

Merton Council

Council meeting

Membership

The Mayor: Councillor Mary Curtin

The Deputy Mayor: Councillor Geraldine Stanford

Councillors: Agatha Mary Akyigyina OBE, Stephen Alambritis, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Eloise Bailey, Thomas Barlow, Nigel Benbow, Hina Bokhari, Kelly Braund, Mike Brunt, Adam Bush, Omar Bush, Ben Butler, Tobin Byers, Billy Christie, David Chung, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Pauline Cowper, Stephen Crowe, David Dean, John Dehaney, Nick Draper, Anthony Fairclough, Edward Foley, Brenda Fraser, Edward Gretton, Joan Henry, Daniel Holden, James Holmes, Andrew Howard, Janice Howard, Natasha Irons, Mark Kenny, Sally Kenny, Linda Kirby, Paul Kohler, Rebecca Lanning, Najeeb Latif, Edith Macauley MBE, Russell Makin, Peter McCabe, Simon McGrath, Nick McLean, Oonagh Moulton, Aidan Mundy, Hayley Ormrod, Dennis Pearce, Owen Pritchard, Carl Quilliam, David Simpson CBE, Marsie Skeete, Peter Southgate, Eleanor Stringer, Dave Ward, Martin Whelton, Dickie Wilkinson and David Williams

Date: Wednesday 12 September 2018

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: communications@merton.gov.uk, 020 8545 3181

Council meeting

12 September 2018

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Note on declarations of interest

Members are advised to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared they should withdraw from the meeting room during the whole of the consideration of that matter and must not participate in any vote on that matter. If members consider they should not participate because of a non-pecuniary interest which may give

rise to a perception of bias, they should declare this, .withdraw and not participate in consideration of the item. For further advice please speak with the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance.

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Agenda Item 3

COUNCIL
12 JULY 2018

(7.15 pm - 8.45 pm)

PRESENT The Mayor: Councillor Mary Curtin

The Deputy Mayor: Councillor Geraldine Stanford

Councillors Agatha Mary Akyigyina OBE, Stephen Alambritis, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Eloise Bailey, Thomas Barlow, Nigel Benbow, Hina Bokhari, Kelly Braund, Mike Brunt, Adam Bush, Omar Bush, Ben Butler, Tobin Byers, Billy Christie, David Chung, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Pauline Cowper, Stephen Crowe, David Dean, John Dehaney, Anthony Fairclough, Edward Foley, Brenda Fraser, Edward Gretton, Joan Henry, Daniel Holden, James Holmes, Andrew Howard, Janice Howard, Natasha Irons, Sally Kenny, Linda Kirby, Rebecca Lanning, Najeeb Latif, Edith Macauley MBE, Russell Makin, Simon McGrath, Nick McLean, Oonagh Moulton, Aidan Mundy, Dennis Pearce, Owen Pritchard, David Simpson CBE, Marsie Skeete, Peter Southgate, Eleanor Stringer, Martin Whelton, Dickie Wilkinson and David Williams

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nick Draper, Mark Kenny, Paul Kohler, Peter McCabe, Hayley Ormrod, Carl Quilliam and Dave Ward.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest made.

3 FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH (Agenda Item 3)

The Mayor invited the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition to speak on the motion.

Councillor Stephen Alambritis:

"I, Cllr Stephen Alambritis, being the duly elected leader of the council of the aforementioned borough of Merton on this the 12th day of the month of July, in this the year of our Lord of 2018

do hereby move to recommend to this council to agree to present Philip Jones, with a certificate conferring upon him the title of Honorary Freeman of the Borough affixed with the common seal of the Council.

I therefore move and Cllr Oonagh Moulton the leader of the Opposition will second

That, by virtue of the power vested in it by Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council does admit Philip Jones as Freeman of the London Borough of Merton

This honour is bestowed on Philip Jones in recognition of the substantial contribution he made to the Borough as a Councillor for the Ravensbury ward in over 39 cumulative years of service, since his election to the Council in 1971, including serving as Deputy Mayor in the municipal year 2007/2008; and his extensive civic service.

In particular, Philip was an active member of the local community, chairing the Morden Community Forum, as well as being a member of the Environment Committee and of the Planning Committee with 10 years as chair of the latter committee.

He also served as a School Governor for Malmesbury School in his ward and was a Trustee of the Merton and Morden Guild of Social Services championing the improvement of local health and social care facilities for the residents of Merton

And was instrumental in the building of the medical centre on Morden Road

Philip has been a lifelong resident of Morden and a dedicated former employee of the trade union then called NALGO and now known as UNISON

Madam Mayor

That is the legal stuff out of the way

Let us get personal now

Philip Mervin Jones was born in Northamptonshire after his parents were evacuated there during the Second World War

When the war ended the family moved back to Maycross Avenue in Morden

Aged 11 the young Philip with his collection of Eagle comics in his satchel attended Rutlish Boys School in Mostyn Road

After school and armed with a good degree from Sheffield University the 21 year old young man enjoyed a career as the Education Officer to NALGO

The National and Local Government Officers' Association was a major British trade union representing 'white collar' workers having been set up in 1905

By the late 1970s it was the largest union with over 700,000 members

Its vice presidents included the Earl of Derby and one Neville Chamberlain

And so it came to pass that Philip chose to join the Labour Party

Philip first put his hat in the ring as a local council candidate in 1968 but that year saw a rare Conservative landslide and so undeterred in May 1971 Philip stood in Cannon Hill and to great success

In 1978 he won a seat in Abbey Ward but it was with Ravensbury Ward that he fell in love and that affair began in May of 1986 until May of this year

Philip looked after his residents with an absolute passion

He also loved the Labour Party and loved leafletting and canvassing

He is one of many candidates up and down this country to have been bitten by a dog while on the stump

On this occasion the dog was owned by a rival Tory candidate

Being the gentleman that he is Philip did not pursue the matter with electoral services

He won that election hands down anyway minus the tip of an index finger

Philip Jones was Chair of Planning for many years (The glass building in the Broadway belonging to the CIPD, yes that was passed by Philip)

Philip Jones was also Environment Services Committee Chair and his passion for road humps to ease speeding led to the Evening Standard describing Merton as the Borough with the Hump!!

Councillor Jones was also Leader of the council and Deputy Mayor to Cllr John Dehaney

But let us now leave the past badges of office and wish Philip the best for the future as he:

Picks his berries

Washes his Jars

Washes and hulls the fruit from his garden

Crushes the fruit

Measures out the sugar

Mixes the berries with pectin

And cooks to a full boil

Yes Philip makes Jam and has been doing so for longer than Jeremy Corbyn!

So if you were to go to the Morden Funday Labour Stall on Sunday 22 July there you will see Jam today and jam tomorrow made by Philip

Philip will also enjoy many trips to the Ian Allan Book and Model Shop in Lower Marsh by the Cut near the Old Vic as he loves his British Rail Books and has quite a collection

And not just a collection of books but memories past of real journeys by train to places like Berlin, Sarajevo, Malaga, Helsinki and Athens, of course with many more train journeys to come

Madam Mayor

Philip has been on the public service journey all his life from NALGO to Merton and has given his time and best effort to members of the public here in Merton and especially to the residents of Ravensbury Ward who have been well served by him

We now wish him all the best in his by now real retirement and I so move the motion to admit Philip Jones as Freeman of the London Borough of Merton.”

Councillor Oonagh Moulton:

“Madame Mayor I am delighted and honoured to second this motion and to place on record our recognition on this side of the Chamber for the long and dedicated public service (some 39 years cumulative) that former Councillor Philip Jones has given to our Borough and to his residents of Ravensbury Ward.

Philip has given distinguished service on the many committees on which he has served but he is probably best known for his expertise and length of service on the Planning Committee which he has also chaired for some 10 years.

His extensive civic service includes a term as Deputy Mayor from 2007 to 2008.

Madam Mayor, Philip has I know been held in high esteem across this chamber and has been widely regarded as one of the ‘wise heads’ and I speak for many of us when I say that we will certainly miss his incisive contributions.

Philip we wish you well and look forward to seeing you at future Civic functions and exercising the new rights in your new role as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough.

Madam Mayor it gives me great pleasure to second this motion.”

The Mayor then invited the following Members to speak on the motion.

Councillor Peter Southgate:

“Thank you for the opportunity to add my voice to the many in support of the award of the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Merton to former Cllr Philip Jones. This is an exceptional award for a retiring councillor, but it reflects exceptional service to our borough. I’ve known Philip for fewer than half those 39 years of service, but he’s always seemed to me an implacable and reliable presence in the sometimes swirling politics of Merton, and I will miss that reassuring presence and sagacity.

Nowhere more than on the Planning Applications Committee, on which Philip has served as Chair or member throughout my time on the council. When I was first appointed to the PAC a former member advised me – if you’re not sure which way to vote, watch what Philip Jones does, he’s usually right.

And so it has proved. I have noticed that Philip tends to bide his time while louder voices argue the merits or demerits of applications that come to the PAC, but his interventions when they came were always well informed and soundly based in policy, and as such were often decisive. And he has always demonstrated an ability to think and act independently in planning, which is essential if all parties, applicant and objectors, are to have confidence in the process. His wisdom will be missed.

As will his dry or wry sense of humour. I remember when the Merton Park Independents first gained the balance of power in 2006, it was suggested to me that we might like to claim a seat in the front row of the stalls as it were, sitting alongside the big boys in the chamber. Overhearing this, Philip’s advice to me was – I’d stay where you are on the back row, then you can continue to look down on us literally as well as metaphorically.

While we were glad of that advice, I hasten to add that we never looked down on our colleagues in either major party – literally but not seriously, to misquote.

We have every confidence that Philip will exercise his deserved freedom of the borough by continuing to walk its length and breadth, as he has done for so many years in its service.”

Councillor David Williams:

“Thank you Madam Mayor. I first knew Philip when he became a Councillor in Cannon Hill, but through the column he was writing for the Morden Parish News as “our man on the Council” and I didn’t mind that a bit until I became a candidate in Cannon Hill.

Philip wrote a regular column for the Morden Parish News and when I did succeed him as a Councillor in the Cannon Hill Ward in 1974 I didn’t manage to keep up the momentum that he did in writing that column and I think that says something about Philip. That when he sets about a task, that he sticks with it, and we have a great deal to be grateful for across the chamber for the consistency in which he has undertaken his role as a Councillor.

Through the Church, I knew his mother and his late brother and Philip, as others have already said, has been deeply committed to this Borough pretty much all his life

and I thought it was actually a bit unfortunate that we didn't mention in this motion that he was Leader of this Council in 1999 to 2000 at a time of great turbulence in the Labour Group but he stepped forward and fulfilled that role and for those of us who have undertaken it know that it's more than just being in the Chamber. You have to do a great deal behind it, including managing your own group.

So all credit to Philip for all that he's achieved, in particular on Planning of course. He's also kept us, on many occasions, on the right path with his attention to detail, particularly spelling and grammar when Council documents have been a little weak. But Philip Jones is a doer, and I'm sure even as an Honorary Freeman, Philip will continue to be a doer for Merton."

The Mayor then called for a vote on the Motion and reminded the Council that under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, it requires more than a two thirds majority of Members passing the motion for the Honorary Freeman to be bestowed.

The vote was carried, unanimously.

The substantive resolution was agreed.

RESOLVED:

That, by virtue of the power vested in it by Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council does admit Philip Jones as Freeman of the London Borough of Merton.

This honour is bestowed on Philip Jones in recognition of the substantial contribution he made to the Borough as a Councillor for the Ravensbury ward in over 39 cumulative years of service, since his election to the Council in 1971, including serving as Deputy Mayor in the municipal year 2007/2008; and his extensive civic service.

In particular, Philip was an active member of the local community, chairing the Morden Community Forum, as well as being a member of the Environment Committee and of the Planning Committee, with 10 years as chair of the latter. He also served as a School Governor for Malmesbury School in his ward and was a Trustee of the Merton and Morden Guild of Social Services, championing the improvement of local health and social care facilities for the residents of Merton and was instrumental in the building of the medical centre on Morden Road. Philip has been a lifelong resident of Morden and a dedicated former employee of the trade union then called NALGO and now known as UNISON.

4 HONORARY ALDERMAN (Agenda Item 4)

1. Honorary Alderman – former Councillor John Bowcott

The Mayor asked for a proposer and a seconder for the motion to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor John Bowcott.

Councillor Oonagh Moulton:

“Madame Mayor I am delighted to move this motion conferring the title of Honorary Alderman upon our former Conservative councillor John Bowcott and which is a fitting recognition of his length of service, civic duty and distinguished commitment to our borough and to the residents of Village Ward whom he has served so loyally.

John was first elected in 2002 with the class that includes myself and David Simpson. He quickly established himself on the Planning Committee and gave distinguished service which has received widespread recognition and support across the Borough.

In addition he was the Deputy Mayor 2012-13 to Cllr David Williams and I can recall many great occasions & events with him and his wonderful Deputy Mayoress and consort Leslie.

Madame Mayor, Honorary Alderman is a fitting tribute to bestow on one of our distinguished former members and who has given so much of his time, so freely to the service of the Borough.

Madam Mayor I move this motion.”

Councillor Stephen Alambritis:

“It gives me great pleasure to second this. John Bowcott – committed, courteous, hard working, never angry, works across party lines – a real gentleman.

A pleasure to second Madam Mayor.”

Councillors Daniel Holden and David Williams also addressed the meeting speaking in support of the motion.

The Mayor then called for a vote on the Motion and reminded the Council that under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, it requires more than a two thirds majority of Members passing the motion for the Honorary Alderman to be bestowed.

The vote was carried, unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That former Councillor John Bowcott is conferred with the title of Honorary Alderman of the London Borough of Merton in recognition of his loyal and distinguished service to the Council over many years.

2. Honorary Alderman – former Councillor Andrew Judge

The Mayor asked for a proposer and a seconder for the motion to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor Andrew Judge.

Councillor Stephen Alambritis:

“Thank you Madam Mayor for calling me for this second motion that former Councillor Andrew Judge to confer him with the title of Honorary Alderman for the London Borough of Merton in recognition of his loyal and distinguished service to the Council over many many years. A hugely successful former Leader of the Council, Andrew improved the standing of this Council immensely during his time as Leader. He had great attention to detail, passionate about football; a Manchester City fan; we’ll forgive him for that. But an AFC Wimbledon fan too and fought successfully to bring the club back to the Borough in Plough Lane. Major achievement in working with officers brought him the internationally acclaimed Merton Rule on the Environment, climate change and especially with regard to commercial buildings. The great and brilliant barrister with a cause; always polite, always giving his time to colleagues, officers and to residents, a well deserved alderman of the Borough for former Councillor Andrew Judge. Thank you Madam Mayor”.

Councillor Oonagh Moulton:

“Thank you Madam Mayor, indeed I would be delighted to second this motion. Councillor Judge has been a very long serving and very distinguished member of this chamber. Councillor Alambritis has enunciated very lucidly exactly all his achievements and I’m delighted to second this. Thank you.”

Councillor Linda Kirby also addressed the meeting speaking in support of the motion.

The Mayor then called for a vote on the Motion and reminded the Council that under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, it requires more than a two thirds majority of Members passing the motion for the Honorary Alderman to be bestowed.

The vote was carried, unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That former Councillor Andrew Judge is conferred with the title of Honorary Alderman of the London Borough of Merton in recognition of his loyal and distinguished service to the Council over many years.

3. Honorary Alderman – former Councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender

The Mayor asked for a proposer and a seconder for the motion to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender.

Councillor Oonagh Moulton:

“Madame Mayor it is wonderful to have the opportunity to move this motion to confer the title of Honorary Alderman upon our former Conservative councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender.

First elected in a By-Election in November 2000, Gilli has given 18 years service and 100% dedication and commitment to her community and to the residents of West Barnes Ward.

Madam Mayor Gilli has given extensive service to the whole Borough on a number of committees. She was the Chair of the Healthier Communities & Older People Overview & Scrutiny Panel from 2006 to 2011 but she is mainly known for her long service on the Health & Wellbeing Board.

Her public service was recognised in 2011 when she was elected Mayor and what a fantastic year that was.

Throughout her term however Gilli has dedicated her time, passion and energy to many of the voluntary and charitable organisations across the Borough.

Madame Mayor a particular mention has to go to the founding of the Rendez-Vous Club that Gilli and her longstanding partner and councillor, Brian set up to help combat loneliness and to promote a healthy lifestyle for older people.

I can personally recall one initiative which I think reflects that passion and drive for health and wellbeing on an individual and personal basis, when she encouraged all councillors to take part in a diet and weekly weigh-in – complete with a tape measure, step counter and before and after photos!

Less popular was her decision to ban the cookies from our meetings – though Madame Mayor I have noticed the biscuits creeping back!

Whilst I said that it was wonderful to be moving this motion on such a deserving person I cannot but help feel that is with some sadness that I do so as clearly Gilli did have a few more years' service to give and I know that many in her Ward, across the Borough and across this Chamber have been shocked by her departure.

Madame Mayor we do hope that Gilli will continue her passion for community service and we look forward to welcoming her back as Honorary Alderman.”

Councillor Stephen Alambritis:

“Thank you Madam Mayor, it gives me great pleasure to second this motion on behalf of Gilli Lewis-Lavender. A hugely successful campaigner for older people, a champion of West Barnes, with infectious enthusiasm and a hugely successful Mayor in 2011/12 who raised so much money, Madam Mayor, that her chosen charity did not know how to spend it!

She crossed the political divide many times by bringing people from all sides together and her adoring husband fully deserves her back. Thank you.”

Councillors Daniel Holden and David Williams also addressed the meeting speaking in support of the motion.

The Mayor then called for a vote on the Motion and reminded the Council that under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, it requires more than a two thirds majority of Members passing the motion for the Honorary Alderman to be bestowed.

The vote was carried, unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That former Councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender is conferred with the title of Honorary Alderman of the London Borough of Merton in recognition of her loyal and distinguished service to the Council over many years.

4. Honorary Alderman – former Councillor Ian Munn

The Mayor asked for a proposer and a seconder for the motion to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor Ian Munn.

Councillor Stephen Alambritis:

“Thank you Madam Mayor. It gives me great pleasure, I move the motion that former Councillor Ian Munn is conferred with the title of honorary alderman for the London Borough of Merton in recognition of his loyal and distinguished service to the Council over many years and I know that we’ve received apologies from Councillor Munn and I know that Councillor Makin will speak on his behalf and will also collect his certificate on his behalf. Councillor Ian Munn was a consummate Councillor; paid great attention to detail and Cricket Green was in his blood. 1994-2002 he was a Phipps Bridge ward councillor, from 2002 to May this year he was a Cricket Green ward councillor, I think it was roughly the same area but some boundary changes and names. Now Planning and the look of the Borough was in his heart; he was Chair of the Borough Plan Advisory Committee for many years, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Commission, Chair of Mitcham Community Forum as well as on the Borough Plan Advisory Committee, Standards and General Purposes Committee and loads and loads of other stuff. He was Mayor for 2000-2001, the millennium year. Now when anyone asked for help Ian Munn would gladly give it and when he saw anyone that needed help he would go up to them and offer it. He was a great organiser for our Mitcham Carnival that goes on to this day and I have great pleasure in moving this motion for Ian Munn, Madam Mayor.”

Councillor Oonagh Moulton:

“Thank you Madam Mayor. It does indeed give me great pleasure to second this motion and I’m sorry to hear that Ian Munn cannot be with us this evening and I hope our very best wishes can be passed on to him tonight. I know that former Councillor Saunders is kindly here to accept his award.

All I can say is that I fully support and second the motion. Thank you.”

Councillor Russell Makin and Peter Southgate also addressed the meeting speaking in support of the motion.

The Mayor then called for a vote on the Motion and reminded the Council that under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, it requires more than a two thirds majority of Members passing the motion for the Honorary Alderman to be bestowed.

The vote was carried, unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That former Councillor Ian Munn is conferred with the title of Honorary Alderman of the London Borough of Merton in recognition of his loyal and distinguished service to the Council over many years.

5. Honorary Alderman – former Councillor Judy Saunders

The Mayor asked for a proposer and a seconder for the motion to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor Judy Saunders.

Councillor Stephen Alambritis:

“Thank you Madam Mayor it gives me great pleasure to move the fifth motion that former Councillor Judy Saunders is conferred with the title of honorary alderman for the London Borough of Merton in recognition of her loyal and distinguished service to the Council over many many years. A very very popular Councillor was Councillor Judy Saunders. We’ve just had the World Cup, sadly England failed to get through to the final but in all the football leagues there are votes by the fans about who is the player of the year, which is the goal of the year but the most prized vote is by the players about the players; the players player award is the most prized. If there was Madam Mayor, a Councillors’ Councillor award I think Judy Saunders would win it every time, such a very very popular Councillor amongst all sides of the Chamber. And she was chosen by her colleagues across all parties to mayoral positions three times Madam Mayor; twice as Deputy Mayor, once as Mayor, a record I believe in Merton. Another champion for Cricket Green; never craved attention but got on with it anyway, but she did gain attention because of her powerfully friendly approach to her work. I move the motion Madam Mayor”.

Councillor Oonagh Moulton:

“Thank you Madam Mayor, I’m delighted to second this motion. I very much believe that Councillor Saunders has given very loyal and very distinguished service across the Borough as Councillor for many years and I’m would also be happy to second Councillor Alambritis’ special award for Councillors. I think across the Borough we can certainly say that she is “woman of the match”. Thank you very much and I’m very happy to second what I know is a very popular award for former Councillor Saunders. Thank you.”

Councillors Russell Makin and Peter Southgate also addressed the meeting speaking in support of the motion.

The Mayor then called for a vote on the Motion and reminded the Council that under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, it requires more than a two thirds majority of Members passing the motion for the Honorary Alderman to be bestowed.

The vote was carried, unanimously.

RESOLVED:

That former Councillor Judy Saunders is conferred with the title of Honorary Alderman of the London Borough of Merton in recognition of her loyal and distinguished service to the Council over many years.

5 VOTE OF THANKS TO FORMER COUNCILLORS (Agenda Item 5)

The report was moved by Councillor Stephen Alambritis and seconded by Councillor Oonagh Moulton.

Councillors Anthony Fairclough and Peter Southgate also addressed the meeting and spoke on the item.

RESOLED

That, following their retirement from membership of the Council, the Council places on record its sincere appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the Borough by the former members listed in the appendix to these minutes and extends to them its grateful thanks for their activities on behalf of the Borough.

Committee: Council

Date: 12th September 2018

Wards: All

Subject: Strategic Theme – Sustainable Communities

Lead officer: Director for Environment and Regeneration, Chris Lee; Director of Community and Housing, Hannah Doody

Lead members: Cabinet Member for Environment, Housing and Transport, Councillor Martin Whelton

Cabinet Member for Community and Culture, Councillor Nick Draper

Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Cleanliness, Councillor Mike Brunt

Contact officer: Programme Manager for Economy, Sara Williams

Recommendations:

That Council consider the content of the report.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Each meeting of Council receives a report updating progress against one of the council's strategic themes. The theme for this report is **Sustainable Communities**.
- 1.2. The portfolio holders are Councillor Martin Whelton, Councillor Nick Draper and Councillor Mike Brunt. The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel continues to exercise its statutory function in relation to environmental sustainability (including energy, waste management, parks and open spaces and the built environment), enterprise and skills (including regeneration, employment, adult education and libraries), housing, transport and their input is included in this report.
- 1.3. The report provides an overview of the Sustainable Communities and Transport Partnership (SCTP) priorities to:
 - **Reduce CO2 and impact on climate change**
 - **Increase supply of housing**
 - **Increase inward investment in the borough**
 - **Increase the supply of jobs and improve skills**

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The ambition for the Sustainable Communities theme is outlined by the Merton Partnership:

To work in partnership 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. The Board promotes investment into the borough to create new jobs as well as looking to improve skills levels and the capacity of residents to benefit from these jobs and those across the region. The Board seeks to improve the condition and supply of housing including affordable housing. The Board works to promote the development of sustainable transport particularly active transport [cycling and walking] as well as public transport in and around Merton.

Reduce CO2 and impact on climate change

- 2.2. Car Clubs – There are currently 3 car club providers in the borough. Each uses a different operating model. The Blue City scheme provides 5 - 6 all electric cars operating between Source London electric vehicle charging points; Enterprise Cars run a traditional car club from dedicated on-street bays with about 200 Merton members and by far the largest is Zip Car Flex with around 100 flex cars operating in the borough on a daily basis plus a small number of dedicated bays. Launched between April and June 2017 the Flex scheme now has over 4500 Merton members. This so called floating car club model is expanding rapidly across London. New operators are expected to come to Merton in the New Year further expanding the car club offer. Each floating car club vehicle can replace up to 13 privately owned vehicles. London has a target of 1,000,000 car club members by 2025. The Council is expected to generate between £80k and £100k per annum.
- 2.3. Electric Vehicle Charging Points - There are currently 21 publically accessible fast charge points (7kw) spread across the borough, which are able to charge a typical electric vehicle in 3-4 hours. A further 44 fast charge points are in the process of being commissioned by Source London. The new Morden Leisure centre will provide an additional 5 fast charge points (with enough infrastructure so that the charging points could be upped to 34). A third batch of 39 charge points is currently going through the planning process and could to be operational in late 2018/early 2019.
- 2.4. Transport for London are also rolling out a network of rapid chargers (50KW) across London capable of charging a vehicle in 15- 30 minutes including 2 charges on London Road, Morden. These rapid chargers are aimed at taxi and other high usage vehicles. As part of the Go Ultra Low City Scheme (GULCS) Merton proposes to trial a number of lamp column chargers in 2019 aimed at overnight parking. The council is now ahead of target to deliver 125 publically assessable charge points by 2020/21.
- 2.5. Road Safety Education & Travel plans - FutureMerton Road Safety Education Team provide a range of programmes and training for school children and the local community. Partnership working with schools, Met Police and Cycling Instructor provides events such as Changing Places for pedal cyclists and motorcyclists, advising on blind spots and road positioning. We provide a rolling programme of road safety presentations and workshops for all school age groups, advising on crossing roads safely and in 2016/2017 visited 22 schools. The Junior Citizenship Event for year 6 showcases life skill scenarios with other organisations at this transitional phase in their lives, and last year 1,200 children attended the week-long event.
- 2.6. Other road safety training programmes are Kerbcraft, practical on road child pedestrian training modules for year 2 pupils, and Junior Travel Ambassadors and Youth Travel Ambassador projects which promote sustainable travel and healthier lifestyle choices. These are also part of the TfL Stars School Travel Plan Programme. Currently Merton has 33 schools engaged or achieving Stars Accreditation, of which 10 are Gold Level, 8 Silver Level, 11 Bronze Level and 3 are engaged and working toward accreditation. Air Quality is also of concern as it affects children's health i.e. asthma, lung infections and events have been provided in 2 schools to raise awareness of pollution and emissions on health and how to reduce levels by reducing car engine idling and car usage.
- 2.7. Bikeability cycle training is provided to primary, secondary and adults at beginner, improver and commuter levels. Balance Bike is valuable training for younger

children who cannot cycle and we provide training bikes in socio-economic areas for school children. Scooter training is a popular pre-cursor to cycle training as it develops balance skills as progression to cycle training. Cycle training for adults increased by 6% in 2017 and numbers in the group training sessions at weekends have also increased.

- 2.8. School Safety – Engineering intervention apart from providing road safety and supporting schools is to develop their school travel plans and we have an annual rolling programme to introduce road safety and access improvements outside schools. Interventions include localised 20mph speed limit; vertical deflections such as a speed table and buildouts; review of existing parking restrictions including school keep clear zig zag markings; school children alert lights; other school related road markings etc. For example, last year we made safety improvements outside 9 schools.
- 2.9. Accessibility - As part of our annual accessibility programme we regularly respond to requests made from vulnerable road users. Last year we introduced safe crossing points such as central islands, zebra crossings and pedestrian phase at existing signals in seven locations across the borough. We have also introduced a number of footway widening and pram ramps.
- 2.10. Cycle schemes - In partnership with the Mitcham Common Conservators, last year we introduced a much needed shared space (pedestrians and cyclists) along Croydon Road and in recent months we completed a similar route along Beddington Lane.
- 2.11. Controlled Parking Zones - During last financial year we introduced 9 controlled across the borough parking which included new zones and extension of zones in Wimbledon Village, Raynes Park, Colliers Wood, Mitcham and Morden
- 2.12. Greenhouse gas emissions reporting – During 2017/18 the council's net greenhouse gas emissions were reduced by 32% from the 2011/12 baseline. Emissions have also been re-baselined to remove emissions from waste in the (optional) scope 3 reporting due to data inconsistencies. The above figures have accounted for this adjustment.
- 2.13. Brighter Business – During 2015/16-2017/18 70 local small and micro businesses were supported to identify energy efficiency improvements in their premises. The scheme identified total potential lifetime savings of over £1.4 million in energy bill savings, over 6,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide, and 16,000 megawatt hours of energy across all participating businesses. 50% of participating businesses installed some form of energy efficiency improvement measure.
- 2.14. Morden town centre- Merton council is working in partnership with TfL to design and deliver public realm improvements with the Mayor's Healthy Streets agenda being a core priority. As part of our shared public realm with TfL in Morden, we are committed to relocating the bus stands at Morden station to drastically improve air quality and provide new public space.

Increase supply of housing

- 2.15. New Draft London Plan – Merton's housing target has increased from 411 new homes per year to 1,328 with greater emphasis on delivering housing on small sites (<0.25 hectares). Central Government argue there is even greater housing need in London and have proposed a target for Merton of 1,585 new homes per year. The London Plan target is a capacity based figure and the Central Government target is a needs-based figure. Both have received criticism in terms of their deliverability and we will be making similar representations at the Examination in Public of the New London Plan which is scheduled for January to May 2019.

- 2.16. The London Plan has emphasised that in order to meet housing need in London “Boroughs should recognise in their Development Plans and Planning Decisions that local character evolves over time and will need to change in appropriate locations to accommodate additional housing provision and increases in residential quality”. Following the update to Council in February 2018, we have met with the London Plan team at the GLA who are working on a number of initiatives to assist boroughs in increasing housing supply – such as funding and supplementary guidance for Design Codes and 3D modelling. We will be taking this into consideration as we prepare the new local plan and explore how housing supply can be increased in the borough without having a detrimental impact on existing areas.
- 2.17. Clarion Housing – The regeneration of these three estates will deliver 2,550 homes over 10-15 years, approximately half of which will be replacement homes for existing residents. The Outline Planning Application for each of the three estates had been granted by Planning Applications Committee on 08th March 2018. The Council’s Planning Officers are now working with the applicants on the submission of Reserved Matters Applications which will comprise of detailed planning applications for each phase of the three estates. Applications for the three estates will also undergo detailed ‘Pre-Planning Application’ advice with Council officers and furthermore separate ‘Design Review Panel’ meetings will be undertaken for each of the estates, this is to ensure that the highest quality of development is delivered for Merton Borough residents. Phase 1 of High Path and Ravensbury already have planning permission and it is expected that these homes will be built in the next 18 months, so that existing residents can move into them and phase 2 can be started.
- Increase inward investment in the borough**
- 2.18. Waste collection - In October 2018 we will be introducing a new waste collection services across the borough. The service is designed to, encourage greater recycling and reducing general waste. It will assist in keeping Merton’s streets cleaner; be safer for residents and operatives, and be cost-effective. A service change such as this is significant and will represent the biggest change to waste collection in the boroughs history. A great deal of planning and co-ordination has been required supported by a detailed communication strategy designed to reach all household and tailored to the different types of dwellings. Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel have received regular updates on the plans for this change including most recently at their meeting on 4th September. Members can view the report received on the Council website: <https://merton.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=157&MId=3153&Ver=4>
- 2.19. Mitcham Town Centre - This regeneration project was a £7m project delivered over a three year period. It was designed to improve the town centre’s vitality by attracting businesses and increase footfall. The improvements include bringing bus routes back to the centre of the town centre directly outside shops, the street markets and cafes. Relocating and refurbishing the Clock Tower. Shop front grants and public realm improvements. The open spaces have been increased and improved, creating a large market square and a bigger open green space for annual events, making it a more vibrant location for its residents and visitors. It makes the town centre a place that its community can enjoy and encourage inward investment from new businesses. The introduction of the perimeter street has also brought more direct access and convenience for shoppers and traders, especially those with accessibility difficulties. All the surrounding signalised junctions have been

modified with shorter crossing points for pedestrians giving quicker and more direct desirable routes. Cycle facilities have been added to provide safer protection with segregated journey routes for cyclists. Vehicle traffic queues have been reduced on most approaches to the town centre with improved movements through the town centre with bus journey times now being more reliable with shorter dedicated bus routes. The new London deputy mayor for transport Heidi Alexander visited in July to mark the completion of the project and to unveil a plaque at the restored Clock Tower.

- 2.20. Parade enhancements – Funding awarded to future Merton from the GLA's New Homes Bonus has supported the improvements to the façade and shops on Morden Court Parade - Morden Retail Gateway. This enabled the team to design and install new shop frontage and to return the façade back to its original art deco look. The improvements have been included in the McEwan Award - Architecture for the Common Good - longlist: <https://www.ribaj.com/buildings/macewen-award-2018> amongst some stiff competition. Alongside other town centre parade enhancements have been made using s106 and more recently "Neighbourhood Fund" Community Infrastructure Levy enabling improvements to Colliers Wood High Street and the Broadway Wimbledon.
- 2.21. LED lights - Future Merton along with Facilities Management are currently in the process of installing a further 5000 LED lanterns onto our Lamp Columns throughout the borough. This will lead to a significant savings on energy of up to £200k per annum and future maintenance costs too. The project started in May 2018 and to date (August 2018) 2000 LED's have been installed. It's anticipated that once the project has finished, 70% of Merton's maintained Lamp columns will have been converted to LED's.
- 2.22. New Morden Leisure Centre - The centre will be completed in September 2018. The operator Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) will then have 4-6 weeks to furnish the building and prepare to open to the public. Public opening is expected later this year. Following this the existing Morden Park Pools will be demolished and the land reinstated to public open space. The new centre will include:
- Café
 - Large Secondary Pool which has a moveable floor enabling it to accommodate a full range of activities including Diving and swimming lessons
 - 25m x 6 lane swimming pool with Pool Pod platform entry for ease of disability access
 - Health & Fitness facility with 100 stations (the current one in the old centre has 40 stations)
 - Large studio / community space for a range of activities.

The facilities at the new centre will help support a fully accessible and inclusive programme of activities which will include:

- Club Programme – series of programmes and activities to encourage older people to become more active and to highlight the mental, social and physical benefits that sporting activities can bring
- Disability Swim Programme – dedicated swimming sessions and learn to swim lessons for disabled people
- Specialist Disability Sessions - sessions similar to the dry side sports programme GLL currently deliver in partnership with Merton Mencap.
- Junior Gym Sessions – allow 11-15 year olds to enjoy cardiovascular equipment in a safe and structured environment while achieving a fulfilling workout.

- Inclusive Fitness Initiative gym sessions with qualified gym instructors.

2.23. The Canons, Mitcham – The Canons House & Grounds Heritage Lottery Fund project is continuing to engage with communities across Mitcham. The capital works are in the final design stages with works due to start in 2019. These works include the restoration of the Grade II* listed house and medieval dovecote, the building of a new café and the design and build of a new playground. The Canons Garden Party was held in June 2018 and over 500 local families attended and participated in health and heritage themed activities. During the Autumn, local primary school children will be participating in a range of activities including lessons on the history and heritage of The Canons & Mitcham and workshops to design the new playground. A number of other projects and events are also planned for young people and adults.

Increase the supply of jobs and improve skills

2.24. Skills Devolution update - The South London Partnership (SLP) is a sub-regional collaboration of five London boroughs: Croydon, Kingston upon Thames, Merton, Richmond upon Thames and Sutton. The future Merton team is working with the SLP to support the skills devolution programme, working together to deliver actions that encourage sustainable employment. While South London has higher levels of skills (55% degree level+) and higher levels of employment (77.5%) than the London averages skills are a priority. In February 2018, the [Skills for South Londoners](#) skills strategy was published. We are also preparing for devolution of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) to be devolved to the Mayor of London from academic year 2019-20. Sub-regional Skills and Employment Boards will be the formal mechanism through which boroughs will provide oversight of local skills needs, and feed into the pan-London governance arrangements. The chair of each sub-regional Board will sit on the Skills for Londoners Board (SfL Board), which will advise the Mayor on priorities and arrangements for the AEB. SLP will present the proposed framework for the south London sub-region to Growth Directors at their next meeting on 20th Sept. The proposed Board has been designed to include partners who will represent different perspectives of employers, learning providers, local authorities and other partners involved in adult learning.

2.25. Love London Working (LLW) - Merton is working with Clarion Housing Group and Wandle Housing to deliver LLW, the national programme to support anyone unemployed achieve employment. The programme runs until June 2019 and includes training courses with dedicated Employment Support Officers and a dedicated team working with employers, Employer Engagement team.

2.26. 100% Business Rates Strategic Investment Fund Pilot (SIP) - The Government formally confirmed its commitment to establishing a 100% business rate retention pilot in London in April 2018 in the Autumn Budget. This was agreed by a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by the Chair of London Councils, the Mayor of London, the Minister for London and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. Merton bid for business rate SIP via the South London Partnership. A consultation report was released on 31st July 2018 with recommendation on the shortlisted projects chosen for the pilot. The report asks the 33 boroughs to confirm the recommendations for funding for the BRR SIP. SLP submitted two bids, one (South London Multi-Purpose Internet of Things) has been shortlisted and £4m allocated to this proposal. The second bid on creation of affordable workspace was unsuccessful. Authorities are asked to confirm by Friday 14th September, via their own decision-making processes, their support for funding each of the projects. Merton intends to support the proposed pilots.

- 2.27. South London Work and Health Programme – Better Working Futures – this is the governments new employment programme focussed mainly on participants with health conditions and disabilities as well as the long term unemployed and disadvantaged groups. The programme was devolved from the Department of Work and Pensions to local government in London and procured by Croydon Council on behalf of South London Partnership. The contract is being delivered by Reed in Partnership. The contract went live on 1st March 2018 and will run until October 2022 (for referrals) and will support up to 5582 residents of the South London Partnership Boroughs: Croydon, Kingston, Merton, Sutton and Richmond. It is likely about 15% (838) will be a Merton residents supported. To date 90 referrals have been made and 49 starts on the programme. This equates to 71% of the anticipated starts at this point in the programme. SLWHP participants can access support for up to 15 months with an additional 6 months of support once they are in work. Delivery is through a mix of fixed, co-location and outreach sites. In Merton the main delivery sites are Wandle Valley Resource Centre, Mitcham and New Horizon Centre, Pollards Hill.
- 2.28. London Council's ESF - The contract was awarded to Prevista and delivery commenced in January 2018. This is a separate targeted employability programme aimed at Aged 19+, unemployed for 6 months for those aged 19-24 or unemployed for 12 months for those aged 25+. The programme is managed through London Councils and outputs are not available as yet.
- 2.29. Universal Credit (UC) - This new benefit replaced six benefits and was implemented in Mitcham JobCentre Plus in April 2018. It is currently still being rolled out across the country. Personal budgeting support (PBS) is offered as part of the service. The Citizens Advice Bureau has the contract for PBS in Merton. Referrals will be made via Merton's Welfare Team and additional support is being provided by MVSC.
- 2.30. Social Value - Merton's Commercial Services team have prepared a draft Social Value Toolkit and draft Social Value Policy for the council. The Policy enables the council to include actions such as providing work experience for local unemployed people and helping SME's and Third Sector in all mainstream commissioning and procurement opportunities. The Toolkit provides officers involved in commissioning and procurement guidance on how to include social value criteria in their approach to procurement. Once a procured exercise is concluded, the responsibility for ensuring the committed social value benefits are actually delivered falls to the offices responsible for the contract management. Checks are made through each department's Operational Procurement Group and the Council's Procurement Board. We await confirmation of the drafts adoption.
- 2.31. Social Prescribing - Merton Public Health has introduced a social prescribing pilot through selected GP practices. There are 3 Social Prescriber Navigators two in east of the borough across 9 surgeries and one at Nelson Hospital.
- 2.32. Health and Wellbeing – The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is being refreshed for 2019 – 2024. The proposed key themes are: start well; live well; age well; and healthy places. The strategy will incorporate the importance good education, skills and resources for healthy lives. The Strategy will be underpinned by a detailed Implementation Plan which will include details of the refresh of the Morale, Health and Wellbeing action plan in the LBM Workforce Development Strategy.
- 2.33. Supporting routes to apprenticeships - It has been over a year since the Apprenticeship Levy has been implemented and businesses are reporting significant challenges with targets below those set by the GLA. Further work is being undertaken around improving reporting so we are better aware of apprenticeship opportunities created in the supply chain. The Social Value Toolkit

should help to support opportunities through our own supply chains to deliver apprenticeships.

2.34. Disability Confidence Scheme - A scheme introduced by the DWP to encourage businesses to start a journey involving actions they will make within their businesses which will:

- Increase understanding of disabilities
- Challenge attitudes towards disabilities
- Remove barriers experienced by disabled people and
- Provide opportunities for employment

A careers fair for the sub-region took place on 20th March 2018 at Croydon council offices for local businesses to attend and learn more about the scheme. A further one is planned later this year.

2.34 Routes to employment for vulnerable cohorts - The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel originally set-up a task group to look at the housing, health, education and employment of care leavers or those with additional learning needs. However, this was refocused to look solely at the employment of these groups. The task group's report and recommendations were presented to the Panel for review in January 2018. This resulted in a request from the Panel to review them further after six months. The task group's recommendations mainly focus on the role of Merton as an employer. Whilst the council has links with local businesses and employers, the main way in which it can influence the employment prospects of the target groups is through its own role as an employer. The Panel members resolved the following:

- Noted how impressed they are with the opportunities being provided for vulnerable young people in Merton and the success these are having;
- A further report back is to be provided to the Panel in six months time;
- Expressed their interest in receiving information on the work currently being undertaken by Coram with Looked After Children and Care Leavers and seeing the resulting strategy; and
- Data should be provided to the Panel in six months time including the number of apprenticeships by Directorate fulfilled by those within the target groups. Of these how many have started, stayed and left should be stated. Members requested that an appropriate representative from the HR team attend the meeting to explain these statistics.

More details around the seven recommendations of the review can be found [here](#).

3 ADVICE/RECOMMENDATIONS OF RELEVANT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL/COMMISSION

3.1. During the last municipal year and so far during the current, the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel has undertaken the following activity related to its sustainable communities remit:

3.2. Cabinet Member priorities: the Cabinet Members for Regeneration, Housing and Transport along with the Environment and Street Cleanliness member updated the panel on their priorities and responsibilities. Issues that were highlighted include the introduction of a 20 mph zone, provision of affordable housing, the regeneration of estates, the new local plan, the Morden redevelopment, the new food waste

recycling scheme and plans to improve the online reporting of issues to do with waste services.

- 3.3. Performance monitoring: reviewing progress against the set priorities for the Environment and Regeneration Department (and Community and Housing where appropriate) is an essential part of the Panel's remit. Performance monitoring information from the department is provided at each meeting. This is presented by the Director and subject to scrutiny by members. Additionally, last year the Panel appointed a lead member for performance monitoring for the first time (Councillor Holden). Regular pre-meets have been held between the performance monitoring lead and officers to allow further time to be given to the scrutiny of the data and for key points to then be highlighted at the subsequent Panel meeting. This has worked well, allowing for greater discussion and understanding of the data that is presented. Items highlighted include that the performance of parking services revenue is above the estimate due to the effectiveness of the Automated Number Plate Recognition system, the good performance on responses to service requests and the backlog of building control enforcement cases (allowing members to request a dedicated item to explore how this is being addressed).
- 3.4. South London Waste Partnership (procurement of waste collection and related environmental services): monitoring the performance of the waste, recycling and street cleaning contract has formed a key part of the Panel's work this year. At its meeting in November 2017, considerable time was devoted to looking at performance six months after the contract commenced. Following a number of submissions and representations from Merton residents, the Panel resolved a reference to Cabinet that sought its support for the Panel to sustain its scrutiny of performance. This was gained and the Panel received detailed updates on performance at each of its meetings for the remainder of the municipal year. There has been further input from residents and the direct involvement of Veolia representatives allowing the Panel to highlight key concerns and look at how these are being addressed. Additionally, prior to the rollout in October 2018, the Panel has been involved in scrutinising key aspects of the new service (including the decision on the size of wheeled bins to be used, the planning being undertaken to realise the change in service delivery and how the change to the service will be communicated). Members have indicated their concerns regarding assisted collections and storage of wheeled bins prior to use. Veolia has been requested to return to the Panel in February 2019 following the rollout of the new service to report on performance.
- 3.5. Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR): introduced to the borough in 2016, the Panel heard how there has been a 200% increase in the number of moving motoring contraventions caught as a result of ANPR. The rate of appeals lodged since has also halved. This is because for each contravention captured an evidence package is provided which can be shared with the driver making it much more difficult to appeal. Members were also interested to hear how it is intended to trial the use of ANPR outside schools to see if this can enforce parking restrictions.
- 3.6. Town regeneration: the Panel was pleased to receive its annual presentation highlighting all that has been achieved in delivering work to date on the programme of town centre regeneration. The Panel congratulated officers on the success of these schemes, particularly Mitcham and Colliers Wood. Additionally, the Panel received a briefing on the Morden redevelopment from officers and Transport for London. This resulted in a reference to Cabinet recommending that Merton Council

should maintain sufficient control of the project. Panel members believe that merely retaining planning authority status, without an active share in the Joint Venture itself, would not be sufficient.

- 3.7. Planning enforcement: members received a detailed update on the performance of planning enforcement learning that the backlog of cases has again built-up. Officers explained their plans to change working practices in order to address this backlog including beginning work with Capita to provide additional resource. Longer-term plans include utilising technology to improve productivity. Panel members resolved to receive trend data on the number of planning enforcement cases that are more than six months old.
- 3.8. Air Quality Task Group: this task group focused on air quality issues around building sites and fed into the review of the Council's air quality action plan. Recommendations include that the Sustainable Communities Panel conduct pre-decision scrutiny of the scope of any review of parking levies which are a key way to influence decisions about vehicle purchases. The action plan to achieve the task group's recommendations will be reviewed every six months.
- 3.9. Crossover Task Group: this task group was focused on a topic of great interest to Merton residents. It sought to balance the risks to flooding and street scene caused by crossovers with the desire of residents to park close to their properties at a time when the number of Controlled Parking Zones is growing. A recommendation is to address parking stress in controlled areas by limiting the number of annual permits issued per bay. Once this is reached, no further crossovers should be allowed. Cabinet has requested to see the action plan before it comes to the Panel meaning this is now scheduled for the September 2018 meeting.
- 3.10. Adult learning - the Panel scrutinised the performance of the adult learning service which has been inspected by Ofsted receiving a "requires improvement" judgement despite being on an upward trajectory. The Panel resolved to look more at the Prevent duty to understand the requirements given this had been highlighted in Ofsted's recommendations.
- 3.11. Libraries and heritage annual report - another strong annual report from libraries and heritage gave Panel members the opportunity to thank and congratulate officers and to specifically highlight the opening of the new Colliers Wood Library. It was also noted that the required savings are being achieved whilst all library sites and existing opening hours have been retained.
- 3.12. Financial monitoring: The Panel used the two sessions on budget and business planning to focus on the reasons why planned savings have not been realised, how the resulting funding gap is going to be addressed, new savings proposals, opportunities to increase commercial income from the regulatory service and to question officers on the content of the service plans.
- 3.13. Call-ins: the Panel heard two call-ins relating to its sustainable communities remit during the last municipal year:

Call-in	Outcome
Proposal for improving parking facilities in selected borough parks	The Panel resolved to accept all proposals within the report and asked the Cabinet Member to conduct a review in 12 months to ensure the changes are delivering the intended outcomes. This recommendation has been accepted by the Cabinet Member (due October 2018 onwards).
Decision to award the construction works for Merton Hall	The Panel resolved not to refer the decision back to Cabinet and therefore the decision was upheld and took immediate effect.

- 3.14. Future items: during the remainder of the year, the Panel will undertake pre-decision scrutiny of the highways and maintenance contract, the selection of the Morden redevelopment joint venture partner and the budget/business plan. Additionally, it will receive update reports on parking, the new waste service and air quality. Having focused on Veolia for much of the last year, Idverde will be subject to the Panel's scrutiny this year. Additionally, members will focus on Clarion and its delivery of the regeneration of Merton's estates. This year the Panel has commissioned a task group to look at the Council's policy on single use plastics.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1. None for the purposes of this report.

5 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 5.1. None for the purposes of this report.

6 TIMETABLE

- 6.1. None for the purposes of this report.

7 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

8 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. None for the purposes of this report.

9 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

10 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. None for the purposes of this report.

11 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1. None for the purposes of this report.

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

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COUNCIL MEETING – 12TH SEPTEMBER

NOTICE OF MOTION

This council notes with concern the increasingly poor performance of Veolia to undertake the waste management duties that it is contracted to do, and which Merton taxpayers have paid for.

As of 1st September, 1,277 people have signed the Conservative led public petition calling upon Merton Council to return weekly bin collections; and allow residents to retain their own waste bins, without being forced into the new system against their will.

In recent months the performance of Veolia has markedly deteriorated:

- Since the beginning of June the number of missed bin collections has increased by a third;
- Veolia has not hit its target for removing detritus from Merton's streets since April;
- Veolia has failed to meet its target for clearing litter from the streets since early May, during June and July over 25% of sites were considered to be below standard.

Veolia's performance has been unacceptable, and this council resolves to request the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel to establish a subcommittee to focus on Veolia's performance and ensure that they meet their own targets. The subcommittee will be open to residents groups to ensure that the voices of the people of Merton are heard and that they get value for money.

Cllr Daniel Holden

Cllr Nigel Benbow

Cllr David Dean

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Raynes Park Community Forum Thursday 14 June 2018 Chair's Report

The meeting was held in Raynes Park Library Hall, and chaired by Councillor Hina Bokhari, with Tony Edwards from the Raynes Park Association (RPA). More than 50 residents attended, as well as 7 Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners. Tony Edwards opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and introducing Councillor Bokhari as the Chair. All the councillors in attendance introduced themselves to residents.

Thames Water update

Carl Leadbeater and Craig Boorman from Thames Water provided an update on investigations and actions following flooding in the Raynes Park area, in particular on Abbots Avenue. The presentation can be found at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/council-and-local-democracy/community-forums/raynes-park-community-forum>

Carl and Craig explained that the recent problems have been caused by surface water getting into the foul water system when the two systems should be completely separate. The rain water is overwhelming the foul water system, otherwise there are no problems within the system, including the pump on Abbots Avenue. Investigations are continuing in order to discover where rain water is entering the foul water system, which can be a complicated issue to resolve.

In response to questions from residents Carl explained that the investigation will need to cover the whole local network as Raynes Park is at the bottom of a number of hills so the issue could be happening anywhere. Sometimes these investigations highlight quick wins which Thames Water will action, but often they can take some time. Some older houses do have a combined foul water and surface water sewer but these are no longer allowed. This will be looked into as part of the investigation.

It is important to keep road gullies clear, can be owned by Merton Council or privately so issues will be raised by the relevant owner. Councillor Bush also offered to follow up on gully issues with the Council. The investigation will also look into root egress from trees and fix if necessary.

In response to questions about planning applications Craig explained that Thames Water is not a statutory consultee but will review larger developments and check against the London Plan.

Carl said he was happy for communications from Thames Water to be targeted at households most frequently impacted. Additional help is also available in the form of sandbags and response from local staff. Thames Water will explore how best to ensure that customer service staff are aware of historic issues and are notified when weather modelling indicates flooding is likely.

Carl agreed to provide an update on the investigations at a future meeting.

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Open Forum

Raynes Park station – the perimeter fence behind Starbucks is in a poor state of repair as are the support beams under the bridge. Tony Edwards explained these issues have been raised with Network Rail (NR) but they have not been responsive. NR are now using the prospect of Crossrail 2 as an excuse not to invest in the station. Councillor Crowe explained the NR have said there is no budget for station improvements, only a small budget for addressing health and safety issues which is prioritised based on risk.

Veolia street sweepers are leaving their full green bags by bins but these are not being collected within 24 hours resulting in mess from animals getting into the bags. Kris Witherington asked residents to report bags left or damaged as fly-tipping on the Council website so that colleagues can monitor the performance of Veolia.

A resident asked about open topped bins at Wimbledon Rugby Club. FOLLOW UP note the bins in the car park are managed by idverde on behalf of Merton Council whilst the bins on the sports ground are managed by the Rugby Club as the tenant. Most litter comes from people dropping it and there is no evidence of animals accessing the bins.

Town Centre Developments and Railway Station

South side of skew arch: Tony Edwards said that the Astroturf installed has survived well so the plan is now to add seating. He is waiting to hear if funding was available or if it might be possible to make seats.

Bins on north side of skew arch: There is no update on the bins on the north side of the skew arch. Kris Witherington agreed to follow up on this.

FOLLOW UP NOTE: The Waste Services Team will be carrying out a comprehensive review of all the Neighbourhood Recycling Sites across the borough this year. The review will include consultation with local residents to each site and other stakeholders. The review will start later in the summer.

West Barnes Lane Community Infrastructure Levy – ideas were submitted for improvements but there is no timescale or figures available.

Corner on South Side of Station – Tony said they are still waiting for approval from NR to make improvements.

Crossrail 2 – Jerry Cuthbert provided an update. The review into the business plan is still to be completed so there is no movement on the scheme. In the meantime, the NR/TfL design team has approached local residents' groups to discuss the future of the level crossings on West Barnes Lane. With increased train frequency the crossings would no longer be viable so alternative options will need to be developed. Residents associations have been invited to a meeting on 26 June but this event is not open to the public. Residents can also contact Crossrail 2 directly

<http://crossrail2.co.uk/contact/>

The poor performance of South Western Railway was raised, noting that this was not discussed at the meeting with NR in March. A timetable change in December is likely to make performance even worse. Stephen Hammond MP has raised these issues with South Western Railway and would be happy to take this up again.

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Planning

Kris Witherington provided an update on behalf of Neil Milligan.

All England Club sports fields Grand Drive – 18/P1024.

Major application for the new club house, car park, second air dome, groundsman's maintenance buildings and courts on the sports fields off Grand Drive. 15 replies received to consultation. Officers are awaiting further information from the applicant on matters including a bat survey. Aiming to get this to late June Committee.

557 Kingston Road – Dundonald Church – 17/P0763 - proceeding towards finalising the S106 for the new church with flats above and then issuing planning permission.

559-589 Kingston Road – Manoplastics and land to the west – 16/P1208

Work has commenced on sorting out the S106. There is also a second application for 103 units (17/P2529) which is now in abeyance. The agent has said his client will review whether to withdraw the second application pending the outcome of work on the S106. The applicant has decided to appeal the second application which, following amendment, is the same as that which was endorsed by Planning Committee. Work is proceeding apace on the S106 so as to avoid the need for the appeal to progress.

South side of Wyke Road – 17/P0609 - Construction of three apartment blocks (two three storey blocks and one four storey block containing 10 x 1 bedroom flats (Amended scheme). A report will need to be prepared for Committee but given the need for some adjustments to design and the need to get comments on flood risk it is unlikely that this will be before July.

Rainbow – non material amendment applications to add/amend conditions so as to enable phased development – 18/P0258 and 18/P0259. Otherwise – no news.

35 Coombe Lane – 14/P1921 – Development under construction.

40A Lambton Road - 17/P2023 - 3 dwellings on a backland site – reduced from 4 – considerable local interest –refused by Committee in April.

3/3A Orchard Lane - 17/P3256 – 5 dwellings on backland site – approved but nothing in the form of discharge of conditions since then. No change.

61 Grand Drive – 17/P2016 – 3 dwellings – amended plans received - not a committee case.

80-86 Bushey Road - 16/P1317 Major retail/food and drink development. most unoccupied buildings now demolished. Unclear as to how the approved scheme might progress for the time being as occupied buildings like Pets at Home remain and the scheme would need to somehow work around these. Perhaps they will decant once a suitable unit becomes available in the new development.

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Updates

A reminder that the **Ride London** event will come through Raynes Park on 29 July 2018. As usual a street party will take place in the area. Residents has not received the usual leaflets about road closures, Kris Witherington agreed to follow up with the organisers.

FOLLOW UP note: the leaflets are expected to be circulated in late June/ early July and the information can be found at www.prudentialridelondon.co.uk/road-closures

Raynes Park Summer Festival

Tom Underwood introduced plans for this summer's festival. Events will take place from 29 June until 8 July, ending with 'Lark in the Park' on the final day. There will be a range of arts events and displays over the week. More information and updates are available at <http://www.myraynespark.co.uk/>

Merton Citizens – a new group has formed bringing together more than 20 local community organisation to focus on mental health, refugees and housing issues.

Friends of Cannon Hill Common are organising a free Flower Walk at 5.30pm on 15 June, with a Tree Walk planned for July and a Bat Walk at a later date. For more information email cannonhillcommon@btinternet.com.

Residents were reminded that major roadworks on Grand Drive would be begin on Monday 23 July as Southern Gas replaces old pipe work. More detail is available at <https://www.sgn.co.uk/Roadworks/Southern-projects/Morden-Approach-Road-and-Grand-Drive/>

Councillor Bokhari invited the meeting to hold a moments silence in remembrance of those who died in the Grenfell tragedy in June 2017. After this the meeting was closed.

Dates of future meetings: All at 7.15pm in the Library Hall

Tuesday 18 September 2018

Thursday 6 December 2018

Tuesday 26 March 2019

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Wimbledon Community Forum 20 June 2018 Chair's Report

The meeting was held at the Wimbledon Arts Space, and chaired by Councillor James Holmes. 15 residents attended, as well as seven other Merton Councillors. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, introducing the councillors present at the meeting.

Police Update

Sgt Marcia Heritage from the Wimbledon Town Centre team provided an update on local policing issues. There are four town centre team officers and the main crime issues are shoplifting, street drinking, and aggressive begging. Outside of the retail centre the main issues are burglaries from sheds and theft from motor vehicles. All the officers will be working throughout the tennis in July

Following the closure of Wimbledon Police Station the best ways to contact the team will be by the website or email (<https://www.met.police.uk/a/your-area/met/merton/hillside>); or use the 101 for non-emergency services; and always use 999 in an emergency.

In response to questions from residents Sgt Heritage said she would speak to the door staff at the Alexandra about customers blocking access to St Marks Road. Sgt Heritage explained that there has not been any change in the Met's approach to drug crime, they usually issue Community Resolutions for possession for personal use and will proactively tackle dealing and have had quite a few arrests recently. Some residents expressed frustration with the 101 line and reporting crimes online and Sgt Heritage said she would feed this back and check what was being done to monitor performance.

A resident raised a concern about the no right turn at the Plough Lane/Gap Road junction being ignored. Sgt Heritage explained that Merton Council enforce traffic movement offences so would pass this on.

Changes to Waste Collection services

Jeremy Gibson, Neighbourhood Client Officer for Merton Council, and Will Graham from Veolia set out the changes to waste collection taking place in October 2018. The presentation can be found at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/council-and-local-democracy/community-forums/wimbledon-community-forum>. The new system would closely match the one in Kingston which has seen the recycling rate rise to 50% of the refuse collected. There will also be two new services, mixed textiles and batteries. All properties have been assessed and where the new service is not appropriate residents will be offered an alternative. Ahead of the changes in October residents will receive a leaflet explaining the new service and there will be a series of roadshows and coverage on social media.

In response to questions Jeremy explained that households will be given the 180l wheelie bins to begin with to try, but if over time that size is not appropriate smaller bins will be available. If more capacity for dry mixed recycling is needed, then residents can order an additional box but hopefully as single use plastic reduces this may be less likely. Where residents find the new system difficult to follow officers will approach them to help and communications are aimed to be clear and simple to understand.

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Communal bins – Veolia will be working with landlords and housing associations to ensure communal bins are appropriately and consistently labelled. Where those bins are no longer safe to operate then owners will be asked to replace them.

Food waste bags – this were discontinued some time ago due to lack of take up. It is easy to buy bags from supermarkets or residents can use alternatives like newspaper to line the caddies.

Batteries/Textile collection – using plastic bags for this is a simple and easy solution for residents.

Containers being returned – after the containers have been emptied they should be returned carefully to the resident's property. This is emphasised regular to operators.

Waste collection from schools – contract arrangements will need to be checked outside of the meeting.

Street cleaning issues:

Green bags on pavements – waste collected by the street cleaners should be cleared within 24 hours but with the current volume this is sometimes missed. Please report any that have been left longer than a day. There have been no changes in the number of cage vehicles that collect this waste.

Overflowing bins – the frequency of collection depends on how busy the bins are and after a year Veolia has more data on where these issues are. Residents can help by reporting overflowing bins on the website.

Disappearing bins – some bins have been damaged and removed but will be replaced. Jeremy was not aware of any being removed permanently so will check on this.

Weeds on roads – Jeremy will check with Highways on the schedule for this.

Leaf collection – Veolia are currently developing a plan for the autumn which will be discussed and agreed with Merton in August.

Big belly bins – there are no plans for additional big belly bins on the Highway.

Food shops litter – to encourage people not to litter and fly-tip; Merton Council has an enforcement team that issue fixed penalty notices for both offences. In addition to this, Merton Council facilitates regular campaigns through street banners and social media to encourage people to love where they live. If residents witness a fly-tipping incident, then they can confidentially report it to Merton Council for investigation.

Love Wimbledon update

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. There is also a summer guide going out to local households.

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Events coming up include:

- Monthly market – first weekend of the month
- Wimbledon tennis – 2 to 15 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 Tour de France.
- 16 July to 3 August – picnic benches will be available in the piazza to give Wimbledon some outdoor seating
- Ride London – 29 July with a street party and live music. There will be road closures and changes to bus routes.
- Arts Fest – September. There will be an arts themed market 22-23 September.
- Wimbledon Bookfest – will be a launch event on 4th October in Merton Arts Space

Keeping the streets clean remains an issue for Love Wimbledon and they have invested in cleaning 2500m² of pavement including gum removal. They have also been removing or replacing old street signs with 36 signs and 20 posts removed. There have been ongoing issues with utilities so have been working with UK Power Networks and Thames Water to resolve these.

Love Wimbledon has been working with Sustainable Merton to encourage Plastic Free measures in local businesses and has invested in bee friendly planting, as well as working with Merton Voluntary Service Council to connect local businesses with local voluntary sector organisations.

In response to a question about changing places, accessible toilets, Helen said she was not aware of any space available in Wimbledon station but would be happy to check. Helen also offered to pass on a concern about a florist in Wimbledon Village to the Business Association as this was outside the BID area. Helen also agreed to check with Centre Court about the removal of seating.

Soapbox

A resident raised concerns about the Development Control Team at Merton Council. Councillor Holden pointed out that there is a national shortage of planning officers, and fees have not risen in line with costs but that team should listen more to local residents. Councillor Kohler said that a Neighbourhood Plan would help get decisions right. Residents expressed concerns about the height and attractiveness of buildings being given permission. Another resident asked if the Design Review Panel could be open to the public, and another asked if councillors could ensure they acknowledge planning comments submitted by residents.

Other issues raised were:

Concrete batching plant on Waterside Way – the development is inappropriate

New school on High Path – too big for site, too close to the main road

Trees in Hartfield Crescent need pruning

Plough Lane development – any update (the latest information can be found at <https://www.afcwimbledon.co.uk/news/2018/july/plough-lane-the-latest-pictures/>)

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Councillor Holmes thanked everyone for attending and said that any ideas for engaging a wider audience were always welcome.

Dates of future meetings:

Thursday 27 September 2018 at Wimbledon Arts Space

Tuesday 4 December 2018 at Wimbledon Arts Space

Thursday 28 March 2019 at Wimbledon Arts Space

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2018

NOTICE OF MOTION – LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP

Council notes:

1. That two years have passed since the EU Referendum and little concrete progress has been made in negotiating the terms of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU; and
2. The mounting popular concern at the prospect of leaving the EU with either a bad deal or no deal at all.

Council further notes:

- a) That 63% of Merton residents voted to remain in the EU in the 2016 Referendum;
- b) That jobs are already moving from the City to other parts of the EU, and the stark warnings from companies such as Airbus, Vauxhall Motors, Jaguar Land Rover and BMW about the impact of Brexit on British manufacturing;
- c) The estimate by the Bank of England that households are already around £900 a year worse off because of lower growth due to Brexit;
- d) The participation of over 100,000 people in the "march for a People's Vote" in London on 23 June;
- e) The uncertainty caused for the 2.9 million EU citizens living in the UK and the 1.2 million UK nationals who live elsewhere in the EU;
- f) The support for a "People's Vote" – a referendum on the terms of any Brexit deal including an option to remain, by organisations such as Prospect, TSSA, the Royal College of Midwives, the Royal College of Nursing, the BMA and representatives of a million students and by Mitcham & Morden's MP, Siobhain McDonagh MP (as expressed on social media).

Council therefore:

1. Expresses its support for the work being carried out through the Scrutiny process into ways for Merton to better support citizens from the EU27 as Brexit progresses, particularly looking at what support can be given as their rights change and the related uncertainty created by that process, and encourages all councillors to engage with that review;
2. Welcomes the news that the Council's Risk Register is being updated with regards to Brexit, and calls on the Cabinet to ensure Register maintains a robust and up to date account of the risks of the UK leaving the EU with no deal, and to implement any recommended measures as soon as possible;
3. Supports the call for a People's Vote on any final Brexit deal with an option to remain in the EU; and therefore
4. Requests that the Leader of the Council write Wimbledon's MP, Stephen Hammond MP, to ask him to support a People's Vote for the above reasons.

Cllr Simon McGrath

Cllr Paul Kohler

Cllr Carl Quilliam

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COUNCIL MEETING – 12TH SEPTEMBER

NOTICE OF MOTION

This Council resolves to adopt in full the definition of anti-Semitism from the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, as adopted by Her Majesty's Government in 2016:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

- Anti-Semitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of anti-Semitic materials in some countries).
- Criminal acts are anti-Semitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.
- Anti-Semitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.”

Cllr Daniel Holden

Cllr Nick McLean

Cllr Edward Gretton

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2018

NOTICE OF MOTION

This Council supports the People's Vote campaign for a People's Vote on the final Brexit deal.

Cllr Mark Allison

Cllr Rebecca Lanning

Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah

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Committee: Council

Date: 12 September 2018

Subject: Changes to Membership of Committees and related matters

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 the appointment of Councillors Marsie Skeete, Mary Curtin and Geraldine Stanford as trustees of the Mayor's Charitable Trust with effect from 30 July 2018. The Trustees appointed Councillor Marsie Skeete as Chair.
-

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 last ordinary Council meeting on 4 July 2018.

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
Overview and Scrutiny Commission	Peter McCabe	Pauline Cowper	9 July 2018
Pension Fund Advisory Committee	Adam Bush	Omar Bush	12 July 2018
Clarion Housing Panel	Dennis Pearce	Natasha Irons	13 July 2018
Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel	Thomas Barlow (substitute)	James Holmes (substitute)	26 July 2018
Standards and General Purposes Committee	Thomas Barlow	Nick McLean	14 August 2018

- 2.2 The appointments to Committees and other bodies were agreed at Council on 23 May 2018.
- 2.3 The Mayor's Charitable Trust Board met on 30 July 2018 and appointed Councillors Marsie Skeete, Mary Curtin and Geraldine Stanford as trustees. The

Trustees appointed Councillor Marsie Skeete as Chair. The Council is asked to note the appointments.

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.

Committee: Council

Date: 12 September 2018

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 4 July 2018.
-

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 4 July 2018, the 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 David Dean on Planning Application 18/P224 162-164 Hartfield Road.

Officer Response

- 2.3 The petition was received and was considered as part of the committee report on the planning application. The planning application was considered by the Planning Applications Committee on 23 August 2018 and the minutes of that meeting will be published on the Council's website here <https://merton.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=155&MId=3101&Ver=4>.

- 2.4 A petition was submitted by Councillor Hina Bokhari on plans to charge Little League for use of Sir Joseph Hood Playing Fields.

Officer Response

- 2.5 The matter of fees and charges for the borough's Little Leagues was considered at Council on 4th July 2018. The Council re-iterated their continuing support for the Little Leagues at that time, but the principle that they pay reasonable charges was carried.

The Council has committed to ensuring that the Little Leagues continue to use Merton's parks, that charges are clear and reasonable and that the services are captured within a Service Level Agreement with our contractor, idverde.

The Council has also offered support in respect of identifying and securing sponsorship opportunities. Such support could be delivered directly or indirectly through idverde or other partners.

- 2.6 Members are invited to present petitions at this meeting, and a response will be provided to the next ordinary Council meeting in November 2018.

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.