

## Committee: Council

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Wards: All

### **Subject: Strategic Theme – Sustainable Communities**

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

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

Cabinet Member for Community and Culture, Councillor Nick Draper

Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Cleanliness, Councillor Mike Brunt

Contact officer: Programme Manager for Economy, Sara Williams

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### **Recommendations:**

That Council consider the content of the report.

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## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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

## **2 DETAILS**

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

*To work in partnership to create a more sustainable borough, one which is less reliant on fossil fuel and which reduces its negative impact on the environment and climate change in particular. The Board promotes investment into the borough to create new jobs as well as looking to improve skills levels and the capacity of residents to benefit from these jobs and those across the region. The Board seeks to improve the condition and supply of housing including affordable housing. The Board works to promote the development of sustainable transport particularly active transport [cycling and walking] as well as public transport in and around Merton.*

## **Reduce CO2 and impact on climate change**

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

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

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

### **Increase supply of housing**

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Inclusive Fitness Initiative gym sessions with qualified gym instructors.

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

#### **Increase the supply of jobs and improve skills**

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1. None for the purposes of this report.

#### **5 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 5.1. None for the purposes of this report.

#### **6 TIMETABLE**

- 6.1. None for the purposes of this report.

#### **7 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

#### **8 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. None for the purposes of this report.

#### **9 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

#### **10 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. None for the purposes of this report.

#### **11 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1. None for the purposes of this report.

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

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