

## **Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission**

**Date: 26 November 2013**

Wards: All

## **Subject: Policy and service developments in response to demographic change**

Lead officer: Yvette Stanley, Director of Children, Schools and Families

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

Contact officer: John Dimmer, Head of Policy, Strategy and Partnerships

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### **Recommendations:**

- A. That the Commission discuss and comment on the service and policy changes that are planned in response to demographic changes in the borough.
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## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. The attached report sets out what service and policy changes are planned in response to demographic changes arising from the Census 2011.

## **2 DETAILS**

- 2.1 The attached report sets out:

- a forecast for what Merton will look like in 2017
- key demographic shifts and implications for service delivery
- how departments are planning ahead for these changes.

- 2.2 The Executive Summary of the report summarises the key demographic shifts that will have a significant impact for service planning, in particular:

- the overall population increase is likely to increase demand for most services
- the increase in the proportion of older and younger people will increase demand for a number of universal and specialist services, in particular education and social care
- demographic changes are not consistent across all wards: wards in the east and the north are changing faster, with a shift towards a more inner London profile than wards to the south and west of the borough.

- 2.3 A summary of the service and policy changes that are planned in response to these changes can be found at the front of chapters 5, 6 and 7,

- 2.4 Chapter 8 of the report looks at the financial implications of these changes, the pressure on budget lines at service level and likely available resources.

## **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1. N/A

**4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

4.1. Internal discussions only.

**5 TIMETABLE**

5.1. N/A

**6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1. The demographic changes outlined in the attached report will increase demand for a number of Council services, however, resources to meet this demand are reducing. This report provides useful context to inform the Medium Term Financial Strategy going forward.

**7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1. None

**8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

8.1. None

**9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

9.1. None

**10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1. None

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

- Merton 2017 – an analysis of key demographic trends and their likely impact on service delivery.

**12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- None