

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, Kelly Braund, 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 13 September 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

13 September 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.

Agenda Item 3

COUNCIL
12 JULY 2017

(7.15 pm - 9.40 pm)

PRESENT 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, 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, 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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Philip Jones and David Dean. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Hamish Badenoch.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

No declarations of pecuniary interest were made.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 17 May 2017 are agreed as an accurate record.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Agenda Item 4)

Councillor Tobin Byers, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health paid tribute to the work of Simon Williams, former Director of Community and Housing, following his retirement at the beginning of July and thanked him for his work in Merton over the past 11 years.

Councillor Oonagh Moulton, Leader of the Conservative Group; and Councillor Peter Southgate, Leader of the Merton Park Ward Independent Residents Group also spoke on the subject of his retirement, thanking him for his hard work and dedication.

The Mayor presented two awards. The first was to Wimbledon Red Watch, in recognition of their rapid response to the Grenfell Tower fire and their continuing efforts to keep Merton residents safe. The second award was presented to the Council's Business Systems team which had recently won two Gold Achievement Awards at the GeoPlace Exemplar Awards for management of its Address and Street Information databases.

5 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS (Agenda Item 5)

The responses to the written public questions were circulated during the meeting. The Mayor then invited each of the questioners in turn to ask (if they wished) a further question to the Cabinet Member. A copy of the supplementary questions and responses will be included in the 'public questions to Cabinet Members' published document.

6 COUNCILLORS' ORDINARY PRIORITY QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS (Agenda Item 6)

The responses to the written member ordinary priority questions were circulated prior to the meeting. The Mayor then invited each of the members in turn to ask (if they wished) a further question to the Cabinet Member. A copy of the supplementary questions and responses will be included in the 'member ordinary priority questions to Cabinet Members' published document.

7a STRATEGIC THEME: COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS (Agenda Item 7a)

The responses to the written member strategic theme priority questions were circulated prior to the meeting. The Mayor then invited each of the members in turn to ask (if they wished) a further question to the Cabinet Member. A copy of the supplementary questions and responses will be included in the 'member strategic theme priority questions to Cabinet Members' published document.

It was also noted that a copy of the member non priority questions and responses will be published after the meeting, in line with Constitutional requirements.

7b STRATEGIC THEME: MAIN REPORT (Agenda Item 7b)

The Strategic Theme report on Safer and Stronger Communities with a focus on Equalities and Hate Crime was moved by Councillor Edith Macauley and seconded by Councillor Stephen Alambritis.

Councillor Michael Bull also spoke on the item.

RESOLVED: That the Strategic Theme report is agreed.

7c STRATEGIC THEME: MOTIONS (Agenda Item 7c)

The motion was moved by Councillor David Simpson and seconded by Councillor Charlie Chirico.

The Labour amendment as set out in agenda item 18 was moved by Councillor Brenda Fraser and seconded by Councillor Jerome Neil.

Councillor John Sargeant spoke on the item.

The Labour amendment was put to a vote and was carried – votes in favour: 37, votes against: 19, abstentions: 0.

The substantive motion (as amended) was agreed.

RESOLVED: That this Council welcomes the first Residents' Survey to have been conducted in Merton for 3 years (due to our previous survey company discontinuing this service) and notes the record results Merton has achieved including:

- Record number of residents who think Merton Council is efficient and well run (76%).
- Record satisfaction rates among residents who agree the council is doing a good job.
- Record satisfaction rates among residents who agree the council responds quickly when asked for help.
- Record satisfaction rates among residents who agree the council involves residents when making decisions.
- 92% of Merton residents are satisfied with the local area as a place to live, which is significantly better than the national figure (80%).
- Nearly two thirds of residents agree the council provides value for money (65%), well above the national figure (47%).
- 75% agree the council acts on the concerns of local residents and 81% were in agreement that the council kept them informed about services and benefits, both well ahead of national results.

Council congratulates all our officers, Councillors and partners on these results but most importantly thanks our many residents, including school governors, street champions and community volunteers, who contribute to making Merton such a great place to live.

Council also notes the following results in relation to anti-social behaviour (ASB) from the recently published 2017 Residents' Survey:

- Most residents (96%) feel safe during the day and after dark (85%), and these results are higher than those found nationally.
- Almost all residents (93%) agreed that their local area is a place where people from different ethnic backgrounds get on well together.

- Residents in both Wimbledon and Colliers Wood town centres are more likely than the borough average to be concerned about people being drunk or rowdy in public places, although by definition a borough average figure will include areas that are above and below this benchmark. Residents in Wimbledon are most likely to feel safe and satisfied overall with where they live and all areas are more safe and satisfied than the national figures.
- Groups hanging around the streets are cited as a big problem by 27% of residents in Wimbledon town centre and by 28% of residents in Ravensbury, Cricket Green and St Helier wards, although over 72% do not cite this as a problem.
- There is an above the borough average level of concern in Ravensbury, Cricket Green and St Helier wards about vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property/vehicles (with 17% of residents citing this as a big problem and 83% not citing it as a problem) and also about noisy neighbours or loud parties (with 22% of residents reporting this as a problem and 78% not), although by definition a borough average figure will include areas that are above and below this benchmark.
- People using or dealing drugs is described as a major concern by significant numbers of residents both in Colliers Wood town centre (18%) and in Ravensbury, Cricket Green and St Helier wards (18%), although this is not reflected in reported drugs related crime or ASB in the borough which is low.
- 63% of all residents do not see rubbish or litter lying around as a big problem in their local area, although 37% do cite it as a problem with this increasing to almost half of all respondents (49%) in Wimbledon town centre and two thirds (66%) in Ravensbury, Cricket Green and St Helier wards. The administration is therefore determined to address this by introducing a new wheeled bin service to reduce the problem of litter strewn on our streets due to foxes attacking black sacks.
- 84% of young people said they were satisfied about how Merton Council runs things, with just 4% dissatisfied. The three issues young people in Merton are most concerned about are gangs (29%), crime (24%) and litter/dirt in the streets (23%).

Merton remains the third safest borough in London but we must not be complacent and it is clear that anti-social behaviour and low level crime of the kind described above is of considerable concern to some residents in Merton, and particularly those living in and around our town centres. This may be borne out by the increased number of reports received each year by Merton's Anti-Social Behaviour team, which has increased by 43% since 2013-14 (from 547 to 781 cases in 2016-17), although neighbour disputes and dog fouling are the most significant areas of increase, and 300 of these referrals were not actually ASB cases and were referred on (we have a policy of recording all reports even where they prove not to have been ASB).

This Council recognises that it has a responsibility, working in close partnership with the local police, to continue to use the significantly reduced resources at its disposal due to central government cuts to continue our close partnership work through the Safer Merton partnership to combat the various issues of concern highlighted by the Residents' Survey, particularly in and around the town centres.

This Council welcomes the purchase of three mobile CCTV cameras for deployment to areas where ASB and/or low level crime is occurring - as set out in the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission on 6 July 2017 - and given the significantly reduced resources at our disposal due to government cuts would welcome

government funding to enable Merton to further expand its enforcement activities in order to maximise the possibility of taking action against those who commit these acts of anti-social behaviour.

This Council therefore calls on the Cabinet to look at identifying any further government funding for increasing the use and number of mobile cameras deployed in ASB hotspots around the borough as a cost effective way of supporting the local community and providing much needed reassurance to those affected, bearing in mind the many competing demands on resources in a time of government austerity cuts.

8 REPORT OF THE RAYNES PARK COMMUNITY FORUM (Agenda Item 8)

Councillor Michael Bull presented the report which was received by the Council.

9 REPORT FROM THE WIMBLEDON COMMUNITY FORUM (Agenda Item 9)

Councillor Michael Bull presented the report which was received by the Council.

10 NOTICES OF MOTION - CONSERVATIVE MOTION 1 (Agenda Item 10)

The motion was moved by Councillor Daniel Holden and seconded by Councillor Abdul Latif.

The Labour amendment as set out in agenda item 19 was moved by Councillor Ross Garrod and seconded by Councillor Martin Whelton.

Councillor Mary-Jane Jeanes spoke on the item.

The Labour amendment was put to a vote and was carried – votes in favour: 37, votes against: 19, abstentions: 0.

The substantive motion (as amended) was then put to a vote and was carried – votes in favour: 37, votes against: 0, abstentions: 19.

RESOLVED: That 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 which is part of a London-wide and indeed global problem as acknowledged by a key note Speaker at the meeting, Andrea Lee, Healthy Air Campaigner for ClientEarth, who said: “Without national action, there is not much hope for local action to succeed.” Council also welcomes the work the council’s Air Quality Steering Group has undertaken to draft Merton’s updated Air Quality Action Plan 2017-2022 which will shortly be out to public consultation. Council notes with concern that:

1) Over 12,000 people in Merton are estimated to be exposed to unacceptable levels of pollution, and nationally more than 38 million people, or 59.3% of the UK population, are living in areas where levels of nitrogen dioxide pollution are above legal limits;

- 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 Haydons Road) exceed the legal nitrogen dioxide legal annual limit of 40 ug/m³, as do various locations in every single London borough. Council welcomes the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan's plans to establish an ultra low emissions zone;
- 3) 13 out of the 390 nurseries, schools, further education colleges and after schools clubs across the borough are situated in areas where the levels of nitrogen oxide from traffic exceeds the annual legal limit, which at 3% is a lower percentage than our neighbouring boroughs of Kingston, Wandsworth, Richmond and Croydon but slightly above Sutton at 2%, and reflects a nationwide problem with more than 2,000 schools around England and Wales located near roads with illegal and dangerous levels of emissions from diesel cars. This council welcomes the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan's decision to fund new 'air quality audits' for the 50 most affected primary schools in London that will identify new hard-hitting measures to protect pupils from poor 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. An air quality assessment has been submitted as part of the application and it will be considered by the Planning Applications Committee in the usual manner, with impact on surrounding traffic and air quality planning concerns that will be taken into account.

Emissions from road traffic, specifically diesel emissions, have been identified as a major source of pollution in the borough and nationally 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 the most innovative and far reaching policy decision the council has taken has been to implement a new diesel surcharge that recognises the disproportionate impact of diesel vehicles on air quality. Council is pleased that the Mayor of London is considering whether similar moves could be made on a pan-London level.

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". This council believes that although local authorities like Merton can have an impact locally, air pollution is a national problem that requires national solutions and council is concerned that the government has had to be instructed by the courts to produce plans and on two occasions their draft plans have been deemed so inadequate as to be illegal. This council believes that air quality needs to be addressed by a comprehensive national strategy underpinned by the core principle that "the polluter pays" and that the government could "avoid undue impact on the motorist" by introducing a diesel scrappage scheme.

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, which is already a key part of Merton's Draft Air Quality Action Plan;
- Introducing anti-idling measures as has been done in neighbouring Wandsworth, which is already in the Draft Air Quality Action Plan;
- Continue the use of air quality monitoring equipment which has been doubled in the borough, including at Plough Lane, where monitoring has been reintroduced, and invest in our automated monitoring equipment which has now become outdated;
- Initiatives to incentivise cycling and walking as alternative means of transport and to promote car sharing, which is already in the Draft Air Quality Action Plan;
- The parking permit charge for electric vehicles, which has already been reduced, as part of a comprehensive emissions based parking scheme;
- Ensuring that our procurement policies include clean transport criteria now that contracted services have significantly reduced Merton's own transport fleet and supporting the Mayor of London's plans for cleaner buses and an end to the expensive diesel-emitting Routemaster buses favoured by his Conservative predecessor; and
- Increased co-operation across the South West London sub-region on air quality;
- Include air quality as a priority in the Council's Local Plan and review the planning process to ensure that we deliver the best outcomes for the borough in terms of development and 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) Call on government to publish a national air quality strategy based on the principle that the polluter pays;
- b) Call on government to introduce a new Clean Air Act;
- c) Continue to 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
- d) Ensure as planned 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.

11 NOTICES OF MOTION - CONSERVATIVE MOTION 2 (Agenda Item 11)

The motion was moved by Councillor Daniel Holden and seconded by Councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender.

The Labour amendment as set out in agenda item 20 was moved by Councillor Tobin Byers and seconded by Councillor Peter McCabe.

The Labour amendment was put to a vote and was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED: That 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.

Given these overlapping responsibilities of both health and local authorities, this Council therefore resolves to ask Merton's Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) to consider adopting 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, including the right to an early diagnosis which is primarily a health matter, along with other commitments including the right to access quality care and treatments which covers both health and social care, and the right to be treated as individuals and with dignity and respect which should be common to all services.

If the HWB recommends the adoption of 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.

12 LOCALLY LISTED BUILDINGS - NEW ITEMS FOR THE LOCAL LIST (Agenda Item 12)

The report was moved by Councillor Martin Whelton and seconded by Councillor Ian Munn.

Councillors John Bowcott and Andrew Judge both spoke on the item.

RESOLVED: That Council agrees the additions to the Local List set out in paragraphs 2.2 to 2.11 of the report.

13 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17 (Agenda Item 13)

The report was moved by Councillor Peter Southgate and seconded by Councillor Peter McCabe.

Councillor Oonagh Moulton spoke on the item.

RESOLVED: That Council receives the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.

14 FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH (Agenda Item 14)

The report was moved by Councillor Stephen Alambritis and seconded by Councillor Dennis Pearce.

Councillor David Williams spoke on the item.

RESOLVED: That

1. 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;
2. Council agrees to hold a special Council meeting for the purposes of passing the necessary resolutions.
3. Council agrees to congratulate 210 Squadron on their 50th anniversary and, at a future meeting, present it with a certificate.

15 CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND RELATED MATTERS (Agenda Item 15)

The report was moved by Councillor Stephen Alambritis and seconded by Councillor Martin Whelton.

RESOLVED: That

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

16 PETITIONS (Agenda Item 16)

The report was moved by Councillor Stephen Alambritis and seconded by Councillor Martin Whelton.

RESOLVED: That Council

1. Notes the update on the petitions received at the last meeting,

2. Accepts receipt of a petition presented by Councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender in respect of the introduction of parking charges at Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Park.

17 BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
(Agenda Item 17)

Councillor Oonagh Moulton announced that the Strategic Theme for the next ordinary meeting of the Council, being held on 13 September 2017, shall be Sustainable Communities.

Full Council

13 September 2017

Wards: All

Strategic Theme Report: Sustainable Communities

Lead officer: Chris Lee, Director for Environment & Regeneration

Lead members: Cllr Martin Whelton, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment & Housing

Cllr Ross Garrod, Cabinet Member for Street Cleanliness & Parking

Cllr Nick Draper, Cabinet Member for Community & Culture

Contact officer: James McGinlay, Assistant Director for Sustainable Communities

Recommendation:

A. That Council note the content of this report.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The Environment & Regeneration department provides a co-ordinated approach to managing the public realm, as well as the regeneration of our town centres and neighbourhoods. It aims to maintain and improve the local environment and economy of the borough by delivering quality services and by creating regeneration and sustainability partnership initiatives.
- 1.2. Each meeting of Council receives a report on updating progress against one of the council's strategic themes.
- 1.3. The ambition for the Sustainable Communities theme is outlined in the council's Business Plan 2016-2020 *'to create a more sustainable borough, one which is less reliant on fossil fuel and which reduces its negative impact on the environment and climate change in particular'*
- 1.4. The main portfolio holder is Councillor Martin Whelton although this theme also covers the work of Cllrs Ross Garrod and Cllr Nick Draper for their respective cabinet portfolios. The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel continues to exercise its statutory function
- 1.5. This report provides an update to Council on the key Sustainable Communities initiatives that the department is delivering for the continued benefit of our residents and business.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. This report provides an overview of the following main areas of work;
 - Public Space
 - Air Quality
 - Sustainable Travel

- Regeneration & Placemaking
- Development & Building Control

PUBLIC SPACE

- 2.2. The Phase C procurement conducted by Environment & Regeneration concluded earlier this year. The tender included two lots. Lot 1 for waste collection and street cleaning services, awarded to Veolia. Lot 2 for greenspaces and grounds maintenance, awarded to idVerde. Both are leading providers in their field.
- 2.3. A new division called Public Space, led by a new Assistant Director, was created to oversee these new contracts and the services they deliver. The creation of the new division to deliver these fundamental contracts indicates the high importance LB of Merton puts on maintaining a high quality public realm to support the vibrancy and economy of the local community.

Neighbourhood Client Officers (NCOs)

- 2.4. A new team of three Neighbourhood Client Officers (NCOs) forms part of the Public Space division. The NCOs are responsible for monitoring and managing the new contracts on a daily basis. Each NCO is responsible for monitoring performance and resolving issues in their allocated wards. They are continuing to build strong relationships with their counterparts within Veolia and idVerde so they can resolve issues in partnership. The NCOs provide a vital role in working closely with stakeholders and maintaining the public realm.

Street cleaning

- 2.5. A major benefit brought about by the new contract is the greater use of technology in scheduling the cleaning rounds and responding to problems. Residents are able to report street cleaning issues through the Council's website. This information is passed directly to Veolia's team who can immediately allocate the work to a vehicle in the area using the in-cab devices. The driver can then use this device to confirm with the control room that the work is complete. This brings about quicker resolutions and greater ability to manage the performance of the service, which ultimately contributes towards a cleaner public realm.
- 2.6. A further benefit of the contract is its focus on maintaining a consistent standard of cleanliness across the borough rather focusing on a required frequency of cleansing. The contract requires all streets to be maintained to the required level and for Veolia to return any failing streets to this level within a max 24 hours of a report.
- 2.7. Monitoring and inspections, together with reports from residents and Members, indicate that the standard of street cleanliness in the town centres has improved since the new contract. The use of new sweeper vehicles enables Veolia to reach high standards of cleaning in a more efficient and responsive manner. The standard of residential streets is also improving with

some pockets where concern remains. These streets are under close monitoring and the focus of attention for the NCO team.

- 2.8. The new technology enables better recording of fly-tipping numbers and hot spots. The number of recorded fly-tips across the borough has increased significantly since March. This is unlikely to reflect a significant increase in incidents and is much more likely to be a result of improved reporting and data capture by the new in-cab technology. LB of Merton aims to clear all fly-tips within 24 hours to keep the streets clear of waste. Before fly-tips are cleared, they are inspected by the street cleaning crews for any evidence which may support our Environmental Enforcement Team who seek to identify the perpetrators and deter such behaviour through communication with residents, in-depth investigation of fly-tipped material and issuing of enforcement notices.

Parks and playgrounds

- 2.9. The summer is a demanding time for parks maintenance and grass cutting. However, idVerde have successfully delivered a high quality of parks and grounds maintenance across the borough. Grass cutting, litter picking and pitch maintenance has been carried out to a high standard to ensure residents can enjoy the open space offered across Merton.

Community and public events

- 2.10. The parks team, together with idVerde, provide outdoor space to enable a range of community and public events, which play an important part in supporting community cohesion, individual well-being and local economies. This includes the annual Mitcham Carnival, Wimbledon Tennis car parking, the fireworks in Morden and Wimbledon together with various fairs.
- 2.11. In addition, there are large community events such as Eid ul Fitr celebrations as well as smaller and regular community organised sports events and pitch bookings. This year saw the first major music festival being held at Morden Park. The event welcomed nearly 17,000 guests to enjoy world renowned artists in the beautiful setting of Morden Park. The event was delivered by an external production company but carefully overseen by LBM's Parks team together with colleagues from Licensing, Noise, Car Parking, Safer Merton and the London Metropolitan Police to ensure the event was safe and secure for visitors and local communities.

Raising awareness and changing behaviour

- 2.12. Many of Merton's residents take pride in their local environment and contribute towards keeping it clean. This includes those that use litter bins when they are out and about as well as those who dispose of their bulky waste responsibly at the Council's household recycling centre or by using the Council's bulky waste service rather than fly-tipping their waste illegally.
- 2.13. The LB of Merton is continuing with a communication campaign to remind residents of their responsibilities as well as highlighting the financial

penalties that can be incurred if residents litter or fly-tip. Between 1st April 2017 and 31st July 2017, 1,928 residents have been issued with a fixed penalty notice (FPN) of £80 for littering and a further 9 have received a £400 FPN for fly-tipping. In the same period, the Enforcement Team has also written to 65 roads or streets to remind residents of how to responsibly present their waste for collection so that it does not reduce the quality of the public realm. The Council will continue to use a combination of engagement, communication and enforcement to encourage all residents and visitors of Merton to do the right thing with their waste.

Ways for the public to report incidents

- 2.14. In order to respond to concerns as quickly as possible and maintain a high quality public realm, it is helpful if residents, and Members, inform the Council of street cleaning issues. Reports can be made in a range of ways.
- 2.15. The website enables residents to report easily a range of service requests including:
- Missed recycling or waste collection
 - Litter and street cleaning problems
 - Abandoned cars
 - Graffiti
 - Fly-tipping
- 2.16. Residents can also telephone the Merton Council Contact Centre: 020 8274 4901.
- 2.17. By using these channels, the reports reach the contractor and client team as quickly as possible so problems can be solved as efficiently and effectively as possible. This also ensures all resident reports are logged and any repeat issues can be identified before they become bigger problems.
- 2.18. We are working hard to finalise the connectivity between our CRM system and the 2 contractors systems so that the vast majority of customer contacts and requests can be automated . This will lead to even greater improvements in ease of access for customers as well as performance management and accountability for the council.

New waste collection service roll-out in October 2018

- 2.19. Plans to roll out the new waste collection service will begin in earnest in autumn. This will be a project that is developed in partnership with Veolia and LBM. It will include a stakeholder engagement plan together with a comprehensive communications plan. The new service brings many benefits. The alternate weekly wheeled bin service is: cheaper; greener; safer; and, cleaner.
- 2.20. Residents will see the biggest improvement in relation to street cleaning. Currently, waste bags placed on the pavement attract foxes and vermin,

which often litter the road on collection day. The new wheeled bins will protect the waste from pests as well as wind and rain, making the service altogether cleaner and helping to maintain a high quality public realm.

London Borough of Culture

- 2.21. Culture and arts can make a valuable contribution towards creating a cohesive, healthy and vibrant society. In June, the Mayor of London invited London Boroughs to bid to become the London Borough of Culture for 2019 or 2020.
- 2.22. The Mayor's vision states that, "The award will put culture at the heart of the community. It will celebrate the unique character and diversity of London's people and places and uncover some of the amazing work that is often hidden. The programme will draw on Londoners' creativity to build stronger, more resilient communities." With this aspirational goal in mind, LB of Merton is currently preparing a bid, together with key stakeholders and partners, to become a London Borough of Culture.
- 2.23. The aim will be to harness the energy, skills and talents of community organisations and cultural institutions to deliver a programme of culture and arts that will be a catalyst for change across Merton. The closing date for bids is 1st December 2017.

AIR QUALITY

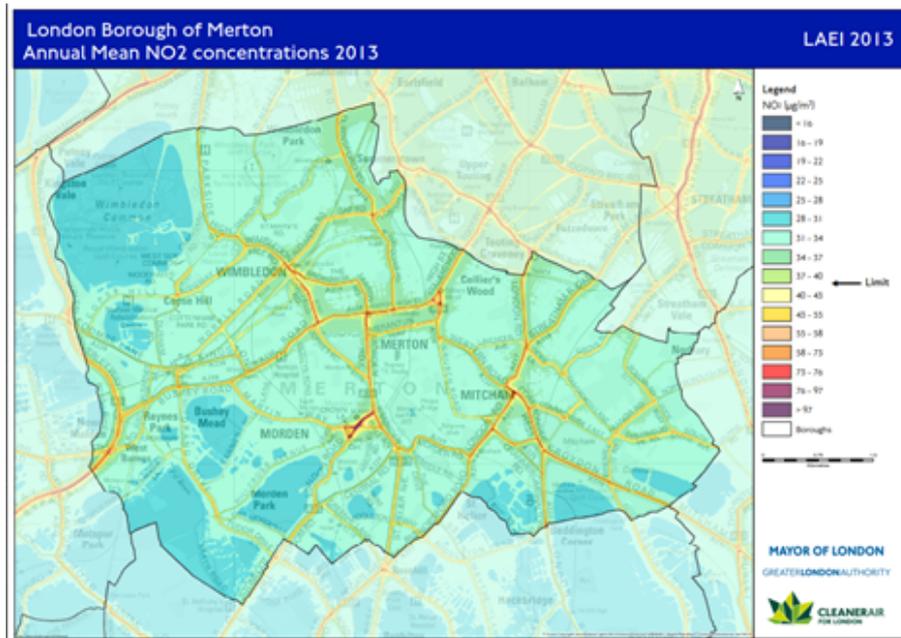
- 2.24. Local air quality is now a key priority both nationally and regionally. Actions taken around sustainable transport and modal shift directly help tackle poor air quality. Merton has taken a lead on a number of matters already to improve air quality including through the diesel surcharge.
- 2.25. A new Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) has been produced as part of our duty to London Local Air Quality Management statutory process and in recognition of the legal requirement on the local authority to work towards air quality objectives under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995.
- 2.26. The AQAP outlines the actions that Merton will deliver for the period 2017-2022 in order to reduce concentrations of pollution, and exposure to pollution; thereby positively impacting on the health and quality of life of residents and visitors to the borough. We recognise that there are a large number of air quality policy areas that are outside of our influence (such as Euro standards, national vehicle taxation policy, taxis and buses), and so we will continue to work with and lobby regional and central government on policies and issues beyond Merton's direct control.

Merton's Air Quality Priorities

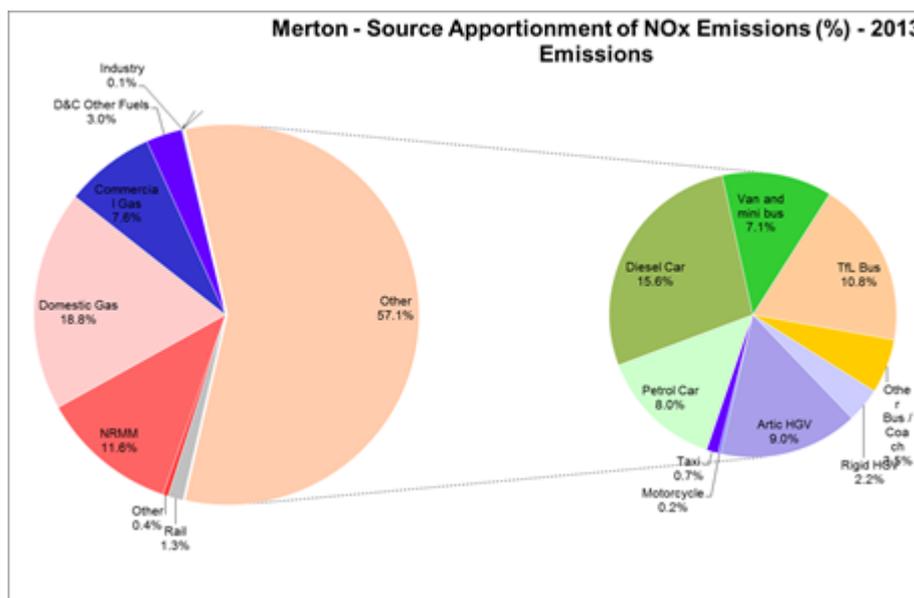
- 2.27. This AQAP is updated in line with new GLA guidance to reflect changes in LAQM and to ensure that local measures are current, effective and sufficiently targeted to address the GLA AQ focus areas and any other AQ 'hot-spots' identified within the borough.

- 2.28. There have been a number of significant air quality actions implemented at both local level and by the Greater London Authority and Transport for London since publication of Merton's first AQAP, including implementation of the Low Emission Zone; the introduction of the Sustainable Design and Construction and Control of Dust and Emissions Supplementary Planning Guidance; highway and public transport improvements and investment in a wide range of sustainable transport initiatives. Many of these are likely to have had an impact on AQ within the borough, however despite these improvements; AQ in Merton remains poor in a number of locations.
- 2.29. The Local Air Quality Management system for London (LLAQM) acknowledges that boroughs cannot solve the problem of air quality alone but that they do have a central role to play in improving AQ through the use of key levers such as parking, planning and local roads together with very specific knowledge of the communities that they serve.
- 2.30. The main priorities of the AQAP are;
- Land-use planning and sustainable development;
 - Transport Planning, promoting sustainable transport, local transport management, integration with Local Implementation Plans (LIPs);
 - Climate change policies in relation to carbon management and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;
 - Low Emission Strategies providing an integrated approach to promoting emission reduction strategies covering both air quality and climate change;
 - Public Health Outcomes (PHO) policy areas, to promote health and wellbeing; and
 - Education programmes to promote health and wellbeing and also the principles of sustainability.
- 2.31. Source apportionment data identifies road transport as contributing more than 50% of the overall emissions of NO_x and particulate matter within the borough. The dispersion modelling and Focus Area maps (Appendix D) also identify the areas experiencing the highest concentration of pollutants where there is relevant exposure. In the majority of cases these areas extend along the key transport links where there are high volumes of traffic, both local and through traffic.

2.32. NOx Emissions by source and vehicle type (from the LAEI 2013)



2.33. NOx Emissions by source and vehicle type (from the LAEI 2013)



SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

2.34. In partnership with Transport for London, the council's Future Merton team are leading on the local implementation of the Mayor's Transport Strategy and are implementing a number of sustainable travel choices; noted below.

Electric Vehicles Charging Points

2.35. The Council in partnership with Bluepoint has so far delivered 21 on-street charging points (9 locations). A second batch of 15 locations (36 charge

points) has been progressed to planning application stage. Subject to legal processes, implementation could start in winter 2017.

Go Ultra Low City scheme (GULCs)

- 2.36. This is a programme of Air quality initiatives, aimed at increasing ownership of electric and hybrid vehicles. The council has recently received notification of an £18,000 grant to install Socket (lamp column) chargers. Locations are still to be determined as assessments are underway.

Rapid charging points

- 2.37. A key part of the GULCs scheme is to provide up to 300 rapid electric vehicle charging points across London (roughly ten per borough). The physical equipment costs can be in the region of £50,000 plus enabling utility works. Site viability assessments are on-going at around 9 locations in Merton. At least two locations would be dedicated exclusively for taxis. The remaining sites would be open to all users and would include a “pay as you go” capability.
- 2.38. A number of planning, contractual and legal procedures still need to be undertaken before the new chargers can be installed. TfL funding is available for infrastructure works. Operators would provide the equipment with costs reclaimed through on-going user charges. Contracts would run a minimum 8-10 years. These chargers are aimed at fleet, taxi, car club and other high frequency users. Only ultra-low emission capable black cabs will be licensed from January 2018 so the roll out of this infrastructure is essential for taxi operators.

Car Clubs

- 2.39. There are 3 active car clubs in Merton. These are Enterprise Cars, Blue City and Zip Car. The largest operator by far is Zip Car with around 3540 active members in the borough (up 50% since the launch of Zip Car Flex). Across the flex car club boundary area comprising Merton, Wandsworth, Southwark and Lambeth there are now 40,000 members.
- 2.40. In addition, DriveNow and Enterprise Car Club are looking to launch one-way car clubs of their own in the borough. This floating model is expected to drive car club growth across London.
- 2.41. The Blue City Car Club (all electric point to point car club) is currently operating with 5 vehicles, but is expected to grow as more charge points are installed in the borough. The rollout of this project is also linked to a Car Club research project with Imperial College, Blue solutions, TfL, Car Plus, Westminster, Hammersmith and Fulham, Merton, Hounslow and consultants SDG.
- 2.42. The aim of the research project is to fill knowledge gaps identified by the car club coalition and how point to point car clubs can complement public transport and active travel. The project will initially run for 2 years, but is likely to be extended as more boroughs join the project.

Bike Sharing

- 2.43. Cycling is pollution free; helps to reduce traffic congestion and could help reduce the amount of kerbside parking to create a more appealing streetscape. Bike sharing also promotes the uptake of cycling and wider travel behaviour changes.
- 2.44. Bike sharing is expanding fast and recently there have been a number of negative news stories about Obike's dock-less cycle hire scheme launching without borough support or consultation. To deal with hundreds of bikes being dumped on the streets, affected boroughs were forced to intervene and remove the cycles at considerable cost, although it is hoped to recoup this money from the operators.
- 2.45. Officers have reservations regarding a fully free floating dock-less cycle hire system, and would prefer to see an alternative hybrid solution where cycles are perhaps parked in marked out on-street bays around stations and other high demand locations. Elsewhere it may be appropriate to allow hire bikes to share cycle hoops with other cycle users.
- 2.46. These dock-less hire schemes appear to offer the only viable option to develop cycle hire schemes in outer London without the very high operating and running costs associated with the current London scheme. Transport for London in partnership with the boroughs is developing a code of Practice for operators to sign, which may go some way to regulate how these schemes might operate.
- 2.47. The development of these schemes is moving very fast with a number of operators vying for a market share in London, including in parts of Merton. Despite a very disappointing start this operational model is gaining ground and is therefore here to stay.

REGENERATION & PLACEMAKING

Rediscover Mitcham

- 2.48. A significant milestone in the Rediscover Mitcham project has been reached with the completion of the new London Road bus street opening for service. Transport for London (TfL) and London Buses have started to run buses along the new London Rd bus street, which opened on Saturday 26 August.
- 2.49. Details of the new routes are now displayed at all bus stops affected by the new changes. Information is also available on TfL's website. Only local buses and cycles will be able to use the new bus street.
- 2.50. The new bus route is an integral part of the improvements we're making to Mitcham town centre and is the final phase of the works on the Fair Green.
- 2.51. Introducing the dedicated bus street will bring people directly into the shopping area of the town, which is better for both retailers and their customers. We can all be proud of Mitcham, its smart market stalls, convenient shopping and the beautiful Fair Green with the restored Victorian clock tower and landscaped gardens.

Colliers Wood

- 2.52. It's been a year of incredible change in Colliers Wood. Most notably, the transformation of Colliers Wood tower is nearing completion, as is the council's brand new Library on Colliers Wood High Street. In partnership with TfL, Merton Council has completely overhauled the look and feel, and function of the public realm in Colliers Wood with a series of projects that have now completed;

Baltic Close

- 2.53. The new, shared surface street had an official opening event in September 2016 and is proving to be a well-used space. It provides a high quality, attractive main entrance to Wandle Park that was once obscured by uncontrolled parking on an unmade road.

- 2.54. It now has high quality materials including wood-block paving; bespoke benches and pergola; disabled parking and servicing; tree planting and new street lighting. There are also new bin-stores for flats and businesses; cycle parking and new railings for the Charles Holden Pub garden. Pub seating extends into part of the street and there are new boundary walls and piers to the park entrance.



Wandle Park

- 2.55. The new wall to the High Street frontage has recently been completed to the same style as Baltic Close. It maintains a clear boundary to the park, but with more open views into it. The new frontage includes planting, wood-block paving and bespoke wooden seating; and the small parking area has been tidied up.

- 2.56. Inside the park a new path has been laid from the new and existing entrances into the park, leading to the memorial and a new path has been laid between the River Wandle and wetland area, creating a larger circular walking route within the park. The existing jogging path has also been restored and upgraded.



River Wandle

- 2.57. Along the River Wandle, between the High Street and Station Road the footpath has been resurfaced, LED lights installed throughout and new river landings created with bespoke seating. Outside the entrance to Sainsbury's a new seating area has also been laid out with bespoke benches, retaining wall and wood-block paving.

High Street Colliers Wood

- 2.58. Along the High Street between the Tube Station and Sainsbury's TfL recently implemented a major enhancement to the road layout, creating better facilities for cyclists, wider pavements, simplified pedestrian crossings, a wide crossing outside the station to Baltic Close, and an upgrade in paving surfaces. The council has also installed bespoke lighting on the riverside and is installing new street lighting along the rest of Merton High Street to Haydon's Road.

Local Distinctiveness

- 2.59. The bespoke designs for the project have been inspired by local industrial history and to reflect and reinforce the character and local distinctiveness of the area:

Benches are made from solid oak and are etched with designs from William Morris printing blocks from his works in nearby Abbey Mills. Wooden sets are charred timber, part of the process of charcoal making, from which Colliers Wood gets its name. Glazed tiles on the piers and topping the low walls are a reference to De Morgan's Lustreware ceramic works, once located in Wandle Park.



Shopping Parades

- 2.60. This parade located in the High Street of Colliers Wood was selected for refurbishment following a local survey and community consultation. It was jointly funded from the Brighter Business Scheme, Section 106, Future Merton's Economic Development funds and the respective businesses. All five shops in the parade participated in the project and financially contributed which helped transform some of the most dilapidated shops in the area with uneven private forecourts into a beautiful section of the High Street with new forecourt.
- 2.61. The work consisted of cleaning the brickwork from paint and dirt, replacing crumbling pilasters, woodwork and concrete sills and significant shopfront improvements on five shops. The previous blocked downpipes now drain straight into planters and the new permeable forecourt now outside seven shops is designed in line with the council's SuDS project and assists our sustainable drainage policy.



High Street Colliers Wood: Before and after

Clarion Housing Estate Regeneration

- 2.62. Clarion Housing Group is planning a £1 billion investment to build 2,800 homes on estates across the London Borough of Merton.
- 2.63. The largest housing association in the UK has submitted planning applications for homes in Eastfields and Ravensbury in Mitcham and High Path in South Wimbledon.
- 2.64. Details of the proposals include building 1,800 new homes to rent and buy and replacing 1,000 homes, with all existing tenants and resident homeowners wishing to remain in the neighbourhood to be rehoused.
- 2.65. Residents have been consulted on the plans and feedback has been incorporated into the outline planning applications, which set out how the streets, buildings and outside spaces could look. The emphasis is on creating energy-efficient, durable homes, green spaces and community facilities.
- 2.66. The council's primary responsibility is to residents of the three neighbourhoods so we've been discussing regeneration with local people every step of the way in the preparation of the council's Estates Local Plan. Working with Clarion in developing the residents offer and the joint ten commitments; We've pledged to keep these communities together by guaranteeing that every existing tenant of ours and resident homeowner has the option to remain in their neighbourhood at no additional cost.
- 2.67. The regeneration proposals will contribute to prosperity, health and wellbeing through job creation, opportunities for local businesses, better community and green spaces and links to local areas. As the first phases progress, the scheme will also provide extensive opportunities for training and employment and a range of initiatives to improve the life chances of young people in Merton. This is an exciting time for Merton and we're proud to be leading on one of London's largest estate renewal programmes.

Estates Local Plan

- 2.68. The Clarion estate regeneration programme is a long-term approach to place-shaping and will be guided by the council's Estates Local Plan. This plan is a strategic planning framework, created in consultation with residents to guide the built form and quality aspirations of the project over the next decade.
- 2.69. The plan has been produced in-house and was subject to a Public Enquiry in July 2017. We now await the Planning Inspector's comments to finalise the plan prior to adopting the plan late 2017. The plan's purpose, as well as providing a strategic vision for the three neighbourhoods, is to be the framework against which subsequent planning applications will be assessed.

Pollards Hill Regeneration

- 2.70. Moat Housing are also progressing with their own regeneration programme for Pollards Hill. Planning permission was secured in 2016 and Moat are now on-site delivering the refurbishment of existing homes in Pollards Hill.

- 2.71. The next phase of works will include the delivery of over 90 new homes around Donnelly Green, which will also be re-landscaped as part of the £35m project.

Morden Town Centre

Housing Zone

- 2.72. Morden Town Centre is the council's regeneration priority and over the past year significant progress has been made behind-the-scenes. Whilst much of the activity is around housing, the project does involve the creation of new retail, workspaces, jobs as well as housing intensification in the town centre.
- 2.73. The council secured Housing Zone status by the Mayor of London which seeks to accelerate the delivery of housing across the capital. For Morden, the Housing Zone programme has brought LBM and TfL together to work in partnership to develop a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach to developing our respective land-holdings. The Housing Zone status also has an £42m loan allocation available to developers if needed to deliver the project.
- 2.74. The council has also secured a £40,000 revenue grant to run the next stage of the project which involves the selection of a development partner to deliver the project as well as the associated procurement, financial and legal due-diligence throughout 2018.
- 2.75. Merton Council and TfL have jointly commissioned GL Hearn to advise on the various forms of development partnership or joint venture structures available to LBM & TfL and to also undertake soft-market testing in advance of procuring a development partner. This work is currently underway and will be brought back to members and pre-decision scrutiny late 2017.

Housing Infrastructure Fund

- 2.76. In August 2017, the council was invited by the GLA to bid for the government's Housing Infrastructure Fund. The fund is intended to provide the necessary infrastructure to enable the delivery of new housing. Our bid for Morden has passed through 3 reviews at the GLA and we will know by the end of September whether Morden's bid will be submitted to the Department for Communities & Local Government.
- 2.77. Our bid for Morden includes a £87m package of investment in the high street, public spaces, new bus station infrastructure and land assembly. Decisions on the bid are expected in spring 2018.

Morden Gyrotory

- 2.78. TfL and LBM have undertaken traffic modelling and concept scheme design to test options for improved traffic flow and a better public realm in Morden Town Centre. Two key principles of the project are to remove the Civic Centre gyrotory and to relocate the bus stands away from the Underground station in order to create a new pedestrian space at the station.
- 2.79. The project has now passed its stage 1 review and will be presented to TfL's Healthy Streets Board in October 2017 to secure approvals to proceed to the

next stage of detailed design, testing and consultation with residents and businesses; anticipated to be in mid-2018.

Morden Court Parade

- 2.80. One of the early successes of the Morden regeneration programme has been the restoration and complete transformation of Morden Court Parade on London Road. The council's Future Merton team secured a £600,000 grant to restore the art-deco façade of the unique parade as well as the provision of over 20 new shop-fronts along London Road creating a consistent design approach to the local businesses.
- 2.81. The parade works are largely complete, with snagging still underway. Morden Court is now firmly re-established as an art-deco gem and local landmark for Morden. We also recognise the great commitment made by the business themselves in agreeing to work with the council to deliver the project.
- 2.82. Morden Court Parade: Before & After

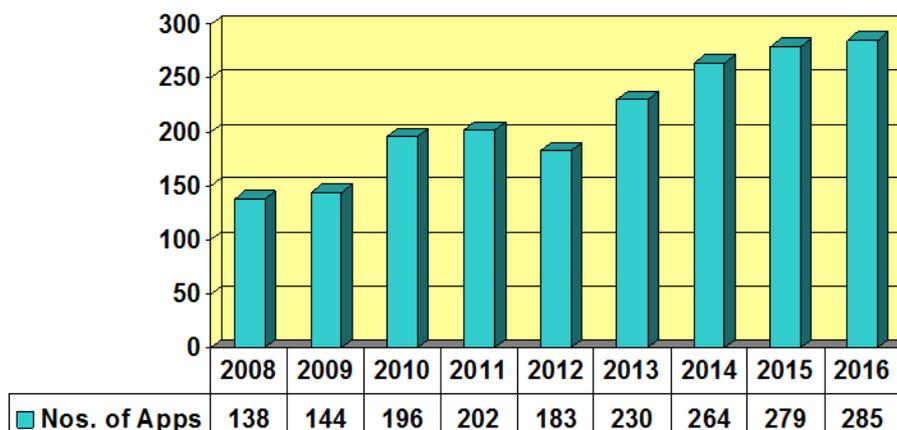


- 2.83. Morden Court Parade: Before & After



BUILDING & DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

- 2.84. Development Control has experienced a rise in planning applications received in recent years and has managed to increase productivity in the last 8 years. At the same time performance indicators have been maintained notwithstanding lower staffing levels.
- 2.85. The Building Control section have been continuing to maintain comparable market share with other London Boroughs, however there is still a small decline with Approved Inspector competitors increasing their market share. At the same time, the number of applications received has remained relatively constant over the last 3 years.
- 2.86. Planning applications per DC case officer:



- 2.87. Both teams have been heavily reliant on temporary staff in recent years and have had difficulty recruiting suitable candidates. A new recruitment drive is underway and is having some success in some areas although key posts are still proving very difficult to fill. The planning enforcement section has been reduced in size from 4 to 3 staff and has also only had 2 staff in recent months; however, a new permanent candidate has been offered a post and accepted.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. None for the purpose of this report

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. None for the purpose of this report

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. None for the purpose of this report

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. None for the purpose of this report

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. None for the purpose of this report

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1. None for the purpose of this report

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None for the purpose of this report

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. None for the purpose of this report

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

- None for the purpose of this report

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1. None for the purpose of this report

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COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2017

NOTICE OF MOTION

This Council recognises the very considerable concern among residents in Merton about the Mayor of London's proposal to close Wimbledon police station and sell the land.

This Council believes that the police station is well located in Wimbledon town centre, which has a large night-time economy (the largest in the borough) and is a major South West London transport hub that needs policing.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- 1) Write to the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, making clear the London Borough of Merton's complete opposition to this proposed closure and asking him to reconsider the plans to sell off Wimbledon's police station; and
- 2) Encourage as many residents, residents' associations and local community groups as possible to respond directly to the Mayor's consultation document before the deadline of 6 October 2017.

Cllr David Dean

Cllr Abdul Latif

Cllr Oonagh Moulton

Cllr David Simpson

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Motion to Full Council, 13 September 2017

This council notes that the future of St Helier hospital is again subject to debate with the Chief Executive of St Helier & Epsom NHS Trust having launched an “involvement document”, *Providing high quality healthcare services: 2020 to 2030* over the summer months. This sets out possible options for the re-configuration of acute services in the area, including three options to be taken forward for further investigation, two of which would move critical services currently at St Helier hospital to Belmont or Epsom.

Council has a long-standing commitment to ensuring that the residents of Merton have access to a full range of NHS acute services on the St Helier Hospital site, including a blue light A&E and consultant-led maternity service. Any attempt to relocate acute services away from an area of relative deprivation in St Helier in favour of a more affluent area such as Belmont or the Royal Marsden site would be incompatible with the statutory duty on the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to have regard to the need to tackle health inequalities because it would make accessing acute health services significantly more difficult for those in our population who suffer the greatest level of inequality. Instead, council supports the previous strategy to re-build St Helier hospital on its current site with its full range of services intact.

Council notes that:

- much of the engagement period fell over the school summer holidays whilst both parliament and the council were in recess, reducing the potential for democratic involvement;
- the Trust has not published criteria or weightings for their engagement process and the options they are asking the public to comment upon nor has it published the financial cost of this process;
- formal consultations regarding the future of hospital services are required by law to be carried out according to the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and that this exercise does not conform to these legislative requirements;
- it is for Merton’s Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) to firstly identify the local health and social care services required in our area through a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and then to agree a joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Merton’s CCG then needs to outline its commissioning priorities giving due regard to both of these documents.

Council notes that the engagement document moots a possible £400m new hospital for Surrey but there is currently no funding in the Treasury “red book” for this and it seems unlikely - in a time of continued austerity when hospitals are being earmarked for downgrade or closure elsewhere in London - that this would be forthcoming from government. Indeed, Chris Grayling, Conservative MP for Epsom & Ewell, recently stated in response to the current engagement exercise: *“Crucially there is no commitment from the NHS to the principle of funding a brand new hospital in SW London, where in recent years the push has been to reduce and not increase the number of hospital sites.”* Nonetheless, if any such capital funding did come forward,

this council would support spending it on rebuilding St Helier hospital on its current site.

Council notes the regrettable decision by the CCG to close the Wilson walk-in centre and the reported recent 20% increase in attendance at the St Helier A&E. We also note the potential consequences for other hospitals, for example, St Georges if the range of services at St Helier hospital were reduced.

Council notes that the Leader has written to the Chair of the Trust and the Chair of the CCG making clear the legal necessity of using the correct statutory processes when taking decisions on hospital services. Council therefore calls on the HWB to commission an independent health needs assessment for the population in Merton in relation to acute hospital services and further calls on the CCG to publish their commissioning intentions with due regard to this and to Merton's Health & Wellbeing Strategy so that any decisions about the future of St Helier hospital can be taken according to the processes set down in law, including that pertaining to reducing health inequalities.

Council notes that the Leader of the Council has asked the Chief Executive of the Trust to explain to the HWB meeting on 19 September how his engagement fits with the statutory consultation and decision making process. Council calls on the Trust to publish the cost of the current engagement process in addition to the criteria and weighting they intend to use in evaluating the results.

Council calls on residents to respond to the current engagement, making clear their support for the full range of services to continue at St Helier hospital, including a blue light A&E and consultant-led maternity, to ask that any decisions on the future of St Helier hospital comply with the statutory requirements based on a full needs assessment, and to support the rebuilding of St Helier on its current site.

Councillor Stephen Alambritis Councillor Laxmi Attawar Councillor Dennis Pearce

Committee: Council

Date: 13 September 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 notes that there are no changes to the political composition of the Council's committees.

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.

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	Substitute vacancy	Judy Saunders (substitute)	10 July 2017
Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel	Mike Brunt	John Dehaney	14 July 2017
Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel	Imran Uddin	Kelly Braund	27 July 2017
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)	Imran Uddin	Mike Brunt	2 August 2017
Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel	Michael Bull (substitute)	Jill West (substitute)	2 August 2017
Planning Applications Committee	Judy Saunders (substitute)	John Dehaney (substitute)	2 August 2017
Planning Applications Committee	Andrew Judge	Brenda Fraser	2 August 2017
Standards and General Purposes Committee	Martin Whelton	Nick Draper	1 September 2017

- 2.2 The appointments to Committees and other bodies were agreed at Council on 17 May 2017. A substitute vacancy had existed on the Planning Applications Committee and a member vacancy had existed on the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel and the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) following the resignation of former Councillor Imran Uddin from the Council on 13 June. On 14 July Councillor Mike Brunt resigned from his position as a member on the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel. On 2 August Councillor Michael Bull resigned his position as a substitute on the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel; and Councillors Andrew Judge and Judy Saunders resigned their positions on the Planning Applications Committee. On 1 September, Councillor Martin Whelton resigned his position on the Standards and General Purposes Committee.
- 2.3 Following the St Helier by-election which took place on Thursday 20 July 2017, 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.

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: 13 September 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 July 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 July 2017, the petition listed below was submitted and the response is 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 on Parking charges at Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field.

Officer Response

- 2.3. On the 14 August 2017, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment & Housing took the decision not to proceed with the making of a Traffic Management Order and the implementation of the proposed parking charges in Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields in Marina Avenue, West Barnes. The reason for his decision included the representations made during the consultation from local residents and friends of the park in opposing the introduction of the charges.
- 2.4. Members are invited to present petitions at this meeting, and a response will be provided to the next Council meeting on 22 November 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.