

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 21 November 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

21 November 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 SEPTEMBER 2018
(7.17 pm - 9.38 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, Nigel Benbow, Hina Bokhari, Kelly Braund, Mike Brunt, Adam Bush, Omar Bush, 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, David Simpson CBE, Marsie Skeete, Peter Southgate, Eleanor Stringer, Dave Ward, Martin Whelton, Dickie Wilkinson and David Williams

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barlow, Butler and Quilliam.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest made.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings held on 4 July 2018 and 12 July 2018 are agreed as an accurate record.

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

The Mayor provided a brief update on her Mayoral engagements since the last meeting, including thanking all those involved in the Summer Cabaret which had raised £1,100 for the Mayor's Charities. The Mayor also thanked Councillor Macauley who had raised £1,200 for the Mayor's Charities through her annual sponsored swim; and Paul Myers from the Future Merton team who had raised over £1000 in the Prudential Ride London. The Mayor also highlighted some forthcoming fundraising events, including a Murder Mystery evening; an afternoon tea for over 65s; a pantomime and a Christmas Carol service.

There were no announcements from the Leader or the Chief Executive.

5 PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS (Agenda Item 5)

The responses to the written public questions were circulated prior to the meeting. The Mayor then invited each of the questioners in turn to ask (if they wished) a further question to the Cabinet Member. There were no supplementary questions asked.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Strategic Theme report on Sustainable Communities was moved by Councillor Whelton and formally seconded by Councillor Alambritis.

Councillors Omar Bush and Fairclough also spoke on the item.

RESOLVED: That the Strategic Theme report is agreed.

7c STRATEGIC THEME: CONSERVATIVE MOTION (Agenda Item 7c)

The motion was moved by Councillor Holden and seconded by Councillor Dean.

The Liberal Democrat amendment as set out in agenda item 16 was moved by Councillor Fairclough and formally seconded by Councillor Bailey.

The Liberal Democrat amendment was put to a vote and fell – votes in favour: 5, votes against: 32, abstentions: 19.

The Labour amendment as set out in agenda item 17 was moved by Councillor Brunt and seconded by Councillor Dehaney.

The Labour amendment was put to a vote and was carried – votes in favour: 35, votes against: 21, abstentions: 0.

The substantive motion (as amended) was then put to a vote and was carried – votes in favour: 35, votes against: 16, abstentions: 5.

RESOLVED:

This council notes the changes in the performance of Veolia to undertake the waste management duties that it is contracted to do, and which Merton taxpayers pay for.

As of 1st September, 1,277 people have signed the Conservative led public petition which has not yet been received by the Council, calling upon Merton Council to return weekly bin collections; and allow residents to retain their own waste bins, without having to adapt to the new system along with everyone else in the borough.

Council notes that the changes arise as a result of the need to make significant savings across council services due to more than 40% cut in funding from the Conservative government to local authorities which has necessitated making stringent efficiency savings, and the fact that significantly reduced funding levels often impact on the service levels required.

Council further notes that the introduction of a new wheeled bin service will save the council upwards of £1.6m a year, and that these savings have already been incorporated into the council's budgets for future years, Council acknowledges nevertheless that:

- 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.

The Council resolves to continue to monitor Veolia's performance against the service level agreement, whilst also noting the savings afforded by this contract which can be used to help deliver otherwise underfunded services which protect the most vulnerable in our society.

7d STRATEGIC THEME: LIBERAL DEMOCRAT MOTION (Agenda Item 7d)

The motion was moved by Councillor Bokhari and seconded by Councillor Kohler.

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

The Labour amendment was put to a vote and was carried – votes in favour: 51, votes against: 5, abstentions: 0.

The substantive motion (as amended) was then agreed.

RESOLVED:

“This council notes, in the absence of any discussion on step free access to public transport in the Sustainable Communities Report, that:

1. The failure to provide complete step-free access to rail transport across the borough severely impacts the mobility of many residents of, and visitors to, the borough.
2. Despite the issue being raised periodically at full Council meetings., it recognises that the decision to fund and provide step-free access is with the Department of Transport, Network Rail and Transport for London.
3. The matter cannot be left until the various issues that continue to arise in respect of Cross Rail 2 are resolved, although it is welcomed that the Mayor of London has committed Crossrail 2 will be 100% step-free, and that the Mayor also recently announced funding to make Wimbledon Park step free.

This council resolves to ask:

1. That the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel looks at undertaking a report as part of its work programme which highlights key accessibility issues at local stations, but also outlining positive actions that Merton could take to help to improve access. It also asks that it invites key witnesses From Transport for London, Network Rail and South West Trains to the panel if a report is brought; and that
2. The Cabinet encourages and assists bids to the Department of Transport's “Access for All” and the Mayor’s Transport for London programme to make more stations in Merton step-free.

8 REPORT OF THE RAYNES PARK COMMUNITY FORUM 14 JUNE 2018
(Agenda Item 8)

Councillor Bokhari presented the report which was received by the Council.

9 REPORT OF THE WIMBLEDON COMMUNITY FORUM 20 JUNE 2018
(Agenda Item 9)

Councillor Holmes presented the report which was received by the Council.

10 NOTICES OF MOTION - LIBERAL DEMOCRAT MOTION (Agenda Item 10)

At the invitation of the Mayor, the Chief Executive advised that due to there being two similar motions on the agenda, items 10 and 12 would be debated together and then voted upon separately. For ease of reference, they are listed in the minutes as they appeared in the agenda.

The Liberal Democrat motion was moved by Councillor McGrath and seconded by Councillor Kohler.

The Labour motion was moved by Councillor Allison and seconded by Councillor Lanning.

Councillors Moulton, Williams and Ward also spoke on the two motions.

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

RESOLVED:

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.

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

The motion was moved by Councillor Gretton and seconded by Councillor Andrew Howard.

The Labour amendment as set out in agenda item 19 was moved by Councillor Macauley and seconded by Councillor Alambritis.

The Labour amendment was put to a vote and was unanimously carried – votes in favour: 56, votes against: 0, abstentions: 0.

The substantive motion (as amended) was then agreed.

RESOLVED:

This Council notes that in June 2017 Merton council adopted 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.”

Council calls on Cabinet to have the definition included in the Hate Crime Strategy 2017-2021.

12 NOTICES OF MOTION - LABOUR MOTION (Agenda Item 12)

The Labour motion was formally moved by Councillor Allison and formally seconded by Councillor Lanning.

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

RESOLVED:

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

13 CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND RELATED MATTERS (Agenda Item 13)

The report was formally moved by Councillor Allison and formally seconded by Councillor Alambritis and Councillor Simpson spoke on the item.

The report was put to a vote and was agreed.

RESOLVED:

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.
3. That the Council agrees the reinstatement of Councillor Barlow on both the Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel following the resignation of Councillor Holmes; and on the Standards and General Purposes Committee following the resignation of Councillor McLean.

14 PETITIONS (Agenda Item 14)

The report was formally moved by Councillor Allison and formally seconded by Councillor Alambritis.

RESOLVED

That Council

1. Notes the update on the petitions received at the last meeting,
2. Accepts receipt of petitions presented by Councillor Holden on Wheelie Bins; and Councillor Dean on a planning application.

15 BUSINESS FOR THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL (Agenda Item 15)

That the Strategic Theme for the next ordinary meeting of the Council, being held on 21 November 2018 be Children and Young People with a focus on Bridging the Gap.

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RAYNES PARK COMMUNITY FORUM
18 SEPTEMBER 2018

(Time Not Specified - Time Not Specified)

PRESENT Councillors (in the Chair),

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Agenda Item 1)

The meeting was held in Raynes Park Library Hall, and chaired by Councillor Stephen Crowe, with Chris Edge from the Raynes Park Association (RPA). More than 40 residents attended, as well as five Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners. All the councillors in attendance introduced themselves to residents.

2 OPEN FORUM (Agenda Item 2)

Raynes Park station – the perimeter fence behind Starbucks is in a poor state of repair as are the support beams under the bridge. Chris Larkman 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.

A resident asked about Morley Park. Neil Milligan, Merton Council, said the transfer to Merton Council from the developer had been delayed due to Japanese knotweed. The developer was required to remove the knotweed to date and take out a ten-year insurance plan to ensure the Council has an indemnity against the knotweed returning.

3 PREVENTION OF FLOODING (Agenda Item 3)

Councillor Anthony Fairclough shared an update from Tom Sly at Merton Council about the schedule for gully cleaning.

The routine gully cleansing service is contracted to Veolia, which is managed by Merton's Public Space team. This service includes the cleaning of highway drainage Systems (includes gullies, footway gully channels, drainage pipes, catchpits, oil separators and soakaways). All gullies across the borough are cleaned a minimum of every two years. In town centre locations, gullies are cleaned three times annually.

In addition, Merton's Highway team undertakes an annual clean of all high risk gullies. These are locations which are at risk of flooding according to the latest flood

risk maps or have a historic flooding or drainage issue. The significant majority of Raynes Park and West Barnes roads are covered by this schedule of work, which is undertaken each winter and early spring. Each gully and the connection pipe, up to the point of discharge into the Thames Water surface water sewer is cleaned by high pressure jetting and any defects or blockages in the receiving sewer network will be reported back to Highways for planned remedial works or Thames Water if sewer related. Approximately 5500 gullies are cleaned each year under the high risk gully cleansing schedule. Blocked gullies can be reported to the Council via the website link:

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/street-cleaning/drain-and-sewer-problems>

Blocked sewers, sewer flooding or burst water mains can be reported to Thames Water on 0800 3169 800.

Veolia currently use one jetting tanker to undertake the routine scheduled gully service. The High Risk Gully cleansing schedule operates with a specialist 18.5 tonne super-combo tanker. In the event of severe weather, Merton Council can instruct contractors to work overtime and/or provide additional tanker/s if required, subject to priority, the severity of the event and funding being made available.

Under the high risk gully cleansing schedule, the Council issues notices and advertise the roads being cleaned in the Wimbledon Guardian for traffic order. This allows parking to be suspended during the works. The roads are coned off 48 hours before the gully cleansing works are undertaken. Parked cars can be an issue and obstruction to these works. We advise residents to take note of these signs and to move their vehicles when this work is being undertaken.

Cllr Fairclough also shared an update from Thames Water. Since the last meeting Thames water have inspected nine manholes; surveyed around 290 metres of the Network with CCTV; and cleaned 290 metres of sewers. Investigations are ongoing with 670m still outstanding to be cleaned between 11-17 September.

Once they have all the surveys completed, Thames Water will meet with Merton on 20 September to review the information and identify next steps/actions. They will also use the survey information to update our sewer network models. Thames Water would like to attend to the December meeting, to provide a further update.

4 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Agenda Item 4)

Councillor Stephen Alambritis provided an update and responded to questions. Finances across local government remain stretched and Merton was no exception. The latest Medium Term Financial Strategy shows that there is a budget gap of £19m from 2019/20 to 2022/23. This would be met through a mix of savings and income

generation. Much of the cost pressures relate to Adult Social Care where the Council has a statutory duty to provide for some of the most vulnerable people in Merton. The Council has invested an additional £9m in Adult Social Care to help meet these challenges.

Children's services where the Council is a corporate parent to 135 children and young people are also a high priority. The recent Ofsted inspection found that the Council was good with outstanding features and one of the top ten authorities in England.

Working in partnership with other boroughs has also helped reduce costs. Merton leads a legal services partnership on behalf of four other boroughs; shares regulatory services like licensing across three boroughs and has even let out three floors in the Civic Centre to colleagues in the NHS. Renting out parks has also brought in additional revenue but can cause residents concern which the council is sensitive to. The new dementia friendly library in Colliers Wood was recently short-listed for the 2018 Library of the Year award.

The Council has created an additional 4400 extra primary school places since 2010 by extending 23 schools and a new secondary school, Harris Wimbledon, has opened in the former adult education site at Whately Avenue. The school will then move to a new building on High Path in South Wimbledon for the 2020 intake. There are now 15 outstanding schools in Merton, including the most recently Harris Morden, a school which had previously rated as inadequate. The Council's School Improvement Team continues to work across the borough to support schools. In last year's GCSE results Merton had the highest scores for the Progress 8 school which measures progress from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4.

There a number of important regeneration projects underway. Clarion Housing is investing £1billion in improving three estates, that will result in better quality homes and no loss of social housing. The More Morden regeneration is back on track, with a new local plan being developed in 2018, and a development partner being appointed to begin works on improving the public domain in 2021. The new £13m Morden Leisure Centre is due to open later in the autumn with a six-lane pool, diving pool, café and gym. The old leisure centre will then be demolished and returned to park land. On Plough Lane work is progressing on the new football stadium for AFC Wimbledon. The club will hopefully move in for the 2020/21 season. There will also be 600 new homes, at least 30% of which will be affordable.

Cllr Alambritis thanked all those who volunteered in Merton. Volunteers are an essential part of life in Merton and he was pleased that the Cabinet had just agreed to continue to support the voluntary sector through a new Strategic Partner Funding Programme.

Residents asked about wheelie bins. Cllr Alambritis said that the new scheme should save £1.6m in the first year and more thereafter as well as increasing the amount of waste being recycled. The new service was not radical in any way but based on successful schemes used in councils across the country and shared with three of our neighbouring boroughs. For some properties wheelie bins will not be appropriate and

other alternatives will be provided. 64,000 out of the 82,000 households in the borough will move over to wheelie bins but there will be some flexibility with larger bins for bigger households and neighbours are welcome to share bins. The wheelie bin for paper/card means that the material stays dry and will therefore have better resale value. An assisted service is already provided to more than 500 residents and anyone who needs assistance can apply at any time. Some mistakes have been made in the delivery and they will try to sort these out quickly. Additional resource is being put into the call centre to deal with these issues. There is guidance on the Council website but residents should not refuse the bins now, and after a period of time the council will be able to be more flexible. The council is looking into the possibility of collecting older bins but there is a cost associated in doing so. Cllr Alambritis agreed that the performance from Veolia has not been good enough. The contract is for 8 years initially but deductions will be made for the poor performance. The move from an in-house to outsourced service has been challenging but the expectation is once wheelie bins are in place there should be an improvement in street cleanliness.

Air Quality is taken very seriously by Merton Council with a new Air Quality Action Plan. We have introduced a levy on diesel cars as well as increasing the number of electric charging points.

Crossrail 2 is unlikely to make any new announcements until spring 2019 and whilst we support the project the Council is not supportive of extra Council Tax to finance the project.

Cllr Alambritis said he was happy to join residents who raised concerns about high dropped curbs for pavements causing problems for wheelchair users. Cllr Alambritis was also happy to check on lip-reading courses at Merton Adult Education.

Cllr Alambritis confirmed that the travellers had left Cannon Hill Common earlier today. When travellers arrive there is a set process for checking the welfare of any children that can take four or five days. The Council is looking into an injunction process being used elsewhere.

5 MERTON HEALTH AND CARE PLAN (Agenda Item)

Hannah Pearson spoke about the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group's plans and the conversations they have been having with residents. A presentation is available in Appendix 1.

Hannah said the role of the CCG is to improve health and well-being, reduce health inequalities, and ensure equal access to quality services. Every year the CCG produces new plans and speaks to residents about services. Since August they have

been speaking with community groups across Merton. They are facing a number of challenges including:

- We know patients have to wait longer than they would expect to, to access some services
- The NHS is facing unprecedented financial challenges
- The quality of some of our services are variable
- Not all of our NHS buildings are in the best condition and need repairs
- Having good access psychological therapies remains a challenge
- There is expected growth in our population which will put pressure on services now and in the future
- There is an increasing demand for new treatments and therapies

The CCG has three priorities areas:

Start Well - Integrated support for children and families; Emotional wellbeing and mental health

Live Well - Wellbeing and long term conditions; Mental health and wellbeing

Age Well - Complex health and care needs

Hannah asked residents for feedback on local services. Residents said that services at the Nelson were brilliant. A question was asked about the closure of the walk-in centre, Hannah said that the creation of GP Hubs had created more appointments and helped the CCG work out when demand is highest. Social prescribing had proved effective and is being rolling out across GP surgeries, so far nine practices in the East but with expansion to the Nelson and three other surgeries in the West.

Patient Participation Groups in GP surgeries vary considerably so there is more work to do in some areas. The PPGs feed into a borough wide Patient Engagement Group.

6 TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENTS & RAILWAY. (Agenda Item 5)

Chris Larkman, Raynes Park Association, provided updates

South side of skew arch: The Astroturf installed has survived well so the plan is now to add seating.

Bins on north side of skew arch: Chris and Cllr Crowe hope to meet with The Waste Services Team on site to encourage progress.

Corner on South Side of Station –still waiting for approval from NR to make improvements and transfer land to Merton Council.

The Raynes Park Safer Neighbourhood Team are looking for residents to participate in their consultative group.

7 RAYNES PARK MATTERS (Agenda Item 6)

Neil Milligan provided update on planning and other local issues.

New Malden to Raynes Park Cycle Link – has now received planning permission from both boroughs and should be completed by May 2019.

Advertising hoarding between station and Waitrose – should be removed tomorrow.

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. Approved by Committee and work progressing on S106.

557 Kingston Road – Dundonald Church – 17/P0763 - proceeding towards finalising the S106 for the new church with flats above and then issuing planning permission. No progress since last update.

559-589 Kingston Road – Manuplastics and land to the west – 16/P1208 - work 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. Following a successful meeting with the applicant's team officers are now confident that the appeal can be avoided and that permission should be ready to issue within the next week.

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). The application as amended is being reported to PAC on 20th September with a recommendation to approve subject to completing a S106 to make the scheme permit free and to deal with any necessary adjustments to kerbside/pavement parking and conditions.

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

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.

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.

32-34 Bushey Road 18/P2619 – 34 flats – Consultation completed and the case officer is meeting with the applicant tomorrow (13/09/18) to discuss concerns (bulk/design/layout).

8 FEEDBACK, REMINDERS & UPDATES (Agenda Item 7)

Ride London event took place on 29 July 2018. A street party took place despite the poor weather.

My Raynes Park Summer Festival

Tom Underwood updated the meeting on events at this summer's festival, the seventh year it has taken place. Events took place from 29 June until 8 July, ending with 'Lark in the Park' on the final day attended by more than 500 people.

Tom also informed the meeting that the Scout Hut on Cottenham Park Road will be one of the venues hosting Attic Theatre's production of "The Rebellious Women of Wimbledon", a new play about the Suffragette movement in Wimbledon. The play will also be performed at West Barnes Library. Details are available at www.attictheatrecompany.com

The Christmas Fair will take place on Friday 7 December in the Waitrose Car Park. (bulk/design/layout).

9 NEXT MEETING DATE (Agenda Item 8)

All at 7.15pm in the Library Hall
Thursday 6 December 2018
Tuesday 26 March 2019

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Merton Health and Care Plan & Commissioning Intentions 2019/20



Who are we ?

- Merton CCG are responsible for buying, planning and monitoring local healthcare services for everyone in the borough
- We work with 24 GP practices and with local partners including:
 1. Pharmacies
 2. Hospitals
 3. Dentists
 4. Mental health providers
 5. The Council
 6. Community groups, including Healthwatch

We aim to:

- Improve health and wellbeing
- Reduce health inequalities
- Ensure everyone has equal access to healthcare services



Why we are here today?

- We work to continuously improve the services we plan and buy for people living in Merton
- We can only do this if we speak to patients and local community groups to gather their views on the services they use and what they feel needs improving
- To do this we are holding series of meetings with **community and patient groups** between August and November 2018
- We are using learning from similar work we did last year with patients to improve conversations with local people and community groups this year



Our challenges

- We know patients have to wait longer than they would expect to, to access some services
- The NHS is facing unprecedented financial challenges
- The quality of some of our services are variable
- Not all of our NHS buildings are in the best condition and need repairs
- Having good access psychological therapies remains a challenge
- There is expected growth in our population which will put pressure on services now and in the future
- There is an increasing demand for new treatments and therapies

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Early thinking about our priorities

Start Well

- Integrated support for children and families
- Emotional wellbeing and mental health

Live Well

- Wellbeing and long term conditions
- Mental health and wellbeing

Age Well

- Complex health and care needs



What local people and community organisations have told us so far



Continuity of care remains a priority for people in Merton, with a particular reference to ongoing support for managing long term conditions such as diabetes.

Accessibility of services is very important to people in Merton, particularly for services they have to use regularly



There is significant support for better **integration of health and social care services**. Services do not always feel **person centred** and did not always take into account the background and preferences of the individual.

People in Merton place a lot of value in **therapy support, and other specialist input**. However people did report concerns about the capacity of these teams and their ability to recruit and retain good staff



People are very positive about the move towards services **encouraging wellbeing and independence**. The social prescribing pilot in East Merton has held up as being a particularly good example of this.

Mental Health is a clear priority for people in Merton. Access to mental health services was raised as a concern, particularly for services for common mental health issues.



Tell us what you matters to you?

- What NHS services have you used and liked in Merton?
- What services have you used that you think could be improved?



What we will do with your feedback and comments

- We will use the feedback from this conversation to help shape our plans and deliver improvements in local services
- We will develop a report to show how we have taken on your comments and what services have changed as result of patient and public feedback, and share this with you



Any questions ?



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WIMBLEDON COMMUNITY FORUM
27 SEPTEMBER 2018

(7.15 pm - 9.15 pm)

PRESENT Councillors Councillor James Holmes (in the Chair),

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Agenda Item 1)

The meeting was held at the Wimbledon Arts Space, and chaired by Councillor James Holmes. More than 70 residents attended, as well as seven other Merton Councillors. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, introducing the councillors present at the meeting.

2 OPEN FORUM (Agenda Item 2)

5G

Ingrid Dickenson raised the impact of the roll out of 5G Wi-Fi on resident's health as the plans would greatly increase areas impacted by radiation. A petition signed by 220 scientists from 35 countries has called for a moratorium on the installation of 5G and 300 city Mayors in the USA are threatening to sue the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) due to the lack of research undertaken. More information is available at: <http://www.iemfa.org/emf-scientist-appeal-to-the-united-nations/>
<http://www.bemri.org/news.html>
<https://takebackyourpower.net/gestapo-in-usa-5g-fcc-intimidates-press-kills-free-speech/>

Harris Academy Wimbledon

Peter Walker raised concern about the impact of air pollution on the construction of the new Harris Academy school for 1100 pupils on High Path and the neighbouring Merton Abbey Primary School. The submission from Harris to the Planning Applications Committee suggested there was nothing to worry about but this was in contradiction to the Air Quality Audit from the Mayor of London. The audit can be found at: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/pollution-and-air-quality/mayors-school-air-quality-audit-programme>. Mr Walker said building the new school on that site would make air quality worse and called on residents to press the Mayor of London, the Leader of the Council and the Planning Applications Committee to not go ahead.

Details of the planning application can be found at <http://planning.merton.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorerAA/GeneralSearch.aspx>, reference number 18/P1921, and comments can be received until 9 October.

Other residents commented that land from Merton Abbey should not be lost, that the construction phase would have a huge impact on the school and that the Planning Applications Committee should be independent and fair, not party political. There was also disappointment that bids for Merton Hall were viewed in private not public and that works had taken place before the bids were received.

Cllr Stringer said she understood concerns about the impact of construction but that the new school would not have any additional impact on air quality. The new schools would use playing fields on Nursery Road so there would not be any impact on Merton Abbey Rec.

Cllr Gretton called on the Council to reconsider the plans.

Morley Park

A resident expressed concerns, on behalf of the Friends of Morley Park, about the delay in the transfer of the land from Barkley Homes to Merton Council and the resulting loss of amenity to residents. The resident also wanted to know if Barkley Homes would be charged for

Kris Witherington said that this issue had been raised at the Raynes Park Community Forum last week and Neil Milligan, Head of Development Control, said that the delay had been due to the need to remove Japanese knotweed from the site before handover. The council is insisting that Barkley Homes take out a significant liability insurance against the knotweed returning in the next ten years and once that was resolved the land could be handed over to Merton Council.

The meeting agreed that the following motion should be submitted to Council by Councillor Holmes:

“That the Cabinet Member be asked to report back promptly on how they propose to bring negotiations with Barkley Homes over Morley Park to a rapid conclusion and open the park consistent with the planning consent.”

3 MERTON HEALTH AND CARE PLAN (Agenda Item 3)

Fiona Gaylor, spoke about the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group’s plans and the conversations they have been having with residents. As presentation is available in Appendix 1.

Fiona said the role of the CCG is to improve health and well-being, reduce health inequalities, and ensure equal access to quality services. Every year the CCG produces new plans and speaks to residents about services. Since August they have been speaking with community groups across Merton. They are facing a number of challenges including:

- We know patients have to wait longer than they would expect to, to access some services
- The NHS is facing unprecedented financial challenges
- The quality of some of our services are variable
- Not all of our NHS buildings are in the best condition and need repairs
- Having good access psychological therapies remains a challenge
- There is expected growth in our population which will put pressure on services now and in the future
- There is an increasing demand for new treatments and therapies

The CCG has three priorities areas:

Start Well - Integrated support for children and families; Emotional wellbeing and mental health

Live Well - Wellbeing and long term conditions; Mental health and wellbeing

Age Well - Complex health and care needs

Fiona asked residents for feedback on local services. Residents said getting GP appointments could be very difficult, particularly at the Nelson. Other residents raised issues about continuing healthcare, drug and alcohol services, provision for rough sleepers, coordinated services for older people the Nelson, the accessibility of the Live Well service, and provision of a green gym. Fiona agreed to share the final report from the CCG.

4 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Agenda Item 4)

Councillor Stephen Alambritis provided an update and responded to questions. Finances across local government remain stretched and Merton was no exception. The latest Medium Term Financial Strategy shows that there is a budget gap of £19m from 2019/20 to 2022/23. This would be met through a mix of savings and income generation. Much of the cost pressures relate to Adult Social Care where the Council has a statutory duty to provide for some of the most vulnerable people in Merton. The Council has invested an additional £9m in Adult Social Care to help meet these challenges.

Children's services, where the Council is a corporate parent to 135 children and young people, are also a high priority. The recent Ofsted inspection found that the Council was good with outstanding features and one of the top ten authorities in England.

Working in partnership with other boroughs has also helped reduce costs. Merton leads a legal services partnership on behalf of four other boroughs; shares regulatory services like licensing across three boroughs and has even let out three floors in the Civic Centre to colleagues in the NHS. Renting out parks has also brought in

additional revenue but can cause residents concern which the council is sensitive too.

The new dementia friendly library in Colliers Wood was recently short-listed for the 2018 Library of the Year award.

The Council has created an additional 4400 extra primary school places since 2010 by extending 23 schools. There are now 15 outstanding schools in Merton, including the most recently Harris Morden, a school which had previously rated as inadequate. The Council's School Improvement Team continues to work across the borough to support schools. In last year's GCSE results Merton had the highest scores for the Progress 8 school which measures progress from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4.

There a number of important regeneration projects underway. Clarion Housing is investing £1billion in improving three estates, that will result in better quality homes and no loss of social housing. The More Morden regeneration is back on track, with a new local plan being developed in 2018, and a development partner being appointed to begin works on improving the public domain in 2021. The new £13m Morden Leisure Centre is due to open later in the autumn with a six-lane pool, diving pool, café and gym. The old leisure centre will then be demolished and returned to park land. On Plough Lane work is progressing on the new football stadium for AFC Wimbledon. The club will hopefully move in for the 2020/21 season. There will also be 600 new homes, at least 30% of which will be affordable. £7million has been invested in Mitcham town centre, the tower in Colliers Wood has finally been improved and a new improved healthcare facility at the Wilson should be open by 2022. Whilst Crossrail 2 is welcomed, it is not at the cost of the town centre.

The use of Landfill needs to stop and the new rubbish and recycling service beginning on 1 October should help increase the amount of household rubbish is recycled to over 45%. The new system should also save £1.5m in the first year, £2million a year thereafter and reduce litter on the street. The street cleaning performance of Veolia has not been good enough, and we are sorry for that. In 2017/18 we deducted 10% of the contract value and will do again this year if necessary.

Cllr Alambritis thanked all those who volunteered in Merton. Volunteers are an essential part of life in Merton and he was pleased that the Cabinet had just agreed to continue to support the voluntary sector through a new Strategic Partner Funding Programme.

On the new Harris Academy Cllr Alambritis said the Council had a duty to provide sufficient primary school places and the expansion in that sector meant a new secondary school was needed. The proposal from Harris had been agreed by the Department for Education and the Education and Skills Funding Agency. The new

school was already oversubscribed and proving popular with parents. The Planning Applications Committee is a quasi-judicial committee that takes information from experts and objections and support submitted by residents. If someone feels something untoward has taken place they can report to the Local Government Ombudsman.

A resident asked about the option of Compulsory Purchase Order of the building being used for temporary accommodation on the Willow Lane Industrial Estate. Cllr Alambritis said CPOs are looked at on an individual basis and he was happy to look into the particular case.

A resident said she felt that planning officers were overworked and under pressure with reduced enforcement activity but a quality service is a priority. Cllr Alambritis said the service is under pressure, many services are as the council has to priorities and make difficult decisions to balance the budget.

A resident asked about the proposal for a concert hall on the P3 site. Cllr Alambritis said that the lease for the site, the car park behind Morrison's, would return to the council in 2019 and that he had met with the Wimbledon Choral Society to discuss their plans. They key would be if the plans are both deliverable and sustainable.

5 WIMBLEDON MASTERPLAN (Agenda Item 5)

Paul McGarry gave a presentation on the new draft of the Wimbledon Master Plan that would be going out to public consultation from 1 October to 7 December. The presentation is available in appendix 2 and the full Master Plan document can be found at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/regeneration-urban-design/future-wimbledon>

Paul said that he and the team would be happy to attend local meetings to discuss the document and can be contacted via email to future.merton@merton.gov.uk. The plan looks at people and spaces as well as buildings and the aim is to provide certainty to developers from both the Council and the local community.

Wimbledon has a long history of recycling itself, usually in response to changes to the transport network and Crossrail 2 presents another opportunity to do so again. Currently the town centre is in a single line east to west, so the plan looks at expanding north to south over the railway lines, to create a cross with the station at the heart of the town. This will also create new open space. The plan proposes to set new height levels of 8-10 stories or 14-16 for buildings over the railway. The plan also proposes to maintain the 'DNA' of Wimbledon in the design of new buildings, for example in the use of white Portland stone.

There will be pop-up events to test open spaces on St Marks and outside New Wimbledon Theatre. The team will also use social media, temporary street stencils and is talking to schools about involving young people. Paul agreed to return in December for a fuller discussion.

6 NEXT MEETING DATE (Agenda Item 6)

Councillor Holmes thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Dates of future meetings:

Tuesday 4 December 2018 at Wimbledon Arts Space

Thursday 28 March 2019 at Wimbledon Arts Space

Merton Health and Care Plan & Commissioning Intentions 2019/20



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Early thinking about our priorities

Start Well

- Integrated support for children and families
- Emotional wellbeing and mental health

Live Well

- Wellbeing and long term conditions
- Mental health and wellbeing

Age Well

- Complex health and care needs



What local people and community organisations have told us so far



Continuity of care remains a priority for people in Merton, with a particular reference to ongoing support for managing long term conditions such as diabetes.

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People are very positive about the move towards services **encouraging wellbeing and independence**. The social prescribing pilot in East Merton has held up as being a particularly good example of this.

Mental Health is a clear priority for people in Merton. Access to mental health services was raised as a concern, particularly for services for common mental health issues.



Tell us what you matters to you?

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- We will develop a report to show how we have taken on your comments and what services have changed as result of patient and public feedback, and share this with you



Any questions ?



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MERTON COUNCIL

Future Merton

FWW:

Future
Wimbledon
Masterplan

Wimbledon Community Forum

27th September 2018

merton.gov.uk/futurewimbledon

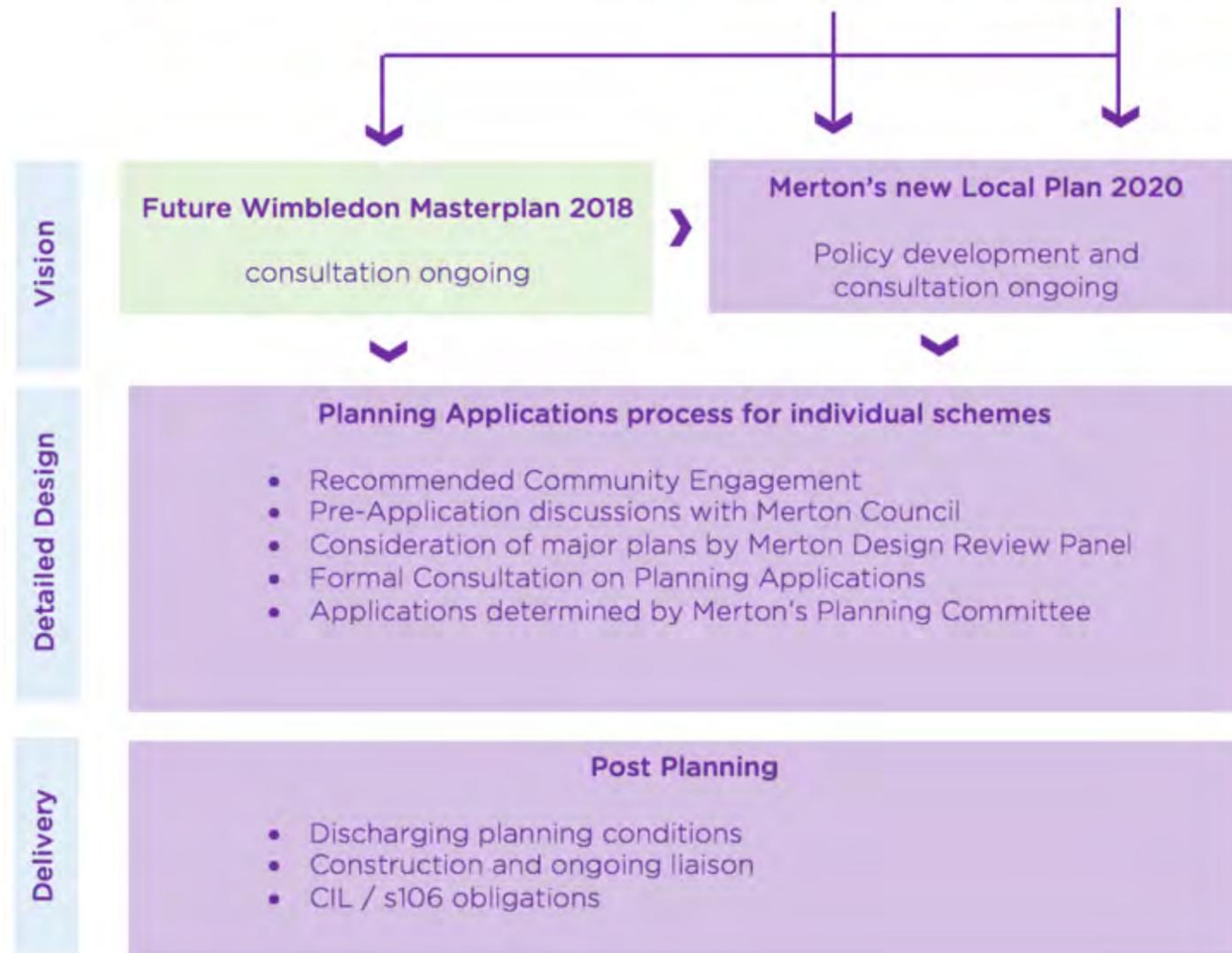
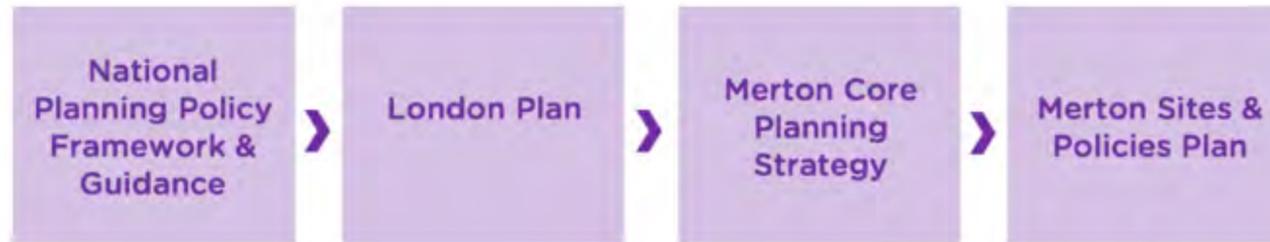


Future Wimbledon: Community Forum Briefing

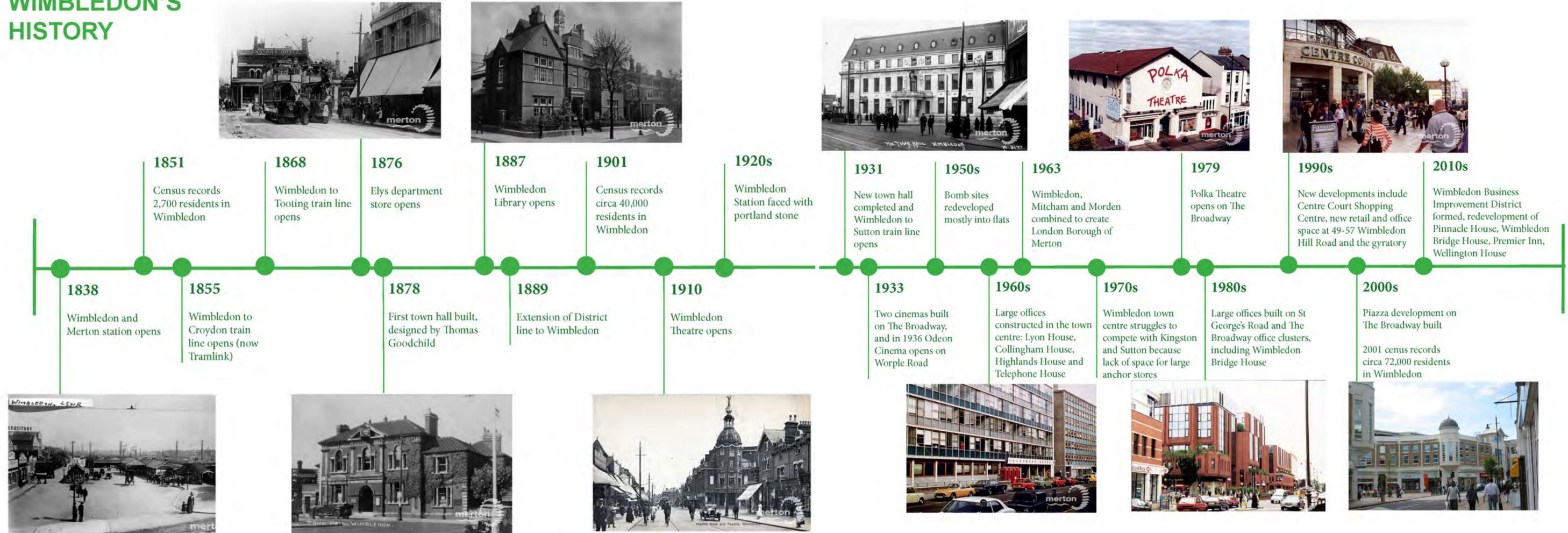


- Masterplan status
- Masterplan process & engagement so far
- Strategy - growing a successful town centre
- The Masterplan
- Engagement planned

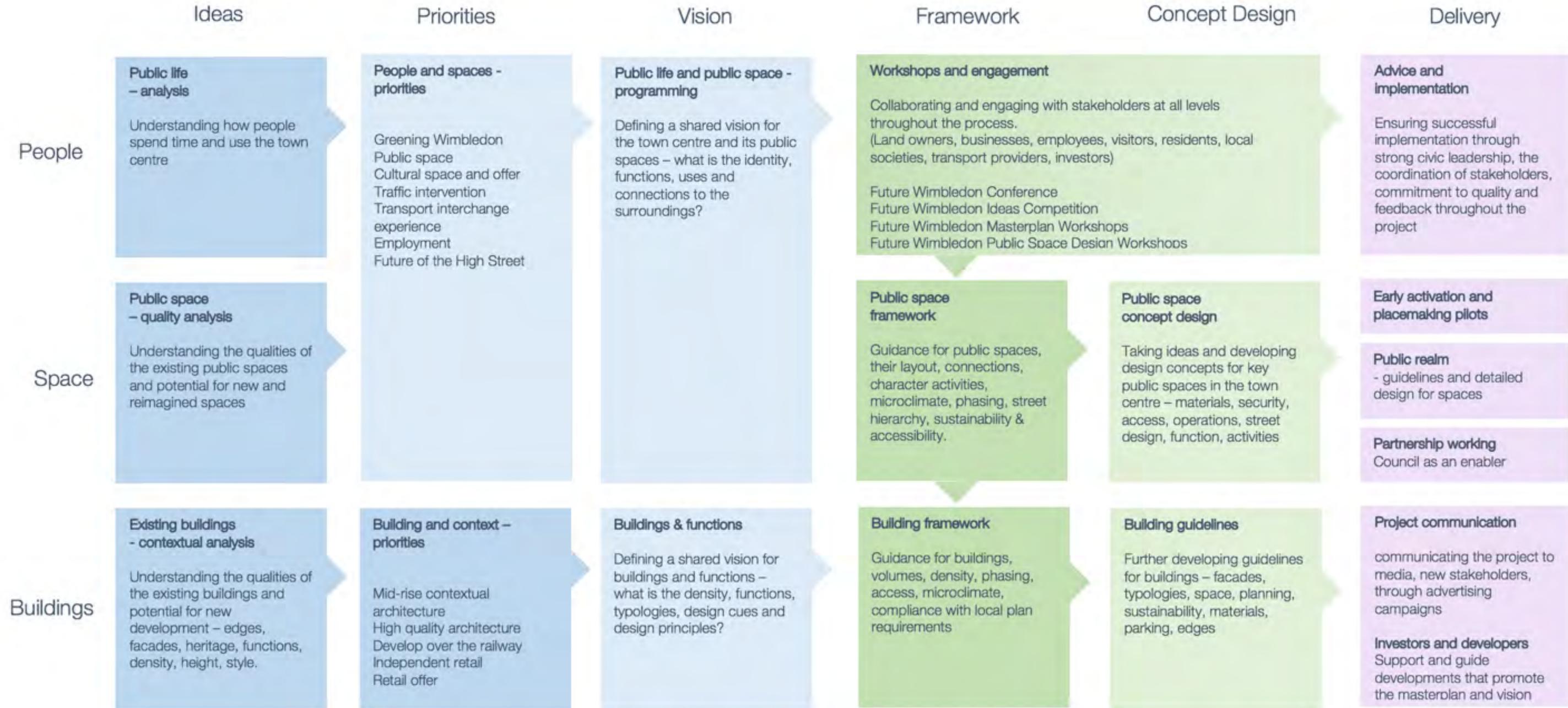
Masterplan Status



WIMBLEDON'S HISTORY



Masterplan Process



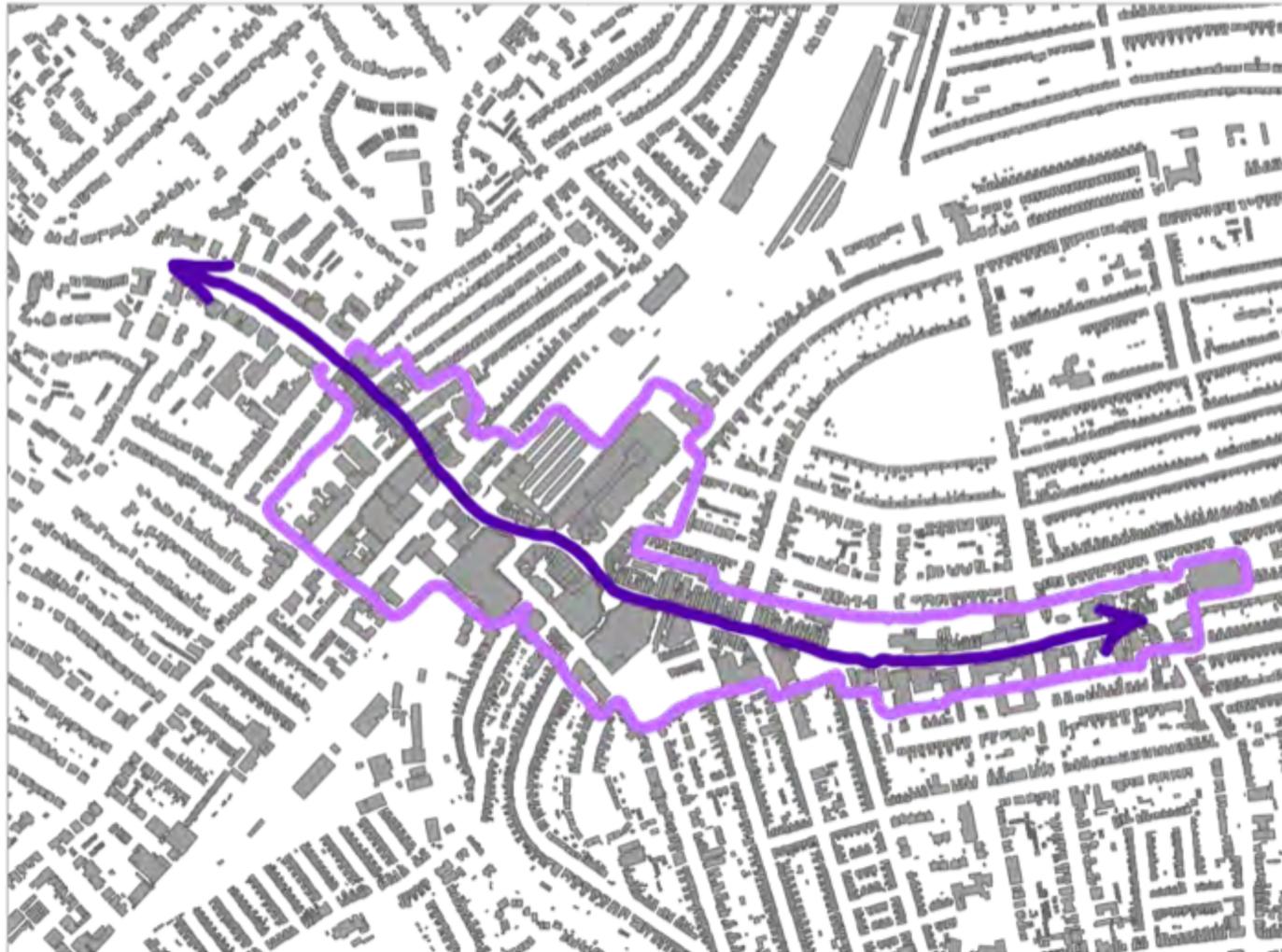
Do we love Wimbledon? Should we 'Save Wimbledon'?



Masterplan Area



Strategy for growth



Wimbledon 2040



Wimbledon DNA - design ethos

DESIGN QUALITY

WIMBLEDON'S DNA: TYPOLOGY AND MATERIALS

Group 1: Portland Stone



Group 2: Red brick / terracotta



Group 3: London stock brick



DESIGN QUALITY

WIMBLEDON'S DNA IN A NEW WAY

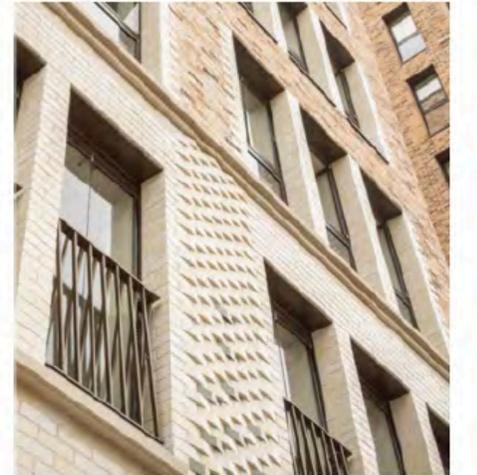
Group 1



Group 2



Group 3



**BE PART
OF THE
CO-DESIGN
PROCESS
FOR
WIMBLEDON
TOWN
CENTRE.**



DESIGN YOUR STREET

**ST MARK'S
PLACE
WIMBLEDON
THEATRE**

CO-DESIGN
workshops
for new
Wimbledon
public spaces

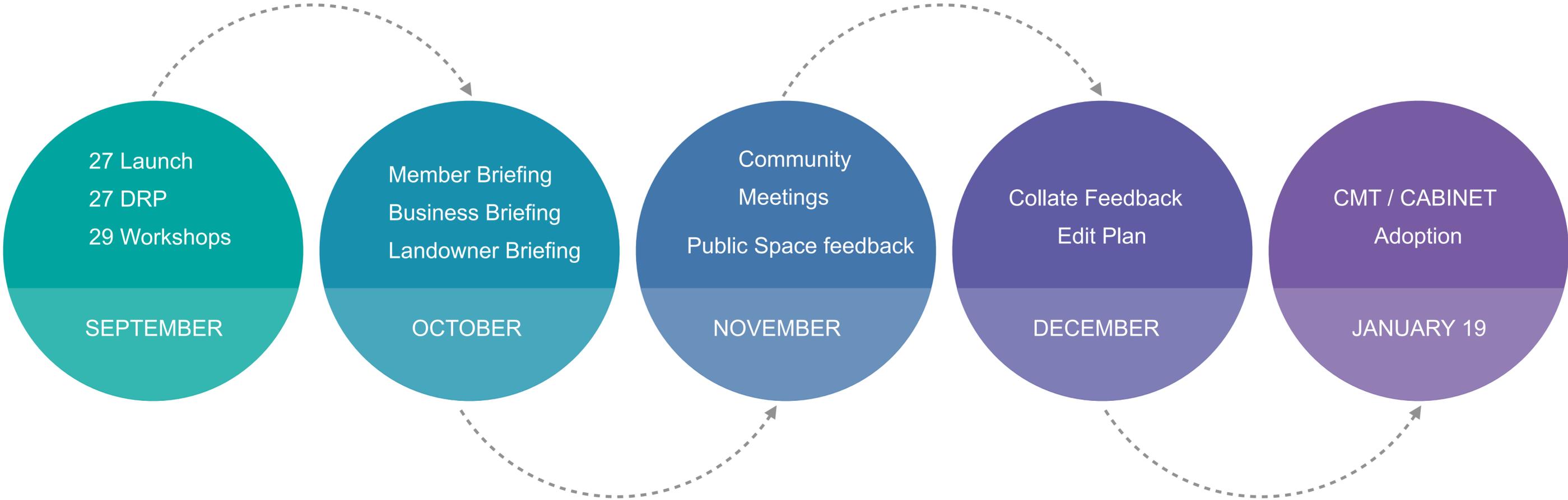
**IT'S TIME
TO PLAY
WIMBLEDON**



merton.gov.uk/futurewimbledon

ENGAGEMENT

MASTERPLAN AND PUBLIC SPACE DESIGNS



FW:

Future
Wimbledon

merton.gov.uk/futurewimbledon



COLLIERS WOOD AND NE MITCHAM COMMUNITY FORUM
4 OCTOBER 2018

(Time Not Specified - Time Not Specified)

PRESENT Councillors (in the Chair), Councillor John Dehaney

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Agenda Item 1)

The meeting was held at Colliers Wood Library, and chaired by Councillor John Dehaney. Twelve residents attended, as well as three other Merton Councillors. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 MERTON HEALTH AND CARE PLAN (Agenda Item 2)

Abbas Mirza, spoke about the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group's plans and the conversations they have been having with residents. A presentation is available in Appendix 1.

Abbas said the role of the CCG is to improve health and well-being, reduce health inequalities, and ensure equal access to quality services. Every year the CCG produces new plans and speaks to residents about services. Since August they have been speaking with community groups across Merton. They are facing a number of challenges including:

- We know patients have to wait longer than they would expect to, to access some services
- The NHS is facing unprecedented financial challenges
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The CCG has three priorities areas:

Start Well - Integrated support for children and families; Emotional wellbeing and mental health

Live Well - Wellbeing and long term conditions; Mental health and wellbeing

Age Well - Complex health and care needs

Abbas asked residents for feedback on local services. Residents raised issues about delays accessing test results via their GPs, the Diabetes service at Colliers Wood

practice, sharing data between different services, obesity and funding for mental health training. Abbas said the CCG is working with Hearts and Minds, who provide training and peer led support. Abbas also referred to work with Public Health on improving services to prevent diabetes. More information is available at <https://t.co/D9CV5UkH5X>.

3 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Agenda Item 3)

Councillor Stephen Alambritis provided an update and responded to questions. Finances across local government remain stretched and Merton was no exception. The latest Medium Term Financial Strategy shows that there is a budget gap of £19m from 2019/20 to 2022/23. This would be met through a mix of savings and income generation. Much of the cost pressures relate to Adult Social Care where the Council has a statutory duty to provide for some of the most vulnerable people in Merton. The Council has invested an additional £9m in Adult Social Care to help meet these challenges.

Children's services where the Council is a corporate parent to 135 children and young people are also a high priority. The recent Ofsted inspection found that the Council was good with outstanding features and one of the top ten authorities in England.

Working in partnership with other boroughs has also helped reduce costs. Merton leads a legal services partnership on behalf of four other boroughs; shares regulatory services like licensing across three boroughs and has even let out three floors in the Civic Centre to colleagues in the NHS. Renting out parks has also brought in additional revenue but can cause residents concern which the council is sensitive to. The new dementia friendly library in Colliers Wood was recently short-listed for the 2018 Library of the Year award. Wimbledon Arts Space is booked up until 25 November and will have a ministerial visit on 11 October.

The Council has created an additional 4400 extra primary school places since 2010 by extending 23 schools and a new secondary school, Harris Wimbledon, has opened in the former adult education site at Whately Avenue. The school will then move to a new building on High Path in South Wimbledon for the 2020 intake and is already oversubscribed. There are now 15 outstanding schools in Merton, including the most recently Harris Morden, a school which had previously rated as inadequate. The Council's School Improvement Team continues to work across the borough to support schools. In last year's GCSE results Merton had the highest scores for the Progress 8 school which measures progress from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4. There a number of important regeneration projects underway. Clarion Housing is investing £1billion in improving three estates, that will result in better quality homes and no loss of social housing. The More Morden regeneration is back on track, with a new local plan being developed in 2018, and a development partner being appointed to begin works on improving the public domain in 2021. The new £13m Morden Leisure Centre is due to open later in the autumn with a six-lane pool, diving pool, café and gym. The old leisure centre will then be demolished and returned to park

land. On Plough Lane work is progressing on the new football stadium for AFC Wimbledon. The club will hopefully move in for the 2020/21 season. There will also be 600 new homes, at least 30% of which will be affordable. There is also a new draft Masterplan for Wimbledon Town Centre and residents are encouraged to give their views on it. More information is available at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/regeneration-projects/future-wimbledon>

Cllr Alambritis thanked all those who volunteered in Merton. Volunteers are an essential part of life in Merton and he was pleased that the Cabinet had just agreed to continue to support the voluntary sector through a new Strategic Partner Funding Programme.

The use of Landfill needs to stop and the new rubbish and recycling service beginning on 1 October should help increase the amount of household rubbish is recycled to over 45%. The new system should also save £1.6m in the first year, £2million a year thereafter and reduce litter on the street. The street cleaning performance of Veolia has not been good enough, and we are sorry for that. In 2017/18 we deducted 10% of the contract value and will do again this year if necessary. In response to questions about the new scheme Cllr Alambritis said that this was a four borough contract and was similar to many other schemes across the country. Veolia have allocated more resources and if more resources are needed for the contract management this will be looked at. There is no specific time frame for when problems will be resolved but we will be looking for continual improvement. The Council will also be doing more enforcement to reduce litter including naming and shaming those penalised for fly-tipping. The Council is also looking to introduce a licensing scheme for landlords which will require them to make sure adequate refuse collection facilities are provided.

Cllr Alambritis was asked about Colliers Wood Community Centre. He had spoken with officers about the broken boiler and whilst we waited for a new one to be installed temporary heating would be provided. A resident asked about growth in Colliers Wood as Greater London Assembly is predicting no growth in the area and what will the Council be doing to support the area. Cllr Alambritis said that Colliers Wood has been doing well, and across London it is expected for areas close to transport to see some intensification. The Council will work with residents to manage this. A priority for the Council is Bridging the Gap, reducing inequalities in health outcomes across the borough and that drives where services are targeted, not where council tax has come from. Transport for London will shortly be consulting on options for a new transport link to Sutton and one of the choices is a route to Colliers Wood.

A resident asked about air quality and support for schools in areas with high levels of pollution as they were against the building of the new Harris School on High Path because of the negative impact of pollution on students. Cllr Alambritis said air quality is taken very seriously by Merton Council with a new Air Quality Action Plan. This includes introducing a levy on diesel cars as well as increasing the number of electric

charging points. Merton will work with the Mayor of London wherever possible to address these challenges.

4 LONDON ASSEMBLY UPDATE (Agenda Item 5)

Leonie Cooper, Assembly Member for Merton and Wandsworth, provided an update on the work of the London Assembly. On air quality Leonie said that the Mayor of London has helped make this a clear priority and an important issue. The Mayor had been to visit Putney, one of the most polluted areas in London, and that had prompted action including cleaner buses. Other changes have included the new T-Charge and from April 2019 the Ultra-Low Emission Zone and the Mayor of London's Transport Strategy is prioritising opening up streets to communities by removing cars. The Transport, Environment and Housing Strategies will need to work in conjunction with the new London Plan. In London it is impossible to avoid building schools in polluted areas but other things can help including planting, healthy streets around the schools, remodelling transport and cleaner vehicles. Looking at other forms of pollution is also important, for example construction, the Environment Committee, which Leonie chairs had made some recommendations to the Mayor for new approaches to reduce impact. Cllr Cooper-Marbiah said that in the case of the Harris School on High Path there would be planting on Merantun Way, a filter on the new building and access would be on High Path, away from Merantun Way.

The Environment Committee has carried out an investigation into fly-tipping and discovered a serious problem across London. Enfield had the highest number of incidents, more than 75,000 in 2016/17. The full report can be found at <https://www.london.gov.uk/node/44389>

A resident asked about the lifting of the cap on borrowing against assets for local authorities. Leonie said this wouldn't help council's like Merton who no longer have any stock but the Mayor would be looking to work with boroughs to make the most of any opportunities to increase the supply of social housing.

A resident asked about cycling and Leonie said that as more intensification takes place the Mayor will be looking to ensure sufficient cycle storage is provided in new developments and to work with boroughs to approve current provision but understands how much pressure Councils are under.

Anyone with further issues they would like to raise with Leonie they are welcome to email leonie.cooper@london.gov.uk.

5 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda Item 6)

Councillor Dehaney thanked residents for attending and closed the meeting. The next meeting will be in October 2019, date to be confirmed.

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

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Merton Health and Care Plan & Commissioning Intentions 2019/20



Who are we ?

- Merton CCG are responsible for buying, planning and monitoring local healthcare services for everyone in the borough
- We work with 24 GP practices and with local partners including:
 1. Pharmacies
 2. Hospitals
 3. Dentists
 4. Mental health providers
 5. The Council
 6. Community groups, including Healthwatch

We aim to:

- Improve health and wellbeing
- Reduce health inequalities
- Ensure everyone has equal access to healthcare services



Why we are here today?

- We work to continuously improve the services we plan and buy for people living in Merton
- We can only do this if we speak to patients and local community groups to gather their views on the services they use and what they feel needs improving
- To do this we are holding series of meetings with **community and patient groups** between August and November 2018
- We are using learning from similar work we did last year with patients to improve conversations with local people and community groups this year



Our challenges

- We know patients have to wait longer than they would expect to, to access some services
- The NHS is facing unprecedented financial challenges
- The quality of some of our services are variable
- Not all of our NHS buildings are in the best condition and need repairs
- Having good access psychological therapies remains a challenge
- There is expected growth in our population which will put pressure on services now and in the future
- There is an increasing demand for new treatments and therapies

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Early thinking about our priorities

Start Well

- Integrated support for children and families
- Emotional wellbeing and mental health

Live Well

- Wellbeing and long term conditions
- Mental health and wellbeing

Age Well

- Complex health and care needs



What local people and community organisations have told us so far



Continuity of care remains a priority for people in Merton, with a particular reference to ongoing support for managing long term conditions such as diabetes.

Accessibility of services is very important to people in Merton, particularly for services they have to use regularly



There is significant support for better **integration of health and social care services**. Services do not always feel **person centred** and did not always take into account the background and preferences of the individual.

People in Merton place a lot of value in **therapy support, and other specialist input**. However people did report concerns about the capacity of these teams and their ability to recruit and retain good staff



People are very positive about the move towards services **encouraging wellbeing and independence**. The social prescribing pilot in East Merton has held up as being a particularly good example of this.

Mental Health is a clear priority for people in Merton. Access to mental health services was raised as a concern, particularly for services for common mental health issues.



Tell us what you matters to you?

- What NHS services have you used and liked in Merton?
- What services have you used that you think could be improved?



What we will do with your feedback and comments

- We will use the feedback from this conversation to help shape our plans and deliver improvements in local services
- We will develop a report to show how we have taken on your comments and what services have changed as result of patient and public feedback, and share this with you



Any questions ?



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MORDEN COMMUNITY FORUM
11 OCTOBER 2018

(7.15 pm - 9.15 pm)

PRESENT Councillors (in the Chair), Councillor Pauline Cowper

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Agenda Item 1)

Cllr. Pauline Cowper introduced herself as the new Chair of the meeting and welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Approximately 16 residents attended, as well as 10 councillors, and officers from the council and its partners.

2 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Agenda Item 2)

Councillor Alambritis announced that on Tuesday 6th November, between 4 and 6pm, everyone is welcome to visit the brand new Morden Leisure Centre, for its soft opening. He thanked Pellikaan, the construction company, for their work on the project.

Finances across local government remain stretched and Merton is no exception. The latest Medium Term Financial Strategy shows that there is a budget gap of £19m from 2019/20 to 2022/23. This will be met through a mix of savings and income generation. Much of the cost pressures relate to Adult Social Care where the Council has a statutory duty to provide for some of the most vulnerable people in Merton. The Council has invested an additional £9m in Adult Social Care to help meet these challenges.

Children's Services, where the Council is a corporate parent to 135 children and young people, are also a high priority. The recent Ofsted inspection found that the Council was good with outstanding features and one of the top ten authorities in England for children's services.

Working in partnership with other boroughs has also helped reduce costs: Merton leads a legal services partnership on behalf of four other boroughs; shares regulatory services like licensing across three boroughs; and has even let out three floors in the Civic Centre to colleagues in the NHS. Renting out parks has also brought in additional revenue but can cause residents concern which the council is sensitive to.

The new dementia-friendly library in Colliers Wood was recently short-listed for the 2018 Library of the Year award.

The Council has created an additional 4,400 extra primary school places since 2010 by extending 23 schools, and a new secondary school, Harris Wimbledon, has opened in the former adult education site at Whatley Avenue, with adult education now being delivered by Merton College. The school will then move to a new building on High Path in South Wimbledon for the 2020 intake. There are now 15 outstanding schools in Merton, including most recently Harris Morden, a school which had previously rated as inadequate. The Council's School Improvement Team continues to work across the borough to support schools. In last year's GCSE results Merton had the highest scores for the Progress 8 school which measures progress from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4.

There a number of important regeneration projects underway. Clarion Housing is investing £1billion in improving three estates, that will result in better quality homes and no loss of social housing. The More Morden regeneration is back on track. Councillor Alambritis paid tribute to the Conservative Group, which kick-started the project. On Plough Lane, work is progressing on the new football stadium for AFC Wimbledon. The club will hopefully move in for the 2020/21 season. There will also be 600 new homes, at least 30% of which will be affordable. There is to be a new national health centre called The Wilson, which will address matters such as mental health. Work is ongoing on Mitcham Town Centre, in conjunction with TfL and work on the Wimbledon Masterplan also continues.

On 1st October, a new waste system was introduced, with wheelie bins for residents. It is hoped the new system will increase recycling rates, bring cleaner streets and bring savings of £1.6m in the first year and more thereafter. The new service was not radical in any way but based on successful schemes used in councils across the country and shared with three of our neighbouring boroughs.

Cllr Alambritis thanked all those who volunteered in Merton. Volunteers are an essential part of life in Merton and he was pleased that the Cabinet had just agreed to continue to support the voluntary sector through a new Strategic Partner Funding Programme.

Asked about the possibility of a concert hall in Wimbledon, Councillor Alambritis explained that the car park covenanted to Morrison's comes back to the council next year, so there is a possibility of a concert hall being built there, if it can be demonstrated as viable economically.

A resident asked about leaf-sweeping in Autumn and why the wheelie bins are different designs. She also asked what is being done about residents receiving the wrong leaflet and wrong bins. Councillor Alambritis apologised for the errors in the new waste system and said the council has impressed upon Veolia the need to rectify these mistakes. There has been a big demand for food waste caddies. Veolia

should be doing everything they can to clear the leaves away. It will take time for the system to settle down and run smoothly. The bins can be different designs, as long as they can fit onto the trucks. The new trucks, which belong to the council, are state-of-the-art, with cameras on all sides for safety and to ensure collection is being done correctly.

A resident questioned the proposed location of Harris Academy, saying it has been identified by the Mayor of London as a very polluted site. Councillor Alambritis agreed that there are air quality issues throughout the whole of London. A paper on the proposed site will go to the planning committee, who will need to be satisfied that the air quality is acceptable for a school to be situated there. Schemes around trees, fencing and which way classes face can also be implemented to help address the matter. Air Quality is taken very seriously by Merton Council with a new Air Quality Action Plan. A levy on diesel cars has been introduced as well as increasing the number of electric charging points.

On building height for the Wimbledon Masterplan, direction is taken from the Mayor of London and is based on density policy.

3 MORDEN LEISURE CENTRE (Agenda Item 3)

Christine Parsloe, Leisure & Culture Development Manager at the council, updated residents on the new leisure centre development.

She encouraged everyone to come to the launch on 6th November and try out the new pool and the café. The diving facility has been installed too, along with the fitness suite and a studio/community room. Feedback on the appearance of the new centre has been positive.

Pellikaan completed construction 16 days early and Greenwich Leisure have now moved in to fit out the building and train their staff, whilst still running Morden Park Pools. It is proposed that Morden Park Pool will be closed at noon on 6th November, before the new Morden Leisure Centre is opened to the public at 4pm.

Car charging bays have been installed for electric cars and parking controls will go out in the next few weeks, in particular to ensure disabled bays are used appropriately.

Demolition of the old pools will start around the 13th November. Once demolition is complete, the land will be returned to open space, to compensate for the footprint the new site has taken.

A newsletter providing an update will come out shortly.

A silent auction will be launched online on 12th October for people to bid to be the first to swim in the pool. Proceeds from the auction will go to the Mayor's charities.

Asked whether the council will be working with Merton CCG and Public Health to encourage all our communities to use the services, Chris said this is already done at Merton's other centres and in time will also be done with the new centre. It is hoped what has been created at the new centre will encourage everyone to come and use the facilities.

Chris also mentioned the Fireworks displays in November, encouraging residents to buy their tickets in advance online. Also, on 11th November from 6.30-7.30pm, there will be a commemoration for the end of WWI at the Civic Centre, which residents are encouraged to attend.

4 MERTON HEALTH AND CARE PLAN (Agenda Item 4)

Abbas Mirza, the Community Engagement Lead for the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group gave a presentation on the Merton Health and Care Plan (see Appendix 1).

After the presentation, Abbas asked for feedback from residents on NHS services they've liked in Merton and services that can be improved. Detailed feedback can be sent by email to abbas.mirza@swlondon.nhs.uk.

GP access is being invested in to provide appointments at the GP hubs at the Nelson, Wimbledon and the Wide Way Medical Centre, Mitcham, with training being given to staff to help people to make appointments. A working group is looking at improving Mental Health services across Merton.

Asked about St Helier, Abbas said no decisions have yet been made about changes to the services. Councillor Alambritis added that Merton Council is working with residents and Siobhain McDonagh MP to make sure no services are reduced at the hospital.

5 MORE MORDEN REGENERATION PROGRAMME (Agenda Item 5)

Jake Lister from Kanda, a public and stakeholder consultation company working jointly for the council and Transport for London on Morden regeneration, presented the results of the recent consultation that was carried out on the regeneration programme.

Focus Groups were held in September 2018 with councillors and stakeholder groups where a series of design principles were looked at, including the Station Forecourt, Green and Open Spaces, and Type and Quality of the High Street.

Attendees at the focus groups had a constructive discussion where they raised a number of important factors to be included in the design of the town centre such as:

- Improving the pedestrian experience along London Road – as the station forecourt is currently very congested
- Emphasising Morden's already brilliant green spaces and linking them together
- That they would like to see more active frontages along the high street to encourage visitors to stay and shop

Further consultations will be taking place and anyone interested in further information can contact the team.

Public Drop-Ins were held over 3 days with a series of high street stalls outside Sainsburys, Iceland and the Underground. These were held to gather feedback on what amenities the local community would like to see brought forward as part of the regeneration of Morden Town Centre, and to determine local priorities and aspirations for regeneration. The events were designed to gather data on areas of activity in the Town Centre and how the local community navigates through the Town Centre and to other nearby amenities.

A number of different methods were used for gathering the feedback including a survey, maps for people to identify their routes into the town centre and areas they visit, and a board on which members of the public could identify what amenities they would like to see in the new town centre.

The events were attended by over 150 members of the local community. The general consensus from attendees at the events was that there was a need for improvements to the Town Centre and that they generally welcomed the regeneration project. Members of the public believed that the green spaces in the borough and the public transport links were the most successful assets in the area. Many residents stated that they would like to see improvements to the existing retail offer of the Town Centre, with the aspiration that more independent, high quality shops be delivered as part of the regeneration. There was similarly an interest in nighttime uses, including pubs, bars and restaurants. Residents also ranked reducing traffic congestion as their number one issue for the town centre improvement.

Eben van der Westhuizen, the project lead on the More Morden Regeneration project updated residents on the next steps. There will be public consultation on the draft Merton Local Plan over the next six weeks. The new Local Plan will hopefully then be adopted in early 2020, with phased works targeted to start in 2021. It will take approximately a year to procure a development partner. There are no detailed

designs yet and these will only be worked up once a development partner has been appointed.

When asked about funding for the project, Eben said that the council is submitting bids where possible.

Asked for an update on the potential Tramlink extension, Eben said that from 31 October for about six weeks, TfL will run a separate consultation on this. The MoreMorden project has to accommodate any new tram route.

A new project website will be launched in the next few months – hopefully before the end of the year. Until then, for updates, details can be found on the [Council's own website](#). Electronic newsletters are also sent out, which residents can [sign up for](#).

6 OPEN FORUM (Agenda Item 6)

A resident asked what is happening with Dog Control Orders and also whether LB Merton looking to end the provision of adult education.

On Dog Control Orders, there are still a few minor issues of detail to resolve such as details of wording of the Order and supporting maps to confirm. At that stage it should be ready to sign-off – it is hoped this will be in the next couple of weeks.

Councillor Draper explained that the council will keep adult education going and is making improvements on it. Not all courses are sustainable and run at a loss, which is why the prices for them have to be put up. It is not possible to subsidise classes.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda Item 7)

Councillor Cowper closed the meeting

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Early thinking about our priorities

Start Well

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- Emotional wellbeing and mental health

Live Well

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- Mental health and wellbeing

Age Well

- Complex health and care needs



What local people and community organisations have told us so far



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Page 6



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Tell us what you matters to you?

- What NHS services have you used and liked in Merton?
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- We will use the feedback from this conversation to help shape our plans and deliver improvements in local services
- We will develop a report to show how we have taken on your comments and what services have changed as result of patient and public feedback, and share this with you



Any questions ?



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MITCHAM COMMUNITY FORUM
17 OCTOBER 2018

(Time Not Specified - Time Not Specified)

PRESENT Councillors (in the Chair), Councillor David Chung

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Agenda Item 1)

The meeting was held at Age UK Merton, and chaired by Councillor David Chung. 15 residents attended, as well as three other Councillors, and officers of the council and its partners. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 POLICE UPDATE (Agenda Item 2)

Sergeant Andy Ball from Mitcham Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) provided an update on local policing issues.

There has been an ongoing issue with dogs where owners are unable to control their dogs and they present a danger to others. The team has issued warrants and seized four dogs. The team initially writes to owners but if the problems are not resolved they may go to court and seek seizure. The police deal with situations where there are criminal offences whereas lost dogs and other issues are dealt with by Merton Council.

Working with Merton Council they have closed two brothels and a third is being considered. Drug warrants have also been served and the SNT will look at any intelligence provided by residents.

Youth engagement work has been a priority, including a PSCO in Pollards Hill using football training sessions to engage young people. The team also involved a group of cadets in clearing a resident's garden after they had been targeted by rogue traders.

There has been a problem group of Travellers responsible for a considerable amount of fly-tipping. The team has been working to seize vehicles by working with Merton Council. A vehicle was seized at an encampment in September and a £700 fine had to be paid before it was released. A resident asked if these actions could be better publicised and Sgt Bull they do this on social media but can't guarantee press coverage.

Other residents asked about gangs in the area. Sgt Ball said there generally small groups of known young people involved in activity and most incidents are problems between those groups. The increased use of large knives has been a recent trend and has increased the fear of these groups. Merton remains one of London's safest boroughs and although Mitcham has more issues than other parts of Merton it is still much lower than other parts of the capital. SNTs are involved in visiting schools and youth centres to discourage involvement in gangs but most of the policing is done by specialist teams. SNTs also support colleagues in pursuing warrants against individuals to disrupt the gangs.

Asked about cycling on pavements and citizen's arrests Sgt Ball explained there are Any Person Arrest powers but they do not recommend residents putting themselves in that position. It would be better to call contact the police. Cycling on the pavement would not be a high priority unless serious danger is posed. If serious incidents are happening regularly in the same place, then contact the teams and they can look into taking actions.

The future of Mitcham Police Station was also discussed. Sgt Ball said that the station is currently open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday whilst Wimbledon Station is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The plan is to move the services from Wimbledon to Mitcham but there is no timetable for this and still lots of debate about the changes. Reporting crime out of hours can be done by 999 in an emergency, 101 or online if not urgent or by email to the SNT.

3 MERTON HEALTH AND CARE PLAN (Agenda Item 3)

Abbas Mirza, spoke about the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group's plans and the conversations they have been having with residents. A presentation is available in Appendix 1.

Abbas said the role of the CCG is to improve health and well-being, reduce health inequalities, and ensure equal access to quality services. Every year the CCG produces new plans and speaks to residents about services. Since August they have been speaking with community groups across Merton. They are facing a number of challenges including:

- We know patients have to wait longer than they would expect to, to access some services
- The NHS is facing unprecedented financial challenges
- The quality of some of our services are variable
- Not all of our NHS buildings are in the best condition and need repairs
- Having good access psychological therapies remains a challenge

- There is expected growth in our population which will put pressure on services now and in the future
- There is an increasing demand for new treatments and therapies

The CCG has three priorities areas:

Start Well - Integrated support for children and families; Emotional wellbeing and mental health

Live Well - Wellbeing and long term conditions; Mental health and wellbeing

Age Well - Complex health and care needs

Abbas asked residents for feedback on local services. Residents asked about the future of primary care in Mitcham. Abbas said there was no news on funding for the redevelopment of the Wilson, that there would be a review of local services once the Wilson was complete and operating on a similar model to the Nelson but no decisions have been made any particular facilities. A number of residents complained about waits for GP appointments at local surgeries and Abbas said he would raise these with colleagues. Abbas explained the role of the GP Hub at Wide Way Medical practice, patients can be referred by their GP or through 111.

4 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Agenda Item 4)

Councillor Stephen Alambritis provided an update and responded to questions. Finances across local government remain stretched and Merton was no exception. The latest Medium Term Financial Strategy shows that there is a budget gap of £19m from 2019/20 to 2022/23. This would be met through a mix of savings and income generation. Much of the cost pressures relate to Adult Social Care where the Council has a statutory duty to provide for some of the most vulnerable people in Merton. The Council has invested an additional £9m in Adult Social Care to help meet these challenges.

Children's services where the Council is a corporate parent to 135 children and young people are also a high priority. The recent Ofsted inspection found that the Council was good with outstanding features and one of the top ten authorities in England.

Working in partnership with other boroughs has also helped reduce costs. Merton leads a legal services partnership on behalf of four other boroughs; shares regulatory services like licensing across three boroughs and has even let out three floors in the Civic Centre to colleagues in the NHS. Renting out parks has also brought in additional revenue but can cause residents concern which the council is sensitive to. The new dementia friendly library in Colliers Wood was recently short-listed for the 2018 Library of the Year award. Wimbledon Arts Space is booked up until 25 November and will have a ministerial visit on 11 October.

The Council has created an additional 4400 extra primary school places since 2010 by extending 23 schools and a new secondary school, Harris Wimbledon, has

opened in the former adult education site at Whately Avenue. The school will then move to a new building on High Path in South Wimbledon for the 2020 intake and is already oversubscribed. There are now 15 outstanding schools in Merton, including the most recently Harris Morden, a school which had previously rated as inadequate. The Council's School Improvement Team continues to work across the borough to support schools. In last year's GCSE results Merton had the highest scores for the Progress 8 school which measures progress from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4. There a number of important regeneration projects underway. Clarion Housing is investing £1billion in improving three estates, that will result in better quality homes and no loss of social housing. The More Morden regeneration is back on track, with a new local plan being developed in 2018, and a development partner being appointed to begin works on improving the public domain in 2021. The new £13m Morden Leisure Centre is due to open later in the autumn with a six-lane pool, diving pool, café and gym. The old leisure centre will then be demolished and returned to park land. On Plough Lane work is progressing on the new football stadium for AFC Wimbledon. The club will hopefully move in for the 2020/21 season. There will also be 600 new homes, at least 30% of which will be affordable. There is also a new draft Masterplan for Wimbledon Town Centre and residents are encouraged to give their views on it.

The use of Landfill needs to stop and the new rubbish and recycling service that began on 1 October should help increase the amount of household rubbish is recycled to over 45%. The new system should also save £1.6m in the first year, £2million a year thereafter and reduce litter on the street. The street cleaning performance of Veolia has not been good enough, and we are sorry for that. In 2017/18 we deducted 10% of the contract value and will do again this year if necessary. In response to questions about the new scheme Cllr Alambritis said that this was a four borough contract and was similar to many other schemes across the country. Veolia have allocated more resources and if more resources are needed for the contract management this will be looked at.

Cllr Alambritis thanked all those who volunteered in Merton. Volunteers are an essential part of life in Merton and he was pleased that the Cabinet had just agreed to continue to support the voluntary sector through a new Strategic Partner Funding Programme.

In response to questions Cllr Alambritis said that the South London Partnership had a mandate to look at more shared services across councils but these have to fit the needs of the borough.

Cllr Alambritis also clarified that for those households who had received wheelie bins but had been reassessed and would not be keeping them the council would remove the bins as soon as possible. The same collection scheme in Sutton and Kingston had increased recycling to over 50%, and landfill across the four boroughs would be further reduced by the use of the new Energy Recovery Facility at Beddington.

Cllr Alambritis agreed with residents that Veolia's performance on street cleaning has not been good enough and the council is applying pressure to get improvements and once the new collection system is bedded in we expect to see improvement. Deductions have been made from the contract and this will continue if necessary.

A residents asked about a planning application for the La Sporta site on Church Road. Cllr Alambritis agreed to look into this.

A resident asked about the costs and the air pollution issues at the site of the new Harris Academy. Cllr Alambritis said the project would cost the council £6m but would bring an additional £35m from other sources including the Education and Skills Funding Agency. The Council has an Air Quality Action Plan and is working with the Mayor London to address air quality. The Planning Applications Committee will look at all the evidence including Air Quality when it makes its decision. There is a big push to move all cars over to electric by 2040 and Merton is supporting this with new charging points across the borough.

5 CANONS HERITAGE PROJECT (Agenda Item 5)

Alison Plant, Project Manager, gave a presentation on the Heritage Lottery Fund Project at the Canons. The presentation can be seen in appendix 2.

Alison highlighted the opening up of a new East/West route that will provide access to the walled garden. Alison also mentioned some of the activities planned for the next four years and the many opportunities to get involved and volunteer. Will Hardy will be hosting workshops to look at the design of the new play area.

A resident asked if the restored running track would be the original 400 yards or changed to the modern 400m. Alison said this would depend largely on the planned usage and work would not begin until sufficient funding had been secured. Alison also said that the Dovecote would be restored but doves would not be encouraged to return and that adult education would return to the building, making use of the flexible space in the basement. The Heritage Centre would not be moving back from Morden. Alison said there were no plans for new staff to be recruited. A resident asked about a skip that has been left on site and Alison said she would check with the hire company. UPDATE: the skip hire company said they didn't have a record of it on hire but they should be removing it on 24 October.

6 OPEN FORUM (Agenda Item 6)

Cricket Green School would be hosting an archaeological dig on 25 October from 2.30-4pm which residents were encouraged to join. Cllr Alambritis confirmed that Merton Council was committed to maintaining cricket on the Cricket Green and would work with local partners to support their campaign.

A resident raised concern about illegal activity at 55-61 Manor Road (Tyre shop). The response from the Development Control team was that the files have been passed to a prosecution officer who will look at it fully in the next 2 weeks. In the next month they will visit the site and prepare the new witness statement to prosecute.

A resident had asked by email about Mitcham Town Centre Planting. James Geeson from Future Merton had responded to say that we lost 4 trees and all the shrubs in the islands, due to the extreme summer conditions. The shrubs have since been removed and replaced with grass, and we will remove the dead trees and plant new ones before Christmas.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda Item 7)

Councillor Chung thanked residents for attending and closed the meeting.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 27 February at 7.15pm, in Pollards Hill Library

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- We work to continuously improve the services we plan and buy for people living in Merton
- We can only do this if we speak to patients and local community groups to gather their views on the services they use and what they feel needs improving
- To do this we are holding series of meetings with **community and patient groups** between August and November 2018
- We are using learning from similar work we did last year with patients to improve conversations with local people and community groups this year



Our challenges

- We know patients have to wait longer than they would expect to, to access some services
- The NHS is facing unprecedented financial challenges
- The quality of some of our services are variable
- Not all of our NHS buildings are in the best condition and need repairs
- Having good access psychological therapies remains a challenge
- There is expected growth in our population which will put pressure on services now and in the future
- There is an increasing demand for new treatments and therapies



Early thinking about our priorities

Start Well

- Integrated support for children and families
- Emotional wellbeing and mental health

Live Well

- Wellbeing and long term conditions
- Mental health and wellbeing

Age Well

- Complex health and care needs



What local people and community organisations have told us so far



Continuity of care remains a priority for people in Merton, with a particular reference to ongoing support for managing long term conditions such as diabetes.

Accessibility of services is very important to people in Merton, particularly for services they have to use regularly

Paragraph



There is significant support for better **integration of health and social care services**. Services do not always feel **person centred** and did not always take into account the background and preferences of the individual.

People in Merton place a lot of value in **therapy support, and other specialist input**. However people did report concerns about the capacity of these teams and their ability to recruit and retain good staff



People are very positive about the move towards services **encouraging wellbeing and independence**. The social prescribing pilot in East Merton has held up as being a particularly good example of this.

Mental Health is a clear priority for people in Merton. Access to mental health services was raised as a concern, particularly for services for common mental health issues.



Tell us what you matters to you?

- What NHS services have you used and liked in Merton?
- What services have you used that you think could be improved?



What we will do with your feedback and comments

- We will use the feedback from this conversation to help shape our plans and deliver improvements in local services
- We will develop a report to show how we have taken on your comments and what services have changed as result of patient and public feedback, and share this with you



Any questions ?



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CANONS
HOUSE & GROUNDS

'Parks for People' Project
Heritage Lottery & Big Lottery Funded

Alison Plant - Project Manager

Capital Works

£4.4 million - Grant funding

2.5 years

Design	Autumn / Winter 2018
Tender	Winter 2018 / Spring 2019
Construction	Spring / Summer 2019
Ends	2020

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- Restoration of Canons House Dovecote & Obelisk
- Demolition of 1960's extensions
- New Café & Toilets
- New Playground
- Landscape works
- Community & office space



Canons House & Madeira Hall - existing

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Canons House

- Restoration, conservation & construction
- Office space
- Community / Corporate events
- Community heritage / interpretation



The Canons, Mitcham Proposals



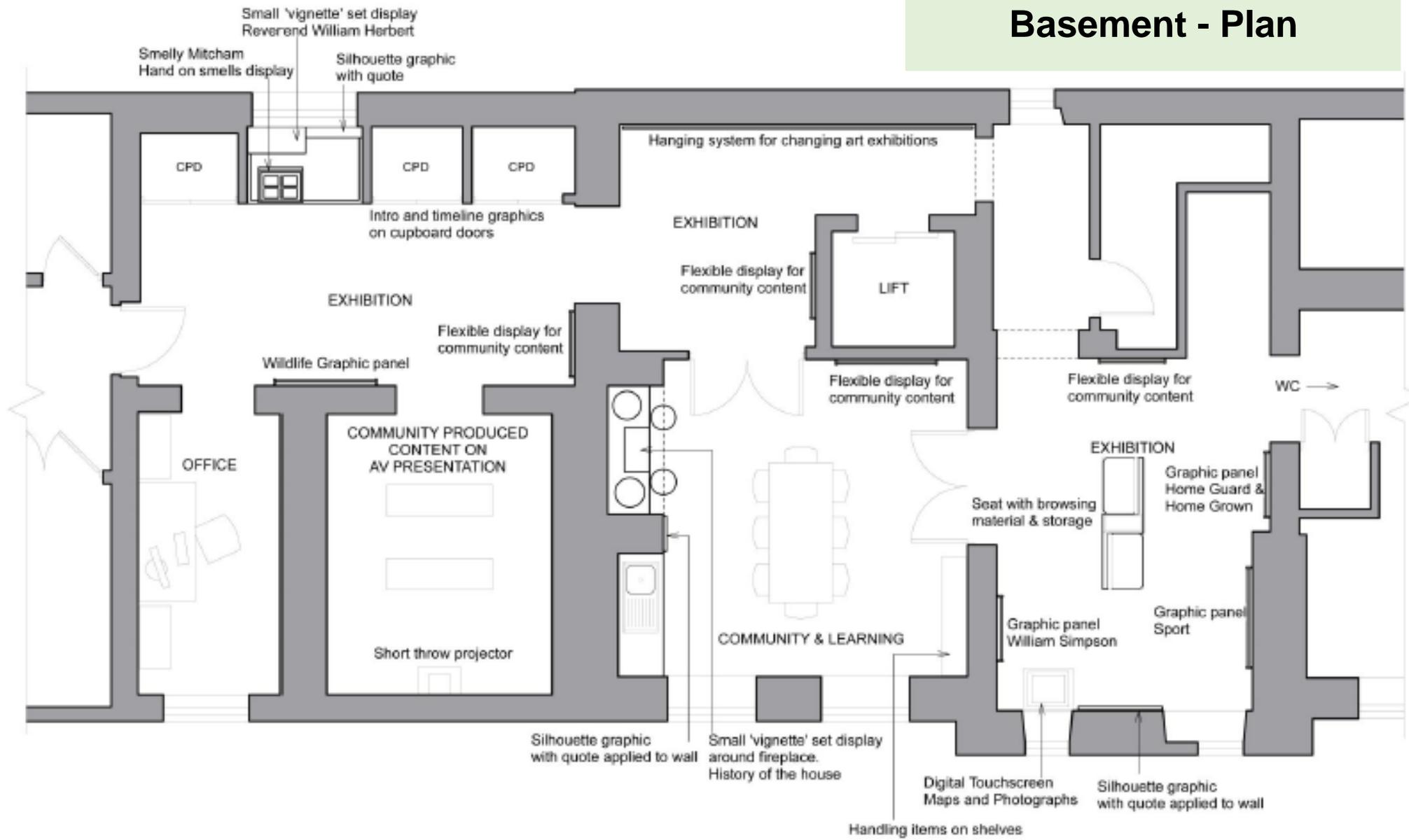
Canons House and Café - proposals



Canons House and Café - proposals



Basement - Plan



Activities & Events

4 year programme:

Year 1: **Introducing**

Year 2: **Rediscovering**

Year 3: **Celebrating**

Year 4: **The Future**

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Engagement opportunities:

- History
- Heritage
- Community



Community Engagement

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Forthcoming events

- Archaeology
- The Wandle Trust Education
- Playground Workshops
- Friends of the Canons



Thank You

Any Questions?

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2018

NOTICE OF MOTION

Wimbledon Masterplan – making the decision democratically

Council Notes:

- The publication of the draft Wimbledon Masterplan;
- That there has been a strong public reaction to some elements of the Masterplan;
- The comment from the Leader of the Council on Twitter that “We must look to other innovative Councils like @yourcroydon as we forge ahead to deliver a new Wimbledon”;
- That following the current consultation, the Masterplan will be put to the Cabinet for approval;
- That none of the Cabinet represent a Wimbledon ward; and
- That the draft Local Plan, also out for consultation, will be approved by the full Council

Council believes:

- That Wimbledon town centre is a major shopping, commercial and leisure location for all our communities.
- That the decision on whether to approve the Wimbledon Masterplan should be taken by the full Council in the same way as the Local Plan.

Cllr Anthony Fairclough

Cllr Paul Kohler

Cllr Simon McGrath

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COUNCIL MEETING – 21st NOVEMBER

NOTICE OF MOTION

The council acknowledges that its member level arrangements are largely unchanged since the last review of the Constitution in 2002, and the adoption of the new Council Procedure Rules in 2006.

Council resolves to establish a cross-party working group to report to the council via the Standards and General Purposes Committee, with recommended changes to the Constitution. The intention of which will be to enable it to reflect best in class processes and procedures more suited to the current expectations of the council by both councillors and the public. This will include, but not be limited to:

- The meeting format of the council and its committees;
- Scrutiny arrangements;
- Council communications;
- Public engagement with a special regard to meetings and consultations.

Cllr Daniel Holden

Cllr David Simpson

Cllr David Williams

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Council Meeting – 21st November 2018

Notice of Motion

The council notes:

1. Though slavery was abolished in the UK in 1833, there are more slaves today than ever before in human history. Figures from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) suggest that there are more than 40 million people in modern slavery across the world, with nearly 25 million held in forced labour.
2. There were 3,805 victims of modern slavery identified in the UK in 2016. A rising number but still well below the 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims estimated by the Home Office.
3. Modern slavery is happening nationwide. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment. This can include sexual and criminal exploitation.

The council believes:

- a. That action needs to be taken to raise awareness of modern slavery and the fact that it is happening all over the UK.
- b. That the current support for victims is not sufficient and needs to go beyond the 45 days they are currently given by the government.
- c. That councils have an important role to play in ensuring their contracts and supplies don't contribute to modern day slavery and exploitation.
- d. An important step is adoption of the Co-operative Party's Charter Against Modern Slavery which states:

The council will:

1. Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.
2. Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
3. Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
4. Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
5. Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.

6. Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
7. Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
8. Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
9. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
10. Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.

The council calls on cabinet:

1. To adopt the Co-operative Party's Charter against modern slavery to ensure our procurement practices do not support slavery.
2. To consider the wider impact of modern slavery on the borough, and work to ensure that all forms of modern slavery are eliminated in Merton.

Cllr Aidan Mundy

Cllr Martin Whelton

Cllr Joan Henry

Council Meeting – 21st November 2018

Notice of Motion

Merton's migrant communities contribute a huge amount to the borough, and are the heart of the borough's cultural identity.

Merton Council expresses dismay at the 'hostile environment', and the financial and emotional impact this has had on the Windrush generation and their families, including children and grandchildren.

The council notes:

1. the work of organisations the JCWI, BME Lawyers 4 Justice, the Runnymede Trust, MPs and the All Parliamentary Group on Race who have been campaigning on these issues, and
2. the role the Caribbean High Commissions have played in lobbying the Government.

The council resolves to:

1. Write to the Prime Minister to call for an independent public enquiry into the Windrush scandal,
2. Demand the Government fully supports advice agencies in their work to achieve justice (and compensation for all losses, injury and damages to date where necessary) for all Merton residents of the Windrush generation,
3. Review our own policies and procedures to ensure we support those affected,
4. Support the call for fees for naturalisation to be waived for all those who have been affected, and
5. Oppose the criminalisation of Windrush families.

Cllr Edith Macauley

Cllr Stan Anderson

Cllr Marsie Skeete

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Committee: Council

Date: 21 November 2018

Wards: All

Subject: Council Tax Support Scheme 2019/20 and Council Tax Technical Reforms 2019

Lead officer: Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services

Lead member: Councillor Mark Allison,

Contact officer: David Keppler, Head of Revenues and Benefits

Recommendations:

1. That the uprating changes for the 2019/20 council tax support scheme detailed in the report be agreed, in order to maintain low council tax charges for those on lower incomes and other vulnerable residents
 2. That Council adopts the new 2019/20 scheme.
 3. That Council agrees to implement the council tax technical reforms concerning the increased empty property premium from 1 April 2019 and subsequent years following the amendments to Section 11B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report details the proposed changes to Merton's adopted council tax support scheme to ensure that the level of support awarded stays in line with the old council tax benefit scheme had it continued and therefore residents are not worse off due to the new scheme.
- 1.2. The report also details the change incorporated in the council tax technical reforms regarding long term empty properties and the additional premiums councils can charge.
- 1.3. That council agrees to implement recommendation 1, 2 and 3 above.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. **Council Tax Support Scheme 2019/20**
- 2.2. As part of the Spending Review 2010, the Government announced that it intended to localise council tax benefit (CTB) from 1 April 2013 with a 10% reduction in expenditure. These plans were included as part of the terms of reference for the Local Government Resource Review and the then Welfare Reform Bill contained provisions to abolish CTB.
- 2.3. Following a formal consultation exercise full Council agreed on the 21 November 2012 to absorb the funding reduction and adopt the prescribed default scheme in order to maintain low council tax charges for those on lower

incomes and other vulnerable residents. CTB was formally abolished with effect from 1 April 2013

- 2.4. Council have subsequently agreed to continue with the same scheme on an annual basis for 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19.
- 2.5. Each year the government “uprate” the housing benefit scheme and the new council tax support scheme for pensioners. This is where state pensions and benefits are increased by a set percentage and the government also increase the applicable amounts and personal allowances (elements that help identify how much income a family or individual requires each week before their housing benefit starts to be reduced) and also non dependant deductions (the amount a non child who lives with the claimant is expected to contribute to the rent and or council tax each week).
- 2.6. The government have stated that under the new local council tax support scheme pensioners must not be worse off and that existing levels of support for them must remain and this protection will be achieved by keeping in place existing national rules, with eligibility and rates defined in Regulations broadly similar to those that previously existed. This is known as the Prescribed Pensioners scheme.
- 2.7. When full Council adopted the governments default scheme in November 2012 it was not clear what would happen with regards to the uprating of the default scheme from April 2014 onwards. Advice received from the then Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) at the end of September 2013 stated that if a Council did not formally agree a revised scheme for the following financial year which would include any “uprating” then its local scheme for the previous year would automatically become its default scheme and as a consequence the “uprating” would not take place and many residents would face an increased council tax bill.
- 2.8. This means that if Merton wants to continue with its council tax support scheme which is broadly similar to the old council tax benefit scheme it would have to formally consult and agree on the “uprating” each year. Merton has subsequently agreed this approach in prior years and is now seeking agreement to the same for 2019/20.
- 2.9. It is estimated that if the uprating was not applied the expenditure of the scheme, if everything else remained constant, would be approximately cost neutral. Increases in payments for non-dependants living in households would not be applied and some residents receiving disability benefits or premiums could face higher council tax bills.
- 2.10. The government will uprate the housing benefit scheme from the 1 April 2019 and the detail of this process is unlikely to be known until early December 2018. The government will also uprate the prescribed pensioner scheme for council tax support from 1 April 2019, with the details announced in December 2018. Once the detailed information is known it is proposed to use the data from these to uprate the council tax support scheme.
- 2.11. The uprating of the council tax support scheme will be effective from the 1 April 2018.
- 2.12. A formal consultation exercise regarding the change of the scheme was undertaken between 24 August 2018 and 19 October 2018. Only 4 responses

were received, 2 opted to apply the uprating and 2 opted not to apply the uprating. Only one comment was received which was in favour of ensuring that those residents in receipt of council tax support continue to “receive as much as possible to help prevent them getting in to the debt spiral”.

- 2.13. This level of response is in contrast to the consultation exercise undertaken in the summer of 2012 when the Council first proposed to absorb the funding reduction and ensure that no Merton residents would be worse off due to the change in scheme. Then there were 1,007 responses of which 820 opted to retain the same level of support as council tax benefit and keep the level of contribution towards the council tax down for eligible applicants. Only 69 opted to implement a new council tax support scheme that’s offers less assistance and means that certain groups of people would have to pay more council tax.
- 2.14. The Council has also consulted with our major precepting authority, the Greater London Authority (GLA). The GLA is content to endorse the broad approach taken by the council however, it believes the council should review the proposed changes as a whole and if one proposed change results in a greater saving to the council that could be used to reduce the need to apply other proposals then they suggest the council does this so that it would help to reduce the financial burden on some individuals and families in Merton who see their council tax support reduced.
- 2.15. **Council Tax Technical Reforms**
- 2.16. In 2012 Local Government Finance legislation was amended to give billing authorities discretion to remove or reduce the discounts and exemptions awarded for empty properties and second homes and to give authorities the option to charge up to an additional 50% premium on long term empty properties (over two years empty).
- 2.17. On 6 February 2013 full council agreed to remove the discounts and exemptions on empty properties and second homes and also agreed that a review of the empty homes premium would be undertaken for the full year 2013/14 and reported back to Cabinet for consideration for the 2015/16 budget process.
- 2.18. On the 19 November 2014 full council agreed to implement the empty homes premium of 50% from April 2015.
- 2.19. Since April 2015 the council has charged taxpayers 50% premium on properties that have been empty for over two years.
- 2.20. Although the number of properties affected by this fluctuates the council has approximately charged between 160 and 190 taxpayers the additional premium per year.
- 2.21. Based on the latest figures of 166 as at October 2018 being charged at Band D this premium will raise approximately £97,000 council tax for Merton this year.
- 2.22. The Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Bill (the Bill) has now been approved by both Houses of Parliament. The Bill received Royal Assent on 1 November 2018, becoming an Act and law.

- 2.23. The provisions of the 2018 Act amend Section 11B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Section 11B, as amended) to allow billing authorities to increase the premium on empty properties from 50% to 100%.
- 2.24. The Section 11B, as amended, provides for the increase and implementation to take effect in the financial year commencing 1st April 2019.
- 2.25. Section 11B, as amended, also gives billing authorities the ability to charge higher premiums in subsequent years for properties that have been empty for longer periods of time.
- 2.26. Billing authorities are now empowered to increase the premiums payable over time as follows: -
- From 1 April 2019 – 100% premium for properties that have been empty for 2 years or more
- From 1 April 2020 – 200% premium for properties that have been empty for 5 years or more
- From 1 April 2021 – 300% premium for properties that have been empty for 10 years or more.
- 2.27. As at October 2018 there were 166 long term empty properties being charged the 50% premium. Of these, 13 have been empty for 10 years or more, 18 empty for between 5 and 10 years and 135 empty for between 2 and 5 years.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. The only alternative option for the Council Tax Support Scheme based on the consultation undertaken would be not to undertake the uprating of the scheme and continue with the existing scheme. This would result in some of the poorest residents facing increased council tax bills from April 2019
- 3.2. The alternative option for the Council Tax Technical Reform changes would be not to implement them or delay implementation and review at some further stage.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. A consultation exercise has been undertaken and the results of this are detailed in 2.12 and 2.14 above.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. The key milestones for council tax support scheme are detailed below:

Task	Deadline
Consultation with public and precepting authority on proposed change to the scheme	24 August 2018 to 19 October 2018

Report to full Council for agreement to proposed change to the scheme	21 November 2018
Detailed analysis of the housing benefit and prescribed pensioner schemes uprating to establish exact parameters to be applied for the uprating of the council tax support scheme	December 2018 – or as soon as the information is available from the Department of Work and Pensions
Deadline for agreement of amended scheme	11 March 2019
Testing of IT software for amended scheme	February 2019
Implement amended scheme	1 April 2019

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. Based on current expenditure for 2018/19 it is estimated that £11 million will be granted in council tax support for 2019/20 based on 2018/19 council Tax levels. This figure includes the Greater London Authorities share of the scheme (£2.2 million), the cost for Merton is £8.8 million. This is an increase on the previous year which is due to the council tax increase last year.

6.2. It is estimated that if the uprating was not applied the expenditure of the scheme, if everything else remained constant, would be approximately cost neutral.

6.3. The council has recently submitted its Council Tax Base Return (CTB) to Government. This is based as at October 2018 and incorporates the latest information on council tax support and discounts and exemptions. This will be used to calculate the Council Tax Base for 2019/20 and the MTFS 2019-23 will be updated as appropriate during the budget process.

6.4 Council Tax Proposed revisions to Empty Property Premiums

Based on the 166 properties as at October 2018 outlined in paragraph 2.27 and using Merton's current Band D Council Tax, the revisions to premiums would result in additional income to the Council as follows:-

	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000
Merton Premium from Empty Properties	97	194	230	246
Additional income		97	133	149

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The Council must formally agree its council tax support scheme for 2019/20 by no later than 11 March 2019.
- 7.2. If a new scheme is not agreed by this date then the scheme the council administered for the previous year (2018/19) would become the default scheme for 2019/20.
- 7.3. The Rating (Property in Common Occupation) and Council Tax (Empty Dwellings) Act 2018 amends the provisions of Section 11B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, to enable the Council, as the Billing Authority, to increase the empty property premium payable as detailed in 2.26 above.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. A formal consultation exercise has been undertaken. The results of this are detailed in 2.12 and 2.14 above.
- 8.2. Any changes to the council tax scheme which results in reductions of support will mean some residents facing an increase in their council tax bills. Some of these residents, due to the yearly uprating undertaken by the Department of Work and Pensions, would not have previously been faced with increased council tax bills. In the past it has sometimes proved difficult in collecting council tax from residents who are on limited income and or benefits.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. It is possible that taxpayers may not pay the additional premium, however, since the 50% premium was implemented in 2015 this has not been the case and taxpayers have paid. .

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. The Council will need to continue to closely monitor the cost of the council tax support scheme to ensure it is affordable for future years. Although in previous years we have not seen an increase in caseload, it is possible that the full impact of the welfare reform could result in more families located in inner London moving into Merton which would result in an increase in council tax support expenditure

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

None

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1. Consultation letter from GLA

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Meeting: Council

Date: 21 November 2018

Wards: All.

Subject: Adoption of the Council's new draft Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005.

Lead officer: Chris Lee, Director of Environment and Regeneration.

Lead member: Councillor Nick Draper, Cabinet Member for Community and Culture.

Contact Officer: Barry Croft, Licensing Manager, London Boroughs of Merton and Richmond upon Thames Joint Regulatory Services Partnership and Guy Bishop, Senior Lawyer, Litigation and Planning Team.

Recommendations:

- A. To adopt the revised draft Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005, as approved by Members of the Licensing Committee on 10 October 2018.
-

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 There is a statutory requirement under section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 for the Council to review and republish its Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 every three years.

2. DETAILS.

- 2.1 This is the fifth Statement of Principles in respect of the Gambling Act; the fourth having been adopted by the Council in 2016.

- 2.2 The public consultation of the draft Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 took place between 25 June and 17 September 2018. An electronic copy of the draft document was published on the Council's website. All responsible authorities, a number of interested parties, residents associations and Ward Councillors were notified of the public consultation. The Council's consultation team also circulated details of the public consultation.

- 2.3 During the consultation period the Licensing Authority received a total of four responses. Copies of responses received were presented to Members of the Licensing Committee for their consideration at the meeting held on Wednesday 10 October 2018. Having considered the comments received Members of the Licensing Committee decided to approve the draft Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 with a recommendation for adoption by full Council. A copy of the final draft is attached at **Appendix "A"**

3. Alternative options.

- 3.1 None for the purposes of this report.

- 4. Consultation undertaken or proposed.**
- 4.1 A twelve week (three month) public consultation was undertaken on the proposed revisions the (draft) Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 between 25 June and 17 September 2018.
- 5. Timetable.**
- 5.1 Following adoption by full Council the revised Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 will be published on the Council's website for use from the 31 January 2019.
- 6. Financial, resource and property implications.**
- 6.1 None for the purposes of this report.
- 7. Legal and statutory implications.**
- 7.1 None for the purposes of this report.
- 8. Human rights, equalities and community cohesion implications.**
- 8.1 These are statutory functions and are applied globally.
- 9. Crime and Disorder Implications.**
- 9.1 The service has a statutory duty to contribute to the reduction of crime and disorder within the London Borough of Merton under Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1988.
- 10. Risk management and health and safety implications.**
- 10.1 All risk and health and safety implications have been considered when compiling this report. None are apparent.
- 11. Appendices – the following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report.**
- 11.1 Appendix "A" Draft Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005.
- 12. Background Papers – the following documents have been relied on in drawing up this report but do not form part of the report.**
- 12.1 The Gambling Act 2005; and
- 12.2 Gambling Commission Guidance to Local Authorities 5th Edition published on 30 September 2015.

London Borough of Merton

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES under the Gambling Act 2005

From January 2019 to January 2022

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 - 1.5 Licensable Premises and Permits
 - 1.6 General Principles
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1 STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES UNDER THE GAMBLING ACT 2005

1.1 Introduction

London Borough of Merton is the Licensing Authority under the Gambling Act 2005 and is responsible for granting premises licences in the Borough in respect of: -

- ❖ Casino premises;
- ❖ Bingo premises;
- ❖ Betting premises, including tracks;
- ❖ Adult Gaming Centres;
- ❖ Family Entertainment Centres;
- ❖ Club Gaming Permits;
- ❖ Club Machine Permits;
- ❖ Small Lotteries;
- ❖ Temporary Use Notices;
- ❖ Occasional Use Notices; and
- ❖ Alcohol licensed premises permits and notifications.

The Gambling Act 2005 requires the Licensing Authority to prepare and publish a “Statement of Licensing Policy” that sets out the policies that the Licensing Authority will generally apply to promote the Licensing Objectives when making decisions on applications made under the Act.

This “Statement of Licensing Policy” has been adopted having regard to the provisions of the revised Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, responses from consultees and the licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005.

The formal Statement of Licensing Policy is available on Merton’s website at www.merton.gov.uk/licensing/Gambling

This policy came into effect on 31 January 2019 and has been reviewed in accordance with statute. The Policy will be reviewed as necessary, and at least every three years from the date of its adoption.

A consultation on this policy took place between 25 June and 17 September 2018.

The London Borough of Merton will aim to permit the use of premises for gambling as set out in the Act.

1.2 The London Borough of Merton

The London Borough of Merton is one of the metropolitan boroughs located in South West London and is predominantly urban in character. The Borough is composed principally of five town centres rather than a single, dominant centre and these form the basis of the Council’s community focus. The town centres are Wimbledon, Raynes Park, Mitcham, Colliers Wood and Morden.

At the last count the population of the borough was just under 203,200 (last updated in 2016). As far as the economy is concerned, Merton is still heavily reliant on leisure and service industries, which form almost 60% of total employment within the borough.

Merton is also densely populated. In contrast, the Borough has one of the highest proportions of parks and open spaces within the London area, some one third of them being green field sites.

1.3 Glossary of Terms

Within this Statement of Policy, the following words and terms are defined as stated:

Licensing Objectives:	As defined in section 1.6 below
Licensing Authority:	London Borough Of Merton
Licences:	As stated in section 1.5 below
Applications:	Applications for licences and permits as defined in section 1.5 & 1.6 below
Notifications:	Means notification of temporary and occasional use notices
Act:	The Gambling Act 2005 (as amended)
Regulations:	Regulations made under the Gambling Act 2005
Premises:	Any place, including a vehicle, vessel or moveable structure
Code of Practice:	Means any relevant code of practice made under section 24 of the Gambling Act 2005
Mandatory Condition:	Means a specified condition provided by regulations to be attached to a licence
Default Condition:	Means a specified condition provided by regulations to be attached to a licence, unless excluded by the Council
Provisional Statement:	Means an application made prior to construction or extensive building work is undertaken to ascertain whether the grant of a licence is likely.
Responsible Authority:	For the purposes of this Act, the following are responsible authorities in relation to premises: 1. The London Borough Of Merton; 2. The Gambling Commission;

3. **Metropolitan Police at Wimbledon Police Station;**
4. **Planning Department;**
5. **Environmental Protection** (the authority which has functions in relation to pollution of the environment or harm to human health)
6. **Merton Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) & LBM's Safeguarding Adults Service;**
7. **HM Customs and Excise;**
8. **The London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority; and**
9. **Any other person prescribed in regulations made by the Secretary of State**

Interested Party:

For the purposes of this Act, a person is an interested party in relation to a premises licence if, in the opinion of the Licensing Authority which issues the licence or to which the application is made, that person:

- a) **Lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities;**
- b) **Has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities;**
- c) **Represents persons who satisfy a) or b) above.**

Local Area Profile:

Gambling operators have been required to undertake risk assessments for their premises since 6th April 2016 (and keep the risk assessment document on site), which should take into account the nature and characteristics of the locality in which they are situated, such as the proximity of schools, churches, addiction rehabilitation centres, offender hostels, etc. and the preponderance for gambling in certain areas of the Borough. Such risk assessments have to consider the Borough's Local Area Profile which maps reported gambling-related problems in any area of the Borough is a live separate document which will remain under review as changes take place within the borough. The Local Area Profile document is designed to increase awareness of identified detailed risks, to inform operators with constructive engagement when completing risk assessments and to allow them to address identified local risks.

1.4 Licensing Objectives

This document sets out the policies that the Licensing Authority will apply when making decisions upon applications or notifications made for: -

1. Premises Licences;
2. Temporary Use Notices;
3. Permits as required under the Act; and
4. Registrations as required under the Act.

1.5 Licensable Premises and Permits

This policy relates to all those licensable premises, notices, permits and registrations identified as falling within the provisions of the Act, namely: -

1. Casinos;
2. Bingo Premises;
3. Betting Premises;
4. Tracks;
5. Adult Gaming Centres;
6. Family Entertainment Centres;
7. Club Gaming Permits;
8. Prize Gaming Permits;
9. Occasional Use Notices
10. Temporary Use Notices;
11. Registration of small society lotteries; and
12. Alcohol licensed premises

1.6 General Principles

Section 153 of the Gambling Act 2005 governs how the Licensing Authority or Licensing Committees will consider and determine applications for Premises Licences applications and other applications under the Gambling Act 2005. A Licensing Authority or Committee will 'aim to permit the use of premises for gambling' in so far as the authority think it in accordance with any relevant Code of Practice, any relevant Guidance issued by the Gambling Commission, reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives and in accordance with this statement. A Licensing Authority or Committee will not consider expected demand for the facilities being considered.

The Licensing Objectives are as follows:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder, being associated with crime or disorder, or being used to support crime
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling

Nothing in this Statement of Policy will: -

1. Undermine the rights of any person to apply under the Act for a variety of permissions, other than casinos, and have the application considered on its individual merits in accordance with the Act; or
2. Override the right of any person to make representations on any application or seek a review of a licence or permit where they are permitted to do so under the Act.

The starting point in determining applications will be to grant the application without conditions, other than the mandatory conditions or default conditions laid down by the Secretary of State or reject the application. Conditions, where allowed, will only be considered where they are needed to meet the requirements of the licensing objectives and the criteria above in Section 153 of the Gambling Act 2005, and any conditions applied will be proportionate. Conditions will be considered unnecessary if they are already adequately covered by other legislation or in the Default or Mandatory Conditions.

When determining an application to grant a Premises Licence or review a Premises Licence, the Licensing Authority will have regard to the proximity of the premises to schools, vulnerable adult centres and residential areas where there may be a high concentration of families with children. The proximity of premises taken into consideration will vary depending on the size and scope of the gambling premises concerned. Each case will be considered on its merits. We would expect the applicant to effectively demonstrate how they might promote the licensing objectives, address any relevant guidance issued by the Gambling Commission under section 25 of the Act and be in accordance with any relevant code of practice issued under section 24 of the Act. We would therefore expect a premises risk assessment taking into consideration the locality where the premises are situated.

When considering any conditions to be attached to licences, the Licensing Authority will primarily focus on the impact of the authorised activities taking place at licensed premises on interested parties and/or in the context of the Licensing Objectives.

Interested Parties

The Licensing Authority will form an opinion as to whether a person is an Interested Party, based on whether that person represents those that have or live sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities or has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities. Factors the Licensing Authority may take into account to determine whether or not an interested party is within the proximity of the premises are as follows:

1. the nature of the activities;
2. the size of the premises;
3. the proposed hours of operation of the premises; and
4. the distance of the premises (eg town centre, residential, rural) from the location of the interested party making the representation.

This list is not exhaustive and the Licensing Authority may take into account any other factors that they consider to be relevant in deciding whether or not someone is an interested party.

In all cases, each application will be determined on its individual merits.

In determining any application the Licensing Authority may not have regard to the expected demand for the facilities, which it is proposed that the premises intend to provide.

The Licensing Authority recognises that, apart from the licensing function, there are a number of other mechanisms available for addressing issues that can occur away from licensed premises that may give rise to objections including:

1. Planning controls;
2. Ongoing measures to create a safe and clean environment in these areas in partnership with local businesses, transport operators and other Council departments;
3. Regular liaison with the Police on law enforcement issues regarding disorder and anti-social behaviour;
4. The power of the Police, other responsible authorities or local residents and businesses to seek a review of the licence.

Objectors will be required to relate their objection to one or more of the Licensing Objectives for Gambling, listed at 1.6 above, before the Licensing Authority will be able to consider it. An application for a review of a licence must be made on the prescribed form but must also relate to the 3 Licensing Objectives for Gambling, listed at 1.6 above.

The Licensing Authority, in undertaking its licensing function, will have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote equality and good relations between persons of different racial groups and to promote equality of opportunity for people with disabilities.

1.7 Consultees

The Statement of Licensing Policy has been subject to formal consultation with:

- The Borough Commander of the Metropolitan Police at Wimbledon Police Station;
- Persons who appear to the Authority to represent the interests of those carrying on gambling businesses in the authority's area
- Businesses who are, or will be, holders of a premises licence
- Organisations named as Responsible Authorities in the Act
- Persons who appear to the Authority to represent the interests of persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the authority's functions under this Act; e.g. representatives of residents associations currently notified to the Licensing Authority, Wimbledon Civic Forum, Local Trade Associations etc
- Other organisations including faith groups, voluntary and community organisations working with children and young people, organisations working

with people who are problem gamblers, medical practices or primary care trusts, and advocacy organisations (such as the Citizen's Advice Bureau and trade unions)

1.8 Information exchange

In fulfilling its functions and obligations under the Gambling Act 2005 the Licensing Authority will exchange relevant information with other regulatory bodies (like the Gambling Commission) and will consider the establishment of protocols where it considers this necessary. In exchanging such information, the Licensing Authority will conform to the requirements of Data protection and Freedom of Information legislation in accordance with the Council's existing policies. The authority will act in accordance with the relevant legislation and guidance from the Gambling Commission and will adopt the principles of better regulation.

Details of those persons making representations will be made available to applicants and other interested parties, to allow for negotiation and in the event of a hearing will form part of a public document. Anyone making representations or applying for the review of a premises licence will be informed that their details will be disclosed.

2 LEGISLATION, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

2.1 Legislation

In undertaking its licensing function under the Gambling Act 2005, the Licensing Authority is also bound by other legislation, like the Human Rights Act 1998.

However, the policy is not intended to duplicate existing legislation and regulation regimes that already place obligations on employers and operators and the licensing authority, like.

1. Health and Safety at Work Act 1974;
2. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1988;
3. Environmental Protection Act 1990;
4. The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003; or
5. The Race Relations Act 1976 (as amended);

2.2 Relationship with Planning Policies

When determining an application, the Licensing Authority cannot take into account "irrelevant matters" such as the likelihood of the applicant obtaining planning permission or building control approval.

A decision by the licensing authority under this Act shall not constrain any later decision by the authority under the law relating to planning or building.

An applicant can apply for a “provisional statement” if the building is not complete or if he does not yet have a right to occupy it. Such an application is, however, a separate and distinct process to the granting of planning permission or building control approval.

2.3 National Strategies

The Licensing Authority will also seek to discharge its functions identified by other Government Strategies, in so far as they impact on the objectives of the licensing function.

2.4 Local Strategies and Policies

Where appropriate, the Licensing Authority will consider applications with reference to other adopted local strategies and policies.

2.5 Integrating Strategies

There are many stakeholders involved in the leisure industry and many are involved in the promotion of the licensing objectives. A number of stakeholders’ plans and strategies deal with matters related to the licensing function. Where this is the case, the Licensing Authority will aim, as far as possible, to co-ordinate them.

The Licensing Authority recognises in particular the importance of the co-ordination and integration of the Gambling policy with other plans aimed at the management of town centres and the night-time economy.

Relevant plans and strategies include:

- ❖ **Crime and Disorder Strategy** – The Licensing Authority will fulfil its duty under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in the Borough. As far as possible, licensing decisions will aim to contribute to the targets set in the Crime and Disorder Strategy and conditions attached to licences and certificates will reflect local crime prevention strategies.
- ❖ **Racial Equality** – The Licensing Authority is required under race relations legislation to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between persons of different racial groups.
- ❖ **Human Rights** – The Human Rights Act 1998 incorporates the European Convention on Human Rights and makes it unlawful for a local authority to act in a way which is incompatible with a Convention right. The Licensing Authority will have particular regard to the following provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, in particular: -
 - Article 6 that in the determination of civil rights and obligations, everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law;

- Article 8 that everyone has the right to respect for his home and private and family life;
 - Article 1 of the First Protocol that every person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his or her possessions, including for example the possession of a licence.
- ❖ Proper integration will be assured by the Licensing Authority's Licensing Committee providing reports, when appropriate, to the Planning Committee on the situation regarding licensed premises in the area, including the general impact of gambling related crime and disorder, to enable the Planning Committee to have regard to such matters when taking its decisions.
 - ❖ Tourism and Town Centre Management – The Licensing Authority aims to promote a high quality thriving nighttime economy.
 - ❖ The Licensing Authority will ensure that the Licensing Committee receives reports, when appropriate, on the needs of the local tourist economy to ensure that these are reflected in their considerations.
 - ❖ Economic Strategies – The Licensing Authority will ensure that the Licensing Committee is apprised of the employment situation in the area and the need for new investment and employment where appropriate.
 - ❖ Enforcement Policy – All licensing enforcement will be conducted in accordance with the regulatory compliance code.

In order to avoid duplication with other statutory regimes, the Licensing Authority will not attach conditions to a licence unless they are considered necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives. Conditions will generally be considered unnecessary if they are already adequately covered by other legislation.

3 DECISION MAKING

3.1 Terms of Reference

A Licensing Sub-Committee of three Councillors will sit to hear applications where representations have been received from interested parties and/or responsible authorities.

A clear statement of the reasons for the decision shall accompany every determination of a licensing decision by the Licensing Sub-Committee. The decision and the reasons for that decision will be sent to the applicant and those who have made relevant representations as soon as practicable in the form of a Notice of Determination.

The Council's Licensing Officers will deal with all other licensing applications where either no representation have been received, or where representations have been received and it is agreed by the parties that a hearing is not necessary.

Decisions as to whether representations are irrelevant, frivolous or vexatious will be made by Licensing Officers, who will make the decisions on whether representations or applications for licence reviews should be referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee.

Where representations are rejected, the person making that representation will be given a written reason as to why that is the case. The Gambling Act 2005 provides no right of appeal in these circumstances, although other avenues of legal challenge, for example Judicial Review, may be available.

3.2 Allocation of Decision Making Responsibilities

The Licensing Authority has established a Licensing Committee to discharge all Licensing functions.

The Licensing Committee has delegated responsibilities for determining certain administrative functions in respect of the Licensing Authority's approach to this Policy. Therefore the Licensing Committee may decide to adopt the following:

- Regulators Code;
- Information Sharing Protocol;
- Charges for Pre-application Advice; and
- Other matters relating to the administration of the Licensing Authority's functions under this Act.

The Committee has delegated certain decisions and functions and has established a Sub-Committee to deal with them.

Many of the decisions and functions will be purely administrative in nature and the grant of non-contentious applications, including for example those licences and permits where no representations have been made, will be delegated to the Director of Environment & Regeneration.

Appendix A sets out a table showing the agreed delegation of functions & decisions in respect of the full Council, Sub-Committee and Officers.

Such delegation does not preclude Officers from referring any application to the Licensing Sub-Committee if they consider it appropriate.

3.3 Licensing Reviews and Applications

Regulations have been made by the Secretary of State under Section 160 of the Act that will require applicants for premises licences to notify the responsible authorities and other persons.

Whilst these authorities will have legitimate interests in aspects of the application, the Licensing Authority must ensure that it does not take into account concerns from these bodies if they are not relevant to the application for a premises licence under the Act.

Examples of representations from such bodies that may not be taken into account are as follows (but these examples are not exhaustive):

- There are already too many gambling premises in the locality
- The proposed premises are a fire risk
- The location of the premises is likely to lead to traffic congestion

The Licensing Authority will carry out a review of a premises licence where it has received a formal application for review in accordance with the Act that is relevant to one or more of the Licensing Objectives.

Due consideration will be given to all relevant representations unless they fit the following:

- a) The grounds are frivolous
- b) The grounds are vexatious
- c) The grounds are irrelevant
- d) The grounds will not cause the Licensing Authority to revoke or suspend a licence or to remove, amend or attach conditions on the premises licence
- e) The grounds are substantially the same as the grounds cited in a previous application relating to the same premises
- f) The grounds are substantially the same as representations made at the time the application for a premises licence was considered and there has been no change in the circumstances.

The Act permits the Licensing Authority to review a premises licence if it considers it appropriate.

Representations may include issues relating to the following:

1. Use of licensed premises for the sale and distribution of class A drugs and/or the laundering of the proceeds of drugs crimes;
2. Use of licensed premises for the sale and distribution of illegal firearms;
3. Use of licensed premises for prostitution or the sale of unlawful pornography;
4. Use of licensed premises as a base for organised crime activity;
5. Use of licensed premises for the organisation of racist, homophobic or sexual abuse or attacks;
6. Use of licensed premises for the sale of smuggled tobacco or goods;
7. Use of licensed premises for the sale of stolen goods;
8. Children and/or vulnerable persons being put at risk.

4 LOCAL STANDARDS

4.1 Applications

An application for a premises licence can only be made by a person who either holds an operating licence authorising him to carry on the activity in respect of which a premises licence is sought, or, has made an application for an operating licence which has not yet been determined, or, in the case of an application for a track betting licence the applicant may not be required to have an operators licence.

The applicant may ask the Licensing Authority for advice as to the scope of information to be provided. The Licensing Authority may levy a charge where more in depth or complex advice and assistance is requested.

The level of detail to be provided will be advised by the Licensing Authority and will be proportional to the scale and nature of the application made.

Definitions of “Responsible Authorities” and “Interested Parties” who are able to make representations under this Act can be found in the glossary of terms in section 1.3.

4.2 Assessment of Need

Unmet demand for gambling establishments or facilities is not a criterion that will be taken into consideration when determining an application for a Premises Licence under the Gambling Act 2005. Demand is specifically precluded within the Act. There is no legal obligation to demonstrate that any demand exists.

4.3 Conditions

Conditions will only be applied to licences that are proportionate and appropriate to the business, organisation or individual concerned. The Licensing Authority will draw upon the advice issued by the Gambling Commission and attach conditions relative and proportionate to the given circumstances of each individual case.

4.4 Enforcement

The Licensing Authority intends to use appropriate enforcement to promote the licensing objectives. Once licensed, it is essential that premises be monitored to ensure that they are run in accordance with their operating schedules, in compliance with the specific requirements of the Act and in compliance with any licence conditions. It will also be important to monitor the Borough for unlicensed premises.

The Licensing Authority will seek to work actively with the Police in enforcing licensing legislation and intends to establish protocols with the Metropolitan Police on enforcement issues to ensure an efficient deployment of police and council officers.

Such protocols will be agreed by the Licensing Committee.

4.5 Casinos

There are currently no casinos operating within the Borough.

On 21 November 2018 Merton re-adopted a resolution under Section 166 of the Act not to issue casino licences within Merton or allow operators to make applications for premises licences for casinos.

4.6 Bingo

The Licensing Authority may issue a Bingo premises licence, which will authorise the following gaming machines:

- 1 20% of the total number of gaming machine of Category B3 or B4 machines
- 2 An unlimited number of Category C & D machines

4.7 Betting Offices

The Licensing Authority may issue a premises licence to Betting Offices, which will authorise the following gaming machines:

- 1 A maximum of 4 machines of Category B, C or D

4.8 Family Entertainment Centres (Licensed)

The Licensing Authority may issue a premises licence to Family Entertainment Centres which will authorise the following gaming machines:

- 1 An unlimited number of Category C & D machines
- 2 Category C machines must be located in an adult area only

4.9 Family Entertainment Centres (Unlicensed)

It should be noted that the term “unlicensed” in this definition means premises that do not require an operator’s licence to be granted by the Gaming Commission.

The Licensing Authority may issue a premises licence, which will authorise the following gaming machines: -

- 1 Unlimited numbers of Category D machines

4.10 Alcohol Licensed Premises

The holder of a premises licence, which authorises the sale by retail of alcohol under the Licensing Act 2003 for consumption on the premises, has an automatic entitlement, upon notification to the Licensing Authority, to have up to two (2) category C or D gaming machines. Should a premises licence holder wish to have more than two (2) category C or D gaming machines, they may apply for an alcohol licensed premises gaming machine permit. The notification of an automatic entitlement and an application for an alcohol licensed premises gaming machine permit is subject to restrictions as defined in regulations.

5 PREVENTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER OBJECTIVE

Merton's Licensing Authority places considerable importance on the prevention of crime and disorder, and will fulfil its duty under s17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in the Borough. A high standard of control is expected to be exercised over licensed premises.

Merton's Licensing Authority will, when determining applications, consider whether the grant of a Premises Licence will result in an increase in crime and disorder.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss the crime prevention procedures in their premises with the Council's Licensing Officers and the local Police Licensing Officer at Wimbledon Police Station before making a formal application.

In considering licence applications, the Licensing Authority will particularly take into account the following: -

1. The design and layout of the premises
2. The training given to staff in crime prevention measures appropriate to those premises
3. Physical security features installed in the premises. This may include matters such as the position of cash registers or the standard of CCTV that is installed
4. Where premises are subject to age restrictions, the procedures in place to conduct age verification checks
5. The likelihood of any violence, public order or policing problem if the licence is granted
6. The operators' draft or existing Local Area Risk Assessment and
7. the operators' compliance with the Council's Local Area Profile.

6 ENSURING THAT GAMBLING IS CONDUCTED IN A FAIR AND OPEN WAY OBJECTIVE

Generally, the Commission would not expect licensing authorities to become concerned with ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way, as this will be a matter for either the management of the gambling business (and therefore relevant to the Operating Licence), or will be in relation to the suitability and actions of an individual (and therefore relevant to the Personal Licence). As the Gambling Commission grants Personal Licences and Operating Licences, enforcement of these matters is the responsibility of the Gambling Commission.

7 PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND OTHER VULNERABLE PERSONS OBJECTIVE

7.1 Access to Licensed Premises

With limited exceptions, the access of children and young persons to those gambling premises, which are adult only environments, will not be permitted.

The principle used to designate the following bodies to advise the Authority on the protection of children and vulnerable persons from harm is that they are the acknowledged experts in this specialised field within this Authority.

The Licensing Authority formally recognises Merton's Local Safeguarding Children Board and Community Care Services as the proper agencies in respect of the protection of children and vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

The Licensing Sub-committee will judge the merits of each individual application before deciding whether to impose conditions to protect children and vulnerable persons on particular categories of premises. This may include such requirements as: -

1. Supervision of entrances;
2. Segregation of gambling areas from areas frequented by children;
3. Supervision of gaming machines in non-adult gambling specific premises.

The 2005 Act provides for a Code of Practice on access to Casino premises by children and young persons but Merton has adopted a policy not to permit casinos in the Borough.

7.2 Vulnerable Persons

The Licensing Authority does not seek to prohibit particular groups of adults from gambling in the same way that it seeks to prohibit children, but it will follow the Gambling Commission's assumption that for regulatory purposes, "vulnerable persons" include:

1. People who gamble more than they want to;
2. People who gamble beyond their means;
3. People who may not be able to make an informed or balanced decision about gambling due to a mental impairment, alcohol or drugs.

In addition to the responsible authorities and specifically with regard to the protection of vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling, the Licensing Authority will consult with Community Care Services via a joint arrangement with the Merton Local Safeguarding Children Board & Safeguarding Adults Service.

8 COMPLAINTS AGAINST LICENSED PREMISES

The Licensing Authority will investigate complaints against licensed premises in relation to matters relating to the licensing objectives for which it has responsibility. In the first instance, complainants are encouraged to raise the complaint directly with the licence holder or business concerned to seek a local resolution.

Where an interested party has made either a valid representation about licensed premises or a valid application for a licence to be reviewed, the Licensing Authority may initially arrange a conciliation meeting to address and clarify the issues of concern.

This process will not override the right of any interested party to ask that the licensing committee consider their valid objections or for any licence holder to decline to participate in a conciliation meeting.

Due consideration will be given to all relevant representations unless they fit the exceptions in 3.3 sub-paragraphs A – F.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about the Gambling Act 2005, this Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 or the application process can be obtained from: -

Licensing Team
London Borough of Merton
Civic Centre
London Road
Morden
SM4 5DX

Tel: 020 8545 3969
E-mail: licensing@merton.gov.uk
Web page www.merton.gov.uk/licensing

Gambling Commission
Victoria Square House
Victoria Square
Birmingham
B2 4BP

Tel: 0121 230 6666
Fax: 0121 230 6720
E-mail: info@gamblingcommission.gov.uk

Business opening hours: 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Appendix A

DELEGATION OF LICENSING FUNCTIONS

MATTER TO BE DEALT WITH	FULL COUNCIL	SUB-COMMITTEE	OFFICERS OF THE LICENSING AUTHORITY	DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & LEGAL SERVICES
Three year Licensing Policy	X			
Policy not to Permit Casinos	X			
Validity of Applications or Representations			X	
Representations made by Licensing Authority			X	
Determination of Applications		X	When no hearing is required	
Dispensing with Hearings		Where all parties agree		Where all parties agree prior to hearing
Extending Times Limits		X		Where there is a need prior to hearing (consult with Licensing Committee Chair)
Consideration of Representations (opposing or supporting) and Notices (temporary use / occasional use)		X	X	
Procedure and Conduct of Hearings		X		
Issue of Notice of Hearing				X
Determining Relevance of Information		X	X	

Appendix B

GAMING MACHINE CATEGORIES

Category of Machine	Maximum Stake	Maximum Prize
A	Unlimited	Unlimited
B1	£5	£10,000 (with and option of a maximum £20,000 linked progressive jackpot on a premises basis only).
B2 <i>** See below for definition</i>	£100	£500
B3	£2	£500
B4	£2	£400
C	£1	£100
D	30p or £1 when non-monetary prize	£8 cash or 50 non-monetary prize
D money prize	10p	£5
D non-money prize (other than crane grabe machine)	30p	£8
D non-money prize (crane grab machine)	£1	£50
D combined money and non-money prize (other than coin pusher or penny falls machines)	10p	£8 (of which no more than £5 may be a money prize)
D combined money and non-money prize (coin pusher or penny falls machines)	20p	£20 (of which no more than £10 may be a money prize)

*** These machines are “Fixed odds betting terminals (FOBTs)”*

The government is satisfied that FOBTs should comprise a separate sub-category (B2) of gaming machine offering a maximum prize of £500 with a maximum stake of £100

per game (£15 per chip) and that they should only be available in Casinos and Licensed Betting Offices.

The Government remains concerned about a possible connection between FOBTs and problem gambling.

However a report on 6 July 2009 from the Gambling Commission has recommended that no immediate action be taken. It suggests that further research into regulatory measures need to be part of a wider prevention and harm mitigation framework which addresses risk mitigation in the context of machine and other gambling more generally. The Government continues to keep the matter under review.

Appendix C

REGULATORS COMPLIANCE CODE & ENFORCEMENT POLICY

This document sets out what business and others being regulated can expect from enforcement officers. It commits us to good enforcement policies and procedures.

This document can be accessed by the following web link:

http://www.merton.gov.uk/working/tradingstandards/enforcement_policy-4.pdf

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Committee: Council

Date: 21 November 2018

Wards: ALL

Subject: South West London and Surrey Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Lead officer: Ged Curran Chief Executive

Contact officer: Fiona Thomsen, Head of Shared Legal Services

Recommendation:

- A. That the Council confirms that the power to refer to the Secretary of State under Regulation 23 of Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 is retained by the Council.
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is to clarify the position that under the Council's Constitution the Healthier Communities and Older People Scrutiny Panel has the power (under Regulation 23 of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 to refer proposals for substantial development or variations to the provision of health services to the Secretary of State (subject to criteria). For the purposes of clarification the power to refer to the Secretary of State has not been delegated to the South West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee nor its sub-committee.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1 Under Part 4E of the Council's constitution the Council has delegated its health scrutiny function to the Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel.
- 2.2 The Council has also established with six other Local Authorities a Standing Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with responsibility for responding to consultation on substantial service changes affecting multiple authorities across the area.
- 2.3 At the Annual Council meeting on 23 May 2018 Council reconstituted the existing South West London and Surrey Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) and agreed the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the Joint Committee.
- 2.4 At the meeting of the JHOSC on 26 June 2018, it was decided to establish a sub committee of the JHOSC made up of the London Boroughs of Merton and Sutton and Surrey County Council to carry out a detailed scrutiny of the

Improving Health Together 2020 –2030 Programme and the JHOSC agreed that the final decision making power was delegated to the sub committee.

- 2.5 The status of the existing JHOSC and sub-committee is discretionary under the Local Authority Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 (the Regulations).
- 2.6 Under Regulation 23 of the Regulations, bodies and providers of NHS services must consult with the local authority about any proposals for a substantial development or variation of the health service in the authority's area. If the proposals affect more than one local authority a joint health overview and scrutiny committee must be established. At the point consultation under Regulation 23 commences the existing discretionary JHOSC becomes a mandatory sub committee for the purposes of the Regulations.
- 2.7 Once mandatory, the Regulations set out the following requirements:
- Only the joint committee may respond to consultation (ie rather than each individual local authority responding separately)
 - Only the joint committee may exercise the power to require the provision of information by the relevant NHS body or health service provider about the proposal.
 - Only the joint committee may exercise the power to require members or employees of the relevant NHS body or health service provider to attend before it to answer questions in connection with the consultation.
- 2.8 These restrictions, however, do not apply to the power to make a referral to the Secretary of State.
- 2.9 Under the Regulations Local Authorities may report to the Secretary of State in writing if:
- It is not satisfied with the adequacy of content of the consultation
 - It is not satisfied that sufficient time has been allowed for consultation
 - It considers that the proposal would not be in the interests of the health services in its area
 - It has not been consulted, and it is not satisfied that the reasons given for not carrying out consultation are adequate.
- 2.10 Local authorities may choose to delegate this power of referral to the mandatory joint committee but they need not do so. If the local authority has delegated this power, then it may not subsequently exercise the power of referral. If it does not delegate the power, it may make such referrals.
- 2.11 The terms of reference for the JHOSC include the joint committee agreeing whether to use the joint powers of the local authorities to refer either the consultation or the final decision in respect of any proposal for reconfiguration to the Secretary of State for Health.

- 2.12 This report has been brought before Council in order to clarify that the Council has not delegated its power to refer to the Secretary of State to the JHOSC and that the power remains with the Council and the Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 The alternative option is that the power to refer to the Secretary of State can be delegated to the JHOSC.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1 No consultation is proposed.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1 Consultation under Regulation 23 has not commenced yet and it is not expected to commence until next year.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are no such implications.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The National Health Service Act 2006, as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, confers health scrutiny functions on the local authority. The Council conferred its health scrutiny functions on the Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel.
- 7.2 The body of this report sets out the legal requirements and obligations under Regulations 23 and 30 of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013.
- 7.3 The power to refer matters to the Secretary of State can be retained by the Council or delegated to the JHOSC or the sub- committee of the JHOSC. If the power is delegated to the JHOSC the Council cannot make the referral of its own volition.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. None for the purposes of this report.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. None for the purposes of this report.

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

- None

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None

Committee: Council

Date: 21 November 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 agrees to appoint Councillor Adam Bush as Vice-Chair of the Pension Fund Investment Advisory Panel.
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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 12 September 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	Pauline Cowper	Peter McCabe	19 September 2018
Borough Plan Advisory Panel	Nick Draper	Dennis Pearce	21 September 2018
Pension Fund Investment Advisory Panel	Omar Bush	Stephen Crowe	24 September 2018
Pension Fund Investment Advisory Panel	Stephen Crowe	Adam Bush	8 October 2018

- 2.2. The appointments to Committees and other bodies, including the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of those committees and other bodies, were agreed at Council on 23 May 2018.

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: 21 November 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 21 November 2018.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. At the meeting held on 12 September 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/P2619.

Officer Response

- 2.3 "Thank you for the submitted petition regarding application reference no. 18/P2619, (Edna Rd/Bushey Rd). In addition to this response, the petition will be acknowledged as part of the planning consultation process. The views expressed in the petition will be considered as part of the assessment of the planning application."

- 2.4 A petition was submitted by Councillor Daniel Holden on Wheelie Bins

Officer Response

- 2.5 "In July 2016 Cabinet took the decision to appoint Veolia as our street cleansing and waste collection contractor. As part of this decision it was agreed that we would introduce a wheelie bin service in October 2018. Households will continue to receive weekly collections, with two collections (food and recycling) one week and three collections (food, recycling and general waste) on alternate weeks. Each household will be provided with, one wheelie bin for non-recyclable household waste along with a wheelie bin for paper and card; they will continue to use their existing recycling box for plastics, glass and cans.

There are some dwellings where wheeled bins simply won't work and we have not included them in the rollout. This includes Purpose built blocks of flats where there are communal waste storage arrangements as well as flats above shops where there is no storage space for wheeled bins. There are also some traditional houses where wheeled bins are not appropriate and we will arrange an alternate collection method. This includes properties where the front garden is too small to allow bins to be stored and/or where it is not reasonably practicable to move the bins to a collection point. Or where there are steps or steep slopes that make the storage or collection of bins impractical or unsafe.”

- 2.6 Members are invited to present petitions at this meeting, and a response will be provided to the next ordinary Council meeting in February 2019.

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.