.

2.10.4 Group value: No group value except it has a relationship in style with the Far House by the same architect a few road away.

2.10.5 Building materials: Block construction at ground floor level. Timber framed at upper floor,, faced with brick at ground floor level and tile hung at first floor level. Large expanses of glass.

2.10.6 Subsequent alterations: The only known alteration is to convert an upstairs storage area into an en suite bathroom

2.10.7 No comments received in response to Consultation.

2.10.8 Recommendation: Borough Plan Advisory Committee agreed to recommend the addition of Menelaus to the Local List



Fig 15

2.11 Far House, 20 Hillside, Wimbledon, SW19 4NL

Proposed by the Jill Tyndale, Conservation Officer.

2.11.1 **Architectural style:** Contemporary Modern two storey house of 1960s based on the long house concept with a double height living area.

2.11.2 **Age and history:** Designed and built by Norman Plastow for himself in 1963/4

2.11.3 **Detailing:** The external detailing is created by the materials used, the red cedar cladding, yellow cedar framing around the windows, the render at ground floor

level. The white barge boards and horizontal white detailing contrast and emphasize the timber and render. The front landscaping and acer tree complement the frontage. On the rear is a balcony. Internally it features the double height living area with staircase leading to the gallery from which the bedrooms are accessed. Large double glazed windows overlook the garden and views. Baltic pine finishes the ceilings and some walls, and built in teak shelving units are part of the designed interior.

2.11.4 **Group value:** No group value except it has a relationship in style with Menelaus.

2.11.5 **Building materials:** Ground floor constructed of lightweight insulating block-work, externally rendered. Upper floor is timber framed and is faced cedar boarding. Double glazed panels within yellow cedar frames. Internally some the walls are plastered while others and ceilings are finished in Baltic pine boarding. Roof is interlocking tiles. Natural stone is used in front landscaping with York stone steps.

2.11.6 **Subsequent alterations:** There have been some additions to increase the accommodation in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. These additions show how a property can evolve with prejudicing the integrity of the original building.

2.11.7 No comments received in response to Consultation.

2.11.8 **Recommendation:** Borough Plan Advisory Committee agreed to recommend the addition of Far House to the Local List



Fig 16



Figs 17 & 18

2.12 Local list assessment for 34 – 40 Morden Road

- 2.12.1 The terrace of cottages, 34-40 Morden Road, was assessed in reference to being added to the Local List in 2014 the council's conservation officer. The result of the assessment at that time was that they did not merit being added to the Local List.
- 2.12.2 The main reason for this conclusion was that the amount of unsympathetic additions which undermined the integrity of the terrace. The report is laid out below.
- 2.12.3 New evidence has been presented in the form of early maps which supports an earlier build date than previously proposed. Also there is evidence that connects the cottages more strongly to the estate of Admiral Nelson. Although this evidence supports the case for Locally Listing it does not overcome the fact that detrimental additions that have been made to this terrace. Therefore the conservation officer stands by the decision not to Locally List this terrace of cottages.
- 2.12.4 However, it must be noted that in reference to the planning application 14/p3856 which was refused and dismissed under appeal that the inspector stated in his report that the demolition of the terrace of cottages would result in "significant level of harm". The inspector acknowledges that the cottages have heritage value due to the cottages being the earliest remaining development in the area. He identified them as being a "non-designated heritage asset which positively contributes to the character of the area"



Figs 19 & 20



Figs 21&22

2.12.5 **Architectural Style:**

Simple terrace of residential cottages dating from the early 1800's. Originally brick faced with render detail over arched window at ground floor. Shallow pitched, slate roof. Good example of simple domestic architecture of the period.

2.12.6 **Age and History:**

Buildings older than 1850 may be acceptable for inclusion on the Local List with less justification in terms of the other criteria. However, the cottages have no significant historical associations and each building in the terrace has been substantially altered.

2.12.7 **Detailing:**

The existing authentic detailing is limited, windows are either upvc or inappropriate timber replacements. Original brickwork has been rendered and inappropriate porches added. The original roof form and chimneys remain to the main terrace.

2.12.8 **Group Value:**

The terrace is unified as a group by the shallow pitched slate roof. Other than that, variety in detailing and subsequent alterations has resulted in a discordant group.

2.12.9 **Building Materials:**

Standard building materials were used in the construction of the original terrace, including, slate, brick and timber. Subsequent alterations have involved the addition of more contemporary materials including Upvc, modern brickwork and inappropriately designed timber window and doors

2.12.10 **Subsequent alterations:**

The terrace has been the subject of a number of insensitive alterations which have had a serious impact on the character and appearance of the terrace. The side extension to number 40, with its discordant roof form, has destroyed the simple line of the terrace. Rear extensions have also impacted on the integrity of the terrace. Number 34 also has an inappropriate side extension which introduces a parapet to the side of the hipped roofed terrace.

2.12.11 **Conclusion:**

Although buildings earlier than 1850 should be considered more favourably against the criteria for local listing, the extent of the subsequent alterations to this terrace have destroyed the simple character of the group. The main roof form, although intact, has been compromised by the later side additions. The simple detailing has been destroyed by a range of insensitive alterations.

2.12.12 Decision:

Not suitable for local listing

2.12.13 Comparison with other locally listed cottages in the borough

As a comparison, the following groups represent similar style and date cottages in the borough that are currently included on the Local List. They are relatively unaltered and are excellent examples of simple early Victorian cottages. Their quality is in strong contrast to the group at 34-40 Morden Road.



Fig 23

84-94 Phipps Bridge Road



Fig 24

2-20 Church Path, Mitcham

2.12.14 **Recommendation:**

BPAC were asked to consider, that whilst the cottages do not meet the council's criteria for Local Listing and could potentially undermine the value of the Local List; they do have a degree of local historical importance and should be recognised in some manner.

BPAC recognises that the cottages have some heritage value but do not currently meet the criteria for addition to the Local List due to the numerous unsympathetic alternations that have been carried out to them. The addition of these cottages is not merited at this time, particularly when compared to similar cottages that are already on Merton's Local List, as it would devalue the purpose of maintaining a Local List of significant local heritage assets.

BPAC would encourage the sympathetic refurbishment of these cottages is so that they might be able to be positively considered for addition to the Local List in the future.

Not recommended for addition to the Local List at this time.

3. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1 The proposals for Local Listing have been subject to public consultation. Consultation letters were sent to the individual residential properties informing the owners that their property was proposed for addition to the Local List during October 16 2016. Their comments were invited and any additional information was welcome. The draft report was presented at the Heritage Forum on 18th October. Early November similar consultation letters regarding structures within the public realm were sent to relevant council officers and community groups. Generally responders were in support of the Local Listings. Some added useful and further information. The proposals have been amended where appropriate in response to comments received. Comments from consultees have been added after each description. The report was submitted to BPAC for their approval on 8th March 2017. BPAC agrees the additions (A) but did not agree to adding 34-40 Morden Road to the Local List (B ii)
- 4.2 The proposals for Local Listing have been subject to public consultation. The proposals have been presented at the Heritage Forum. Individuals and organisations responsible for the buildings or structures being proposed for inclusion have also been consulted directly. Generally responders were in support of the Local Listings. Some added useful and further information. The proposals have been amended where appropriate in response to comments received. Comments from consultees have been added after each description. The report has been submitted to BPAC for their approval. BPAC agrees the additions (A) but did not agree to adding 34-40 Morden Road to the Local List (B ii)
- 4.3 During April and May 2016 it was resolved by BPAC and council to change the process for assessing locally listed buildings. This report is the first report to be received under the new process. The new process is set out as follows:

Recommendations received annually from anyone (residents, officers, businesses etc) for buildings or structures to be listed	<i>No change to process</i>
Merton's conservation officer assesses the buildings and structures against Merton's Locally Listed Buildings criteria and writes a report for each building / structure, recommending	<i>No change to process</i>

inclusion or rejection on the Local List.	
The buildings / structures and the officer's report is published on the council's website for consultation for 4-6 weeks	<i>New element</i>
Officers finalise the report and recommendations, considering the consultation feedback. If consultation reveals something that has been missed in the assessment, officers will re-assess.	<i>New element</i>
The officer's final report and the consultation response summary are considered by the Borough Plan Advisory Committee who then make a recommendation to full council via Cabinet	<i>New element</i>
Recommendations to include or reject the buildings / structures for the Local List are resolved by full council	<i>New element</i>

6. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The property implications are set out in the body of this report. This work has been prepared within the council's existing resources.

7. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS.

7.1 There is no statutory requirement for councils to hold or maintain a Local List.

7.2 However their status is relevant when considered through Merton's Local Plan (Core Planning Strategy policy CS14 and Merton's Sites and Policies Plan 2014 policy DM D3) and therefore in the discharge of Merton's statutory functions as a Local Planning Authority.

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.

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

1. None

Committee: Ordinary Council Meeting

Date: 12 July 2017

Wards: All

Subject: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016-2017

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 carried out by each Panel/Commission during the year.

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

- a foreword by the 2016/17 Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Commission
- a brief explanation of the term 'overview and scrutiny'
- scrutiny achievements 2016-2017
- a report from each Panel and the Commission on activities during 2016/17
- 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 28 March 2017.

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 2016-2017.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 None.



Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/17

London Borough of Merton

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/17

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Foreword

Scrutiny has never been more relevant to the work of Merton council than it is today. Financial pressures are changing the framework for service provision out of recognition. Scrutiny needs to keep pace with these changes to ensure residents are still getting the services they need, and service providers remain accountable for their delivery.

Scrutiny is at the interface between residents and the council, so public involvement is essential if it is to reflect residents' views and needs. This is not just about numbers. The Commission welcomed Cabinet's decision to consult on appropriate levels of council tax, a consultation that attracted more than 2000 responses, and gave clear support for levying the Adult Social Care precept in the 2017/18 budget. At the other end of the scale, one local resident attending a meeting on the problems of finding suitable short term accommodation for the elderly on release from hospital suggested a web based solution that is now being investigated. We have also listened to organisations that speak for user groups threatened by cuts in welfare budgets, such as Merton and Lambeth CAB, Faith in Action and Merton Centre for Independent Living, and encouraged closer links with the council to support their work. And we have called on external advisers with professional experience to mentor our enquiries into subjects such as child safeguarding.

Call-in can provide another channel for public involvement. I'm aware that call-in is sometimes regarded as symptomatic of failure in scrutiny earlier in the decision process, but packed meetings in the council chamber attested to strong interest (and sometimes passionate views) on the council's plans for waste collection and parks maintenance. Debate at call-in can often elicit information not previously in the public domain, helping to counter misperceptions. Even if Cabinet's decision is upheld, the transparency call-in brings is to be welcomed.

As the council moves towards more radical responses to the financial pressures it faces (and the formation of a Local Property Company is an innovative example), scrutiny will have to adapt to dealing with new bodies that are not accustomed to being held publicly accountable. We are up for the challenge, knowing we can count on the support of our dedicated scrutiny team of Julia Regan, Stella Akintan and Annette Wiles. Members may have the ideas, but it's our officers who them happen. We owe them our grateful thanks and support.

Cllr 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 2016-2017

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

- Abbotsbury school council asked scrutiny to look at loneliness and social isolation of older people. This is now the focus of an in-depth task group review. Councillors also visited the school and were given a long and comprehensive list of suggestions on how to tackle the issue;
- A local resident shared their experience of living as a tenant of the social housing provider Circle Housing. This enabled scrutiny councillors to ask challenging questions of the service provider and subsequently to meet the provider to discuss individual issues raised through councillor casework;
- A local resident attended a scrutiny meeting to suggest the development of a website to advertise vacancies in local care homes. As a result the Head of Adult Social Care is now working with the resident to determine if the suggestion is feasible;
- Merton and Lambeth Citizens Advice, Faith in Action and Merton Centre for Independent Living attended a scrutiny meeting to discuss the impact that welfare reform is having and how to mitigate this;
- Muslim Women in Morden made a representation to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel about the negative effect the Prevent agenda is having on the local Muslim community. As a result, there have been discussions about how the Muslim Women in Morden could work with the Children, Schools and Families Department to support its Prevent training for headteachers.

This year we have consciously increased our use of external advisers in order to be able to provide more rigorous challenge. Advisers included the Independent Chair of the Merton Safeguarding Children's Board, the Head of Young People's Services at The Who Cares? Trust (now called Become), an investment management expert from Henley Investment Management and the Operations Manager from Age UK Merton.

Councillors have scrutinised many topical issues of concern to local residents, for example by getting involved at each stage of the development of a new leisure centre, including monitoring the appointment of relevant experts, understanding how the Centre will relate to other local community providers, checking how residents are being consulted on the development and reviewing designs from first concept stage.

Three in-depth task group reviews have been carried out, details of which can be found under the relevant Panel headings:

- Supporting vulnerable young people into employment – Children and Young People Panel
- Loneliness - Healthier Communities and Older People Panel
- Air quality - Sustainable Communities Panel

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.

Scrutiny reviews

Shared and outsourced services

Two task group reviews last year examined how different models of service delivery work and made recommendations to stimulate a more consistent and rigorous approach to selecting delivery models and challenging officers on the most appropriate model for each service. The recommendations have been accepted by the Council's Cabinet and implementation is now being monitored by the Commission.

Strategic issues and pre-decision scrutiny

The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive attended to set out their priorities for 2016/17 and the financial challenges facing the council. The Commission asked them questions on issues including the new leisure centre, waste services, Crossrail 2, the council's efficiency programme and Merton's ambition to be the best council in London. The Leader undertook to continue to take up issues of poor performance with Circle Housing Merton Priory (now Clarion).

The Commission commented on the annual report from Merton Partnership and requested additional information on the findings and outcome of the apprenticeship review as well as the number of affordable homes that have been provided in the borough.

Changes were made to the new equality and community cohesion strategy in response to the Commission's comments on the draft strategy – to add more detail on hate crime and to include Motspur Park and Raynes Park stations in the list of those requiring step-free access, as well as fully populating the strategy with performance measures.

The Commission discussed the content and process followed for the public consultation on the level of council tax. At a later meeting it examined the council's partnership approach to consultation and community engagement.

The Commission received a presentation setting out the functions and activity levels of the planning enforcement service. As a result of a request by the Commission, this information has now been shared with all councillors, residents associations and community forums.

Updates on the customer contact programme have been received at critical points in the project. The Commission was pleased with the increased level of use of online services but disappointed that there had not been more progress with the programme.

The Chief Executive of Merton Voluntary Service Council attended in November 2016 to discuss the voluntary sector and volunteering strategy. The Commission endorsed the strategy's direction of travel and made some comments on the draft that were taken into account in producing the final document, notably on the development of definitions for social value and updated guidance in the council's contract standing orders.

The Commission received a presentation on proposals to set up a local authority property company in order to enable members to understand the financial aspects prior to it being brought to a meeting of Council. The Commission welcomed the proposals as an innovative way of raising revenue from the council's assets without selling them. Members expressed some concerns about the accountability of the company and stressed the need for its decisions to be subject to scrutiny.

Scrutiny of crime and disorder

The Commission has examined crime data and was pleased that crime rates continue to remain low in Merton and are on a par or better than most neighbouring boroughs. It noted that, on top of the Londonwide MOPAC priorities, the two local priorities for Merton are moped theft and household burglary.

The Borough Commander has been asked questions on a wide range of issues including hate crime, traffic speed enforcement, street drinking and the work of police officers in local schools. The Commission welcomed progress made with the implementation of new CCTV equipment and its success in assisting the police to prosecute crime.

The Commission discussed the Mayor of London's policing priorities with the London Assembly Member for Merton and Wandsworth. They also discussed the operation and performance monitoring arrangements for the proposed four-borough Basic Command Unit model of policing.

The Commission welcomed the work being done by Merton Centre for Independent Living to identify, measure and draw attention to the problem of disability hate crime. It was assured that the Safer and Strong Partnership Board, comprising the Council, Police and partner organisations, would receive and respond to the report.

The Commission heard from the Probation Service and the London Community Rehabilitation Companies about how low, medium and high risk offenders are managed locally and requested an update to show the progress being made.

Call-in

Four call-in requests were received by the Commission in 2016/17:

South London Waste Partnership – waste collection

Further to pre decision scrutiny on this issue by the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel, in August 2016 the Commission reviewed Cabinet's decision to appoint Veolia ES (UK) Ltd to provide waste collection and related environment services. The call-in signatories and invited witnesses raised considerations relating to consultation processes, the introduction of wheeled bins, fortnightly residual waste collection, workforce terms and conditions. The Commission voted to uphold Cabinet's decision and agreed to ask Cabinet to ensure that all residents were informed of forthcoming changes, and that Cabinet should continue to take steps to ensure that all residents take pride in a litter free environment.

South London Waste Partnership – parks maintenance

Further to pre decision scrutiny on this issue by the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel, in August 2016 the Commission reviewed Cabinet's decision to appoint The Landscape Group Ltd (now idverde) as Preferred Bidder to provide parks maintenance and related services. The call-in signatories and invited witnesses raised concerns on the level of public consultation, terms and conditions of staff and the potential impact on Friends' Groups. The Commission voted to uphold Cabinet's decision .

Harris Secondary School – required site approvals

Further to pre decision scrutiny on this issue by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel, in August 2016 the Commission reviewed Cabinet's decision relating to the proposed site for a new secondary school in the borough. The Commission heard concerns regarding the proposed location and the impact that this would have on a neighbouring primary school and on other local services. The Commission also heard concerns about whether the site was sufficient for delivery of a full curriculum. These concerns were addressed by officers and the Commission voted unanimously to uphold Cabinet's decision.

Introduction of a diesel surcharge

Further to pre decision scrutiny on this issue by the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel, in December 2016 the Commission reviewed Cabinet's decision to introduce a surcharge for all diesel vehicles that have a resident, business or trade parking permit. It agreed on the need to reduce air pollution, accepted that diesel vehicles are a major cause of this and discussed whether the levy would change behaviour. Members expressed concern at the quantum level of the surcharge and the short lead-in time for its introduction. The Commission voted to uphold Cabinet's decision.

Subsequently, the cabinet member responsible for implementation agreed to change the phasing in from £100 in 2017/18, £125 in 2018/19 and £150 in 2019/20 to: £90 in 2017/18, £115 in 2018/19 and £150 in 2019/20

Finance and performance monitoring

The financial monitoring sub-group has continued to monitor quarterly financial management reports. In particular, it has scrutinised the forecast overspend, capital programme and lack of progress on achieving savings in some service areas. It has scrutinised a number of areas in depth including transport services, savings achieved by the customer contact programme, overspend in the greenspaces budget, estate management and the budgets for supported lodging/housing, unaccompanied asylum seeking children and no recourse to public funds.

Scrutiny of the budget

The draft business plan, medium term financial strategy and proposed budget savings proposals were examined in detail, alongside equality impact assessments for each of the savings.

The Commission made a recommendation to Cabinet in November 2016 asking it to bring forward savings proposals wherever possible in order to address the predicted funding gap from 2017/18 onwards. It also asked Cabinet to consider a number of options to address the gap, including reviewing the application of earmarked reserves and the level of council tax. In response, Cabinet has brought forward a number of savings proposals and these were subsequently accepted by Council.

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Areas of responsibility: scrutiny of issues relating to children and young people. This includes education, children's social care, child protection and youth services.

Councillor Dennis Pearce, Panel Chair:

"This year has seen the Panel continue to focus on the work of the Children, Schools & Families Department and additionally to scrutinise the work of its partners such as the Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust and colleagues in the Council's housing department. I'm particularly pleased that the Panel has received a number of representations from external witnesses this year which has provided us with additional insight to our work."

Scrutiny reviews

Routes into employment for vulnerable cohorts: working closely with colleagues in all departments in the Council as well as Merton's Economic Wellbeing Group, the task group brought its work to fruition this year with a final report which has been accepted by Cabinet. Recommendations focus on the use of work tasters/work experiences and apprenticeships with these being offered through the Council's contractors and other services providers. The Panel will receive an action plan at its meeting in June 2017 and continue to monitor progress against this.

Rapporteur scrutiny review of user voice: following positive feedback in the scrutiny member survey, the decision was taken to pilot a new form of scrutiny review based on a rapporteur model. This involves an individual member looking in-depth at an issue supported by the scrutiny team. A trial is happening through the Children and Young People Panel with a member examining how looked after children and young people are able to express their wishes and feelings and participate in decisions that affect their lives. A report is anticipated in June 2017. In addition to consulting with officers and looking at how other councils ensure the participation of looked after children in services, children and young people are participating in the review through the Children in Care Council.

Online strategies in schools: completed in July 2015, this task group focused on how to keep Merton's young people safe online. The Panel continued to monitor the implementation of the task group's recommendations with progress against all being reported in October 2016.

Strategic issues and pre-decision scrutiny

Harris Wimbledon Secondary School: members were given the opportunity to scrutinise the proposed site for the new school prior to this gaining Cabinet approval. Members focused on the anticipated growth in demand for secondary schools

places, how the proposed location had been selected, how the impact on the existing users of the site will be ameliorate and how the development of the new school will be funded. The Panel made a reference to Cabinet requesting that the new school be developed to ensure all its pupils gain the same advantage enjoyed by children at other secondary schools in Merton.

School Provision: the Panel has continued to review provision of sufficient school places which is one of the Council's key statutory duties. Members were reassured that surplus places are in line with the Audit Commission's advice taking into account rising birth rate projections. Performance monitoring data is being revised to assist the Panel in achieving on-going scrutiny of this provision.

Safeguarding: members were given the opportunity to question the independent chair of the Merton Safeguarding Children Board and the Acting Borough Commander about safeguarding provision for Merton's children and young people. This focused on strengths, areas for review during the coming period, work with schools, action to address knife crime, domestic abuse, mental health issues and substance misuse.

Health and wellbeing: with the support of the community health provider, (Central London Healthcare NHS Trust), the Panel looked at how the Council is giving children and young people in Merton the best start in life by improving access to child mental health services, achieving school readiness, increasing the rate of immunisations and tackling childhood obesity. Members focused on the quality of information being used to promote immunisations, the role of parents in their children's health and how community venues are being used to achieve outreach.

Schools Annual Report: members received the detailed annual schools report giving them the opportunity to focus on attainment for all key stages as well as at foundation stage and for post 16. Members noted the need to retain their focus on children on SEN support as well as looked after children.

Corporate Parenting: members received the detailed annual corporate parenting report as well as reports on the looked after children and care leavers sufficiency strategy and accommodation for care leavers. As a result, members resolved to consider accommodation for care leavers in partnership with the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel supported by officers from the Children, Schools & Families, Community & Housing and Environment & Regeneration Departments either as a deep dive Panel meeting session or through a task group.

Performance monitoring

This year the Panel appointed a lead member for performance monitoring (Councillor Mike Brunt). In July, Councillor Brunt and other members participated in a performance monitoring workshop. Supported by officers, this gave members the opportunity to look at the basket of performance measures in detail and to improve their understanding of each measure. The performance lead and relevant officers now meet before every Panel meeting allowing for in-depth discussion and to highlight points to be raised with the Panel. Measures are being identified to be the

focus of a deep dive.

External representations

Resulting from the scrutiny topic suggestion process, the Panel has received a number of external representations this year which has given additional insight to its work. The scrutiny team has proactively encouraged those making topic suggestions to attend the relevant Panel meeting to make a representation.

Muslim Women in Morden

Nuzhat Ali of the Muslim Women in Morden attended the Panel's meeting on safeguarding and spoke powerfully about the negative effect of the *Prevent* strategy on Muslim families and children in Merton. As a result of attending the Panel, how the Muslim Women in Morden group might be able to help inform the delivery of *Prevent* training for schools is being explored. *"Being heard is critical for positive community engagement, especially in relation to issues that are not considered by statutory bodies; such as the detrimental impact that Prevent and the widespread islamophobic narrative has on the mental health of children and families. The opportunity to present to the Scrutiny panel was a start - raising awareness with the Council of actions required"*, said Ms Ali.

Priory Primary School

Jane White, Headteacher of Priory Primary School, attended the Panel meeting at which the schools annual report was presented. This gave her the opportunity to highlight, on behalf of all schools in the borough, the difficulties faced in recruiting and retaining teachers. The Panel welcomed the representation and resolved to consider recruitment and retention of key workers as part of the topic selection process for 2017/2018. *"The opportunity to present an issue to Councillors on behalf of Headteachers was welcome and the invitation certainly demonstrated a willingness to listen on behalf of the Council. Councillors commented on how useful it had been to have a representative speak face-to-face and to ask questions directly of someone working as a school leader. It is through such dialogue improvements can happen and creative solutions found. I hope other Council employees and residents will take the opportunity to take up the invitation to speak at the scrutiny Panel on a topic close to their hearts in the future"*, said Ms White.

Financial monitoring

The Panel scrutinised the proposed budget for 2017/2018 in November 2016 and January 2017 including receiving reports from the Directors of Corporate Services and Children, Schools & Families. The Panel focused on funding for schools maintenance, the effect cost savings will have on staff stability, SEND transport costs and how the costs of the new Harris Wimbledon School will be funded.

Call-in

No call-in requests were received by the Panel in 2016/17.

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.

Councillor Peter McCabe said *“The significant changes taking place in local public services highlights the important role of overview and scrutiny. As local councillors with connections to our communities we understand the impact that the closure or significant change to a health service can have on local people. This strengthens our resolve to hold decision makers to account. Scrutiny also provides an opportunity for local people to come along and have their voices heard.”*

Responding to local issues

Merton Improving Access to Psychological Therapies Service

The Chair of the Panel received anecdotal evidence about difficulties accessing this service. In June, Merton Clinical Commissioning Group and the Director of Addaction, the service provider came along to present their performance data. They admitted that this newly established service was experiencing challenges and an improvement plan had been put in place. The Panel considered the progress in November and were satisfied that improvements were being made.

Wilson walk in Centre

Dr Andrew Murray, Chair of Merton Clinical Commissioning Group attended the Panel to discuss plans to close a GP surgery and walk in health centre resulting in dispersal of patients to local surgeries. The Panel expressed concern about the capacity at local surgeries to deal with the additional patients. MCCG said additional funding had been made available to support the change. The Panel were reassured that these changes would not result in longer waiting times as a raft of new measures would support access to primary care.

Care in the community for older people and support when they are released from hospital.

The Interim Head of Adult Social Care attended the Panel and highlighted that the service is currently meeting need, however finding suitable support for people when they leave hospital is more challenging during busy periods such as when there is a local flu outbreak. A local resident who had suggested the panel consider this topic attended the meeting. They asked the council to consider setting up a website in which council checked care homes can upload details of short term room availability.

Councillors asked the Head of Adult Social Care to meet with the resident to discuss the proposal in more detail and determine if it is feasible. The Panel will receive a further update in due course.

Financial Monitoring

Merton Public Health Budget – 2016/17

The Panel scrutinised savings within the public health budget and expressed concern about de-commissioning the handy man service as it can prevent hazards in older people's homes preventing distress, falls and hospital admissions.

Panel members also had the same concerns regarding the Live-Well re-procurement which will in turn lead to reductions in smoking cessation services. The Panel moved a motion panel to support the public health budget except for the cuts to the handy man service. The department provided a response to the Panel stating that public health services in Merton and across the country are moving away from individual interventions to population-based approaches. Also, a local handyman service provided by Age UK Merton will still be available to meet local need.

Impact of welfare reform

The Panel hosted a session looking at the impact of the changes to the welfare benefits system since 2010. The purpose of this session was to understand the impact at the local level and consider how the council and its partners can provide support. Given the cross cutting nature of the issue, members of the Sustainable Communities Panel were invited to attend. Local organisations, Faith in Action, Citizens Advice and Merton Centre for Independent Living attended to give an overview of the issues from their perspective. After a wide ranging discussion, Panel Members resolved to ask council officers and Citizens Advice to support Faith in Action in calculating the added value of their work, to look at possible venues for the drop in sessions and look at the feasibility of sending benefits advisors to Faith in Action drop in sessions.

Scrutiny of key partners

Merton Clinical Commissioning Group – Update on current priorities.

At the first meeting of the municipal year the Chair of MCCG attended the Panel to give an update on the latest priorities, issues and challenges. The Panel asked a number of questions including how MCCG is tackling their deficit, how the prevention agenda is being imbedded in health services. The Panel also urged MCCG to lobby government for more resources for the health sector.

Epsom and St Helier University NHS Trust – Update on current priorities

The Chief Executive of Epsom and St Helier, informed the panel of the significant challenges caused by the current buildings which are old, expensive to maintain and not fit for purpose. Despite this the Standard Hospital Mortality Rate still placed the Trust in the best quartile in the country. The Panel emphasised strongly that they want to see a new St Helier hospital on the same site. The Chief Executive said this will be determined by the outcome of the Sustainability and Transformation Plans.

Scrutiny reviews

Activities within Learning Disability Day Centres

The Panel held a one day mini review looking at the range of activities provided for people in learning disability day centres. The review found that the current day centre service is supported and appreciated by service users and carers. However budget savings had an impact on the range and frequency of activities that are provided. The task group asked the Panel to ask for more detailed scrutiny on sources of external funding that can help to sustain activities in day centres and also to look more widely at the health services available for this group. Both recommendations were agreed.

Preventing Diabetes in the South Asian community Task Group

In September the Panel received the final report arising from the Preventing Diabetes in the South Asian Community task group. Recommendations included ensuring existing services are culturally appropriate and working with voluntary and community sector organisations to share consistent messages. The Panel reviewed the Department action plan setting out how they will implement the recommendations. Panel members thanked officers for their work so far and looked forward to receiving a further update in twelve months time.

Childhood Immunisations in the 0-5 age group

In 2013 a scrutiny task group review was commissioned to look at improving immunisation rates in the 0-5 age group. NHS England along with our public health team attended the meeting to discuss the progress with this work. The Panel were informed that immunisations rates have improved in Merton and an local partnership was now in place.

South West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Chair and Vice Chair of this Panel represent the council on the South West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The committee is scrutinising the main provisions within the Sustainability and Transformation Plans within the South West London footprint. This process is still in the very early stages and meetings have been held in October 2016 and January 2017. We have made clear our strong opposition to any attempt to remove accident and emergency and maternity services from St Helier hospital.

Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Areas of responsibility: scrutiny of issues relating to housing, environmental sustainability, culture, enterprise and skills, libraries and transport.

Councillor Abby Jones, Panel Chair:

“This year the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel has covered a breadth of subjects across our remit which has kept us extremely busy. During this municipal year the Panel has focused extensively on housing in the borough. We have scrutinised Merton’s leading social landlord, *Circle Housing*, during its merger with *Affinity Sutton* to encourage it to remain focused on repairs and regeneration during a period of change. Additionally, against a backdrop of over 40,000 deaths in the UK attributed each year to exposure to outside air pollution, the Panel has scrutinised the emission levy prior to Cabinet approval and established a task group to consider other measures the Council can apply to improve air quality in the borough. We are grateful to officers in the Community & Housing and Environment & Regeneration teams for supporting the Panel over the last year.”

Chris Lee, Director of Environment and Regeneration:

“In terms of Scrutiny this was another busy year for Environment & Regeneration. A number of significant policies and projects were scrutinised including the emission levy and the work being done to externalise waste, street cleaning and parks maintenance. It was helpful having pre-decision scrutiny of the emission levy as this highlighted the need to phase in any levy charge. The regular focus on performance ensures that Members hold the service to account and highlight good performance as well as those areas in need of improvement. In addition, the focus on budget and possible savings helps to identify the disproportionate impact on customers of some savings and the need to review and re-examine them. Scrutiny has helped add value to the service and helped in Merton’s ambition to be London’s Best Council.”

Scrutiny reviews

Commercial Services Task Group

The final report of the commercial services task group was presented to the Panel in November 2016. The task group put forward ways to embed a commercially-based approach across the Council as well as ambitious recommendations on ways to generate income. These include exploring opportunities to develop a private sector joint venture and looking at innovative technologies such as installing a multi-purpose street lighting system. Cabinet accepted the group’s recommendations and the Panel received an action plan in February 2017. This set out how the department will respond to the task group’s recommendations over the next 12 months which will be monitored by the Panel.

Air Quality Task Group

In September 2016, the Panel commissioned a task group to look at how to improve

air quality in Merton. This is very timely as it coincides with the review of the Merton Air Quality Action Plan. The task group is focusing on the role of the planning system, reducing pollution at construction sites as well as how to make effective use of monitoring and enforcement. The task group is also considering strategic leadership to improve air quality across south west London. The review will be completed and presented to the Panel in September 2017.

Housing Supply Task Group

Completed in September 2015, this task group focused on how to increase the supply of affordable housing in Merton. The Panel continued to monitor the implementation of the task group's recommendations with good progress against all being reported in January 2017. Additionally, the Panel agreed that the recommendation on overcrowding should be reviewed.

Strategic issues and pre-decision scrutiny

The Panel has undertaken pre-decision scrutiny on a range of strategic issues and Council priorities. These include:

South London Waste Partnership (procurement of waste collection and related environmental services): the Panel scrutinised the procurement process for the waste collection and related environment services immediately before the final tender stage and the report to Cabinet. This included consideration of the findings of the wheeled bin resident trial and draft service charters. The Panel made a reference to Cabinet asking for the period of 'Preferred Bidder fine tuning' to be used to determine how many households will experience significant difficulty in storage and/or presentation of wheeled bins for regular emptying.

Emissions Levy: prior to consideration by Cabinet, the Panel reviewed proposals for the application of an emission levy through a surcharge on resident parking permits. Members were asked to comment on the principle of imposing a levy on the most polluting vehicles and gave their views on how this should be communicated to residents. The Panel's advice led to the levy having a phased implementation.

Resurgence and the collapse of the Circle Group structure: members scrutinised the proposal to collapse all nine Circle Housing organisations into one to become Circle 33 resulting in the loss of the local governance board to be replaced by a local community panel.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition: having monitored the performance of this new system since its installation at the beginning of the municipal year, the Panel took the opportunity to look at this in greater depth specifically focusing on how issues with its operation are being addressed. Members were provided with much more detail about the system and heard how officers are working with the operator to optimise performance.

Shared service expansion (environmental health, trading standards and licensing): members were given the opportunity to examine the proposal to expand the existing regulatory shared service. The Panel focused on Merton's role in

hosting the service, TUPE and the development of the ICT system that will underpin the expanded service.

Performance monitoring

The Panel regularly undertakes a performance monitoring role by reviewing outcomes against agreed key targets (Key Performance Indicators) and by receiving more detailed performance updates on key services:



Circle Housing Merton Priory (CHMP): Circle is the social housing provider to which the Council's housing stock was transferred in 2010. It has attended the Sustainable Communities Panel on two occasions during this municipal year to separately answer member questions regarding the then proposed merger with Affinity Sutton and to address members' concerns regarding repairs and regeneration. On the former occasion, the CEOs of both Circle and Affinity Sutton attended. On the latter occasion, the Director of Housing as well as the heads of the repairs and regeneration services attended. In both instances, members provided initial questions in advance to which the responses provided were included in the agenda pack. This enabled Panel members to ask more detailed and in depth questions at the meeting and focus on performance issues.

Libraries and Heritage Service Annual Report: members noted that again, the performance of this service is very high (and demonstrated by benchmarking against similar services delivered by other councils). As a result they questioned if performance indicators should be revised upward but it was agreed that this wouldn't be possible with a new service model forthcoming.



Town regeneration: members received a presentation updating them on progress achieved in all five town centre regeneration areas (Wimbledon, Raynes Park, Morden, Mitcham and Colliers Wood). This included consideration of public consultation activity as well as the potential impact of Crossrail2.

Merton Adult Education: an update report was provided to the Panel on the operation of the service in its first year following the implementation of a new commissioning model. Members focused on how the service is providing appropriate progression for all learners, community learning provision within the context of a national fall in demand and how provision for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is being successfully provided in-house.

Public Transport Liaison Committee (PTLC): the Panel has requested a meeting of the PTLC be convened which will happen in May 2017. This will enable local people to meet Council staff, representatives from Transport for London and other transport operators and to have their say on what is being done to improve transport in Merton.

Financial monitoring

The Panel scrutinised the proposed budget for 2017/2018 in November 2016 and January 2017, including receiving reports from the Directors of Corporate Services, Community & Housing and Environment & Regeneration. The Panel recommended to Cabinet that two Environment & Regeneration cost savings proposals be brought forward and that the cessation of building control letters be reconsidered. All these recommendations have been accepted by Cabinet and an alternative saving is being considered to replace the cessation of building control letters.

Call-in

The Panel has heard three call-ins during this municipal year:

Call-in	Outcome
Land at 111 – 127 The Broadway SW19 (know as P4)	Not to refer the decision back to Cabinet and therefore the decision was upheld and took immediate effect.
Belvedere Road and Belvedere Grove Experimental Width Restriction Review	Not to refer the decision back to the Cabinet Member and therefore the decision was upheld and took immediate effect. The Panel also resolved to make a reference to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing to consider the implementation of physical changes such as signage similar to the type already in place in other parts of the borough and improved junction treatment over an appropriate timescale so that the impact can be assessed when the next traffic volume survey is carried out in 24 months.
Emissions Levy – Statutory Consultation	Not to refer the decision back to Cabinet and therefore the decision was upheld and took immediate effect.

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

Annette Wiles – 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>

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Committee: Council

Date: 12 July 2017

Wards: All

Subject: Freedom of the Borough

Lead officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance

Lead member: Councillor Stephen Alambritis, Leader of the Council

Contact officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services,
julia.regan@merton.gov.uk; 020 8545 3864

Recommendation:

- A.** That Council agrees to award the Freedom of the Borough to the late Reverend Andrew Wakefield in recognition of the substantial contribution he made to the borough; and
 - B.** That Council agrees to the holding of a special meeting of Council for the purposes of passing the necessary resolutions.
 - C.** That Council agrees to congratulate the 210 Squadron on its 50th anniversary and, at a future meeting, to present it with a framed certificate.
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. At its meeting on 9 March 2017, the Standards and General Purposes Committee established a small working group comprising Councillors Mary-Jane Jeanes, Ian Munn and David Williams. The Committee asked the working group to consider nominations for the award of the freedom of the borough and report back.
- 1.2. At its meeting on 29 June 2017, the Standards and General Purposes Committee considered the report of the working group and agreed to recommend to Council that the award of Freedom of the Borough be made posthumously to the late Reverend Andrew Wakefield in recognition of the substantial contribution he made to the borough.
- 1.3. The Committee also agreed to recommend to Council that it records its thanks and presents a certificate to the 210 Squadron to congratulate it on its 50th anniversary and recognise the Squadron's long service to the borough.

2 DETAILS

Freedom of the Borough

- 2.1. The Standards and General Purposes Committee noted that the Freedom of the Borough is an important honour that requires careful thought prior to bestowal. The Committee was also mindful of the criteria and process for awarding Freedom of the Borough (set out in Appendix 1 of this report), in particular that it should only be awarded in exceptional circumstances where

the prospective recipient is an individual or organisation of distinction and has rendered eminent services to the borough.

- 2.2. The Committee agreed that the posthumous nomination of the late Reverend Andrew Wakefield (set out in Appendix 2) met the criteria and demonstrated that he had made a substantial contribution to the borough's religious and spiritual life, civic service and charitable work. The nomination is supported by all Groups on the Council and therefore would meet the 2/3 requirement at Council.

- 2.3. The Committee therefore recommended that the nomination should be forwarded to Council for agreement.

Special commendation

- 2.4. The Standards and General Purposes Committee also discussed the strong links that the 210 Squadron, based in Stonecot Hill, has to the borough. It has worked in partnership with churches and other local organisations as well as taking the lead in Remembrance Sunday parades for over 30 years and, more recently, on Armed Forces Day parades. The Committee noted that the 210 Squadron would be celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

- 2.5. The Committee has therefore recommended that that Council congratulate the 210 Squadron on its 50th anniversary, thank it for the role it plays in the borough and, at a future meeting, present it with a framed certificate.

3 NEXT STEPS

Freedom of the Borough

- 3.1. If Council accepts the recommendation of Standards and General Purposes to confer the freedom of the borough on the late Reverend Andrew Wakefield, the next steps are:

- a) Council, in accepting the recommendation, should resolve to hold a Special Meeting of Council at which it would pass the resolution as required by Section 248 of the Local Government Act 1972 to bestow the Freedom of the Borough on the late Reverend Andrew Wakefield
- b) A Special Meeting of Council would then be held, possibly immediately prior to the scheduled Council meeting on 13 September, subject to the availability of family and friends of the late Reverend Andrew Wakefield.

- 3.2. Special Commendation

- 3.3. If Council accepts the recommendation of Standards and General Purposes Committee in relation to the 210 Squadron, a framed certificate would be presented to the 210 Squadron at a future meeting of Council.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1. These matters are entirely within the discretion of Council..

5 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 5.1. The recommendations have been discussed and agreed by the political groups.

6 TIMETABLE

- 6.1. If the recommendation relation to freedom of the borough is accepted, a special meeting of Council will need to be scheduled..

7 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

Any expenditure associated with conferring the Honorary Freedom of the Borough and the presentation of a framed certification of commendation will be from existing budgets.

8 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. Section 249 (paragraphs 5 and 6) of the Local Government Act 1972 states:
- (i) (5) The Council of a London Borough... may, by resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, admit to the borough persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the borough"
- (ii) (6) The Council of a London Borough...may spend such reasonable sum as they think fit for the presenting an address or a casket containing an address to a person upon whom they have conferred the title of (honorary alderman) or admitted to be an honorary freeman of the ...borough..

9 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. None.

10 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. None.

11 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1. None

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

- Appendix 1 – criteria and process for Freedom of the Borough
- Appendix 2 - nomination form for the late Reverend Andrew Wakefield

13 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Criteria and Process for Awarding Freedom of the Borough

Criteria

Freedom of the Borough is a high honour which should only be awarded in exceptional circumstances where the prospective recipient is an individual or organisation of distinction and has rendered eminent services to the borough.

Candidates should have a strong and continuing connection with and commitment to Merton or have made a major contribution to national life and in doing so have enhanced the reputation of the borough.

Candidates should have made a substantial contribution to the borough in any area of activity, which could include:

- artistic and cultural endeavours
- business, economic growth and prosperity
- charitable work
- improvement to the built and natural environment
- religious and spiritual life
- sports activities
- civic service

The award may be granted posthumously.

Procedures

Nominations for persons or organisations to be granted Freedom of the Borough, may be made by any serving Member of the Council to the Monitoring Officer on the appropriate form. The Member should first raise the matter for discussion within their political group.

Once a nomination is received, the Monitoring Officer will check that sufficient information has been provided on the form and will pass it to the Standards and General Purposes Committee for consideration.

The Monitoring Officer will write to all councillors at least once during the four yearly municipal cycle, preferably at or near the midpoint, to draw their attention to the opportunity to make nominations

The Standards and General Purposes Committee may establish a small working group to informally assess nominations and the likelihood of meeting the 2/3 criteria. The working group would report back to the Standards and General Purposes Committee in regard to any nominee who it believed would meet the criteria and achieve sufficient support at Council.

Standards and General Purposes Committee shall report to Council and, should Council accept the nomination, a Special Meeting of Council would then be called to pass the resolution as required by Section 248 of the Local Government Act 1972.

NOMINATION FOR FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

- 1. Name of the person or organisation being nominated for Freedom of the Borough.**

The Revd Dr Andrew Desmond Wakefield (Deceased)

- 2. Freedom of the Borough is a high honour which should only be awarded in exceptional circumstances where the prospective recipient is an individual or organisation of distinction and has rendered eminent services to the borough.**

Candidates should have a strong and continuing connection with and commitment to Merton or have made a major contribution to national life and in doing so have enhanced the reputation of the borough.

Candidates should have made a substantial contribution to the borough in any area of activity, which could include:

- artistic and cultural endeavours
- business, economic growth and prosperity
- charitable work
- improvement to the built and natural environment
- religious and spiritual life
- sports activities
- civic service

The award may be granted posthumously.

- 3. The award of the Freedom of the Borough requires support of 2/3 of Council. Nominations should therefore first be discussed within your political group and, where appropriate, with other group leaders. In your opinion, is the nomination likely to achieve the required 2/3 support at Council?**

YES

☒

NO

☐

4. Please use the box below to outline your nominee's outstanding achievements in the Borough or on the international stage which have brought pride and satisfaction to the Borough. Continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Andrew Wakefield's contribution to the life of the London Borough of Merton was exceptional. He was an ordained minister in the Church of England – recently serving as Borough Dean - but once joked that his bishop would be amazed at how much time he gave to life in the community. In death the Bishop of Kingston wrote of his large, 'generous and expansive character' who was a real 'person and priest' and that 'he cared deeply about justice in the community and strong interfaith relations. He worked tirelessly and determinedly in the Civic life of Merton and beyond'.

In short Andrew Wakefield demonstrably fulfilled at least three of the 'contribution criteria' of a candidate for Freeman of the Borough, albeit posthumously.

Initially his involvement began with the South London Industrial Mission where he started working with council members and officers. Gradually his contacts across the civic and public life of the borough were immense and he moved easily between all political perspectives.

Andrew played a key part in the formation of the GLA's Civic Forum which he chaired and it underlined his capacity to represent the community and voluntary sector. His involvement across many areas of public policy was a sign of his ability to represent the wide range of opinions that are found in any civic and public debate. Andrew was also an entrepreneur, which led him into many activities that had business links. He chaired Merton Chamber of Commerce.

Andrew paid a critical part in setting up the London Inter Faith Forum. He also displayed an immense ability to work across all faith traditions and in Merton was a regular participant at both the Mosque and Synagogue.

He was also Chairman of the Safer Neighbourhood Board and actively involved in the police's advisory body as a passionate advocate of inclusion and social cohesion.

His roles led naturally to a request that he chaired the Merton Partnership's Community Plan for Merton which, of necessity, drew on his breadth of experience in so many different capacities to assist in the creation of a healthy community

In summary, Roehampton University awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Divinity not long before his sudden and untimely death, for his 30 years of service to Merton. As a minister, Andrew's prayer was both traditional and practical and he knew T. S. Eliot's poem with the words '*and prayer is more than words*'. I submit respectfully that the Council should likewise turn the words of this nomination into action and award him the highest honour it can bestow - the Freedom of the Borough.

5. Nomination submitted by:

Councillor____David T Williams JP____ **Date**_ 27 March 2017_____

Please return this form to The Monitoring Officer, Merton Civic Centre or by e-mail to democratic.services@merton.gov.uk

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Committee: Council

Date: 12 July 2017

Subject: Changes to Membership of Committees

Lead officer: Ged Curran, Chief Executive

Contact officer: Louise Fleming, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Democratic Services 020 8545 3616 - democratic.services@merton.gov.uk

Recommendations:

1. That the Council notes the changes to the membership of Committees that were approved under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Council.
 2. That the Council appoints Councillor Philip Jones as Chair of the Pensions Fund Advisory Committee.
 3. That the Council notes that no changes are proposed to the allocation of seats to political groups at this time.
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report asks Council to note the changes made to committee membership under delegated authority since the publication of the agenda for the Annual Council.
- 1.2. The Council must approve the appointment of the Chair of the Pensions Fund Advisory Committee.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The following membership changes have been made by the Chief Executive under his delegated authority in accordance with section 1.4 of part 3F of the Constitution:

Committee	Member resigning	Replaced by	Date
Planning Applications Committee	Imran Uddin	Jerome Neil	14 June 2017
Pensions Fund Advisory Committee	Imran Uddin	Philip Jones	14 June 2017
Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel	Jill West	Michael Bull	20 June 2017
Overview and Scrutiny Commission	Imran Uddin	Brenda Fraser	26 June 2017

- 3.2 The appointments to Committees and other bodies were agreed at Council on 17 May 2017. On 13 June former Councillor Imran Uddin resigned from the Council and therefore a vacancy was created on the Overview and Scrutiny Commission; Planning Applications Committee; and the Pensions Fund Advisory Committee. As he was the Chair of the latter, Council is asked to agree the appointment of Councillor Philip Jones as Chair of the Pensions Fund

Advisory Committee. On 20 June Councillor Jill West resigned from her position as a substitute member on the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

- 3.3 Following the resignation of former Councillor Uddin, the Council has a statutory duty to review the representation of different groups on the Council in order to ensure that a political balance is secured on council committees, sub-committees, etc. to reflect the political composition of the Council. This review was carried out and has resulted in no change to the proportionality of the Council's committees and panels. This will be reviewed again following the by-election on 20 July 2017.

3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 3.1 None for the purposes of this report.

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.
- 5.2. The Housing and Local Government Act 1989 contains provisions relating to the political balance on committees, the duty to allocate seats to political groups and the duty to give effect to allocations.
- 5.3. The Council has a statutory duty to review the representations of different political groups on the Council in order to ensure that a political balance is secured on council committees so as to reflect the overall political composition of the council.
- 5.4. The requirement to allocate seats must be made in accordance with the following statutory principles:
- a) All of the seats are not to be allocated to the same political group.
 - b) The majority of the seats must be allocated to the political group with a majority on the Council.
 - c) Subject to the two principles listed above, the number of seats on the total of all the ordinary committees of the Council allocated to each political group must bear the same proportion to that on full Council.

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

9.1 None.

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

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Committee: Council

Date: 12 July 2017

Subject: Petitions

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

Lead member: Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Alambritis.

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

Recommendation:

1. That Council receive petitions (if any) in accordance with Part 4A, paragraph 18.1 of the Council's Constitution.
 2. That Council notes the responses provided to the petitions submitted at the meeting held on 12 April 2017.
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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 12 April 2017, three petitions listed below were submitted and the responses are set out 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. A petition was submitted by Councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender entitled "Petition to make narrow Burlington Road pavement safer for all pedestrians".

Officer Response

- 2.3. The Council is committed to encouraging walking by incorporating improvement measures that ensures access, safety and a pleasant environment within all its traffic management schemes. The Council is supportive of the request for widening the footway and this is already on our programme for this financial year. There are some legal and land ownership issues that would require the cooperation and agreement of a third party and officers are already liaising with the lead petitioner and Tesco in progressing the proposed improvements.

- 2.4. A petition was submitted by Councillor Daniel Holden entitled "Merton diesel tax petition".

Officer Response

- 2.5. A 292 signature petition has been received from residents requiring the scrapping of the diesel surcharge and requesting that the Council consider other, more proportionate methods of tackling air pollution.

- 2.6. A petition was submitted by Councillor Dennis Pearce entitled "Lets make Abbotsbury Road safe".

Officer Response

- 2.7. The Council takes safety very seriously particularly outside schools. We have a rolling programme to address safety through engineering and road safety education. We provide a systematic programme of educational and training initiatives to schools and the local community including road safety workshops appropriate for all age and user groups.
- 2.8. With regards to Abbotsbury, officers have been working with the school and one of the Ward Councillors to respond to the petition and road safety issues. A full response has been provided to this petition to the Ward Cllr.
- 2.9. The area around the school is subject to the appropriate level of parking restrictions and a road narrowing that serves as an informal crossing point. According to recent investigations, it has been concluded that in terms of engineering the Council can offer very little and given that much of the problem is caused by parents, we will support the school through road safety workshops; walking bus and establishing a kiss and ride and to continue educate parents and pupils. This along with effective enforcement should improve the perception of safety.
- 2.10. Members are invited to present petitions at this meeting, and a response will be provided to the next Council meeting on 13 September 2017.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. None for the purposes 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.