

Name of decision-maker Council	DATE 20 November 2024
REPORT/DECISION TITLE Changes to Membership of Committees and related matters	WARD(S) All
CHIEF OFFICER Hannah Doody, Chief Executive	CABINET/LEAD MEMBER Councillor Ross Garrod, Leader of the Council
DECISION CLASSIFICATION <i>Non-exempt report</i>	IS THE FINAL DECISION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REPORT TO BE MADE AT THIS MEETING? Yes

1 Recommendations:

- A. That Council notes the changes to the membership of Committees that were approved under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Council**
- B. That Council approves the changes to Committees and outside bodies detailed at 4.2 of the report and within Appendix B (to follow)**
- C. That Council note the changes to Cabinet members and portfolios detailed in Appendix A**

2 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report asks Council to note the changes made to committee memberships under delegated authority since the publication of the agenda for the last ordinary Council meeting on 10 September 2024, those being listed at 4.1 of the report. It also provides a number of changes to Committees and outside bodies to be approved by Council. The report also asks Council to note changes made to the Cabinet by the Leader of the Council which took effect from 9 October 2024.

3 Links to the Merton Priorities (Borough of Sport/Civic Pride/Sustainable Futures)

- 3.1 This report relates to the Council's Strategic priorities as follows:
- 3.2 The report enables the Council to appoint to seats on Committees panels and outside bodies which make decisions that assist the Council to work towards achieving the Council's strategic priorities.

4 Introduction and Background

- 4.1 The following membership changes have been made by the Chief Executive under their delegated authority in accordance with part 3E of the Constitution and are noted as part of this report:

Committee	Member Resigning	Replaced by	Date
Development and Planning Applications Committee	Councillor Marsie Skeete (Substitute)	Councillor Mike Brunt (Substitute)	1/11/24
Standards and General Purposes	Councillor Edith Macauley	Councillor Shuile Syeda	5/11/24
Development and Planning Applications Committee	Councillor Shuile Syeda	Councillor Michael Butcher	5/11/24
Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel	N/A	Councillor Shuile Syeda	11/11/24
Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel	Councillor John Braithwaite	Councillor Jil Hall	11/11/24
Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel	Councillor Jil Hall	Councillor John Braithwaite	15/11/24

- 4.2 Council is also asked to approve the following appointments:

Committee	Member Resigning	Replaced by
Healthier Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel	Councillor Thomas Barlow	Councillor Andrew Howard

- 4.3 The Leader of the Council made a number of changes to the Cabinet portfolios and also appointed Councillor Edith Macauley to the Cabinet from 9 October 2024. The details of these changes are included at Appendix A to the report.
- 4.4 Further appointments and changes to committees are listed in Appendix B which Council is also asked to approve.

5 Available Options

- 5.1 It is recommended that Council note the report and approve the listed appointments.
- 5.2 Council could choose to not approve the proposals within the report and submit alternative options which would need to be ratified by Council.

6 Preferred Option

- 6.1 That Council note the report and approve the recommendations.

7 Reasons for Recommendations

- 7.1 The recommendations will enable the Council to discharge its functions effectively and efficiently.

8 Consultation Results

- 8.1 None for the purposes of this report.

9 Next Steps & Timetable: Communication and Implementation of the Decision

9.1 Any appointments approved by Council will take immediate effect, those approved under delegated authority by the Chief Executive have taken effect from the dates listed within the report.

10 Report Appendices

10.1 The following documents are to be published with and form part of the report:

- Appendix A – Cabinet Portfolios October 2024
- Appendix B – Changes to Committees (to follow)

11 Background Papers

- *None*

12 Cross-Cutting Issues and Implications and Sign-Off

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Legal including Human Rights Act	The purpose of the report is to ask Council to (1) approve the changes to Committees and outside bodies detailed in the report, (2) note the changes to memberships of Committees approved by the Chief Executive under delegated authority since the last meeting of Council and (3) note the changes to Cabinet members and portfolios detailed in the report. There are no legal implications arising from the report and Council is authorised to agree the recommendations in paragraph 1 of the report.	Fabiola Hickson Head of Law, Procurement & Information Governance 8/11/2024
Finance and other resources	None for the purposes of this report	Gina James Service Financial Adviser 25.10.24
Equalities	The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no apparent equality impact on end users. necessary.	Amy Dumitrescu Head of Democracy Services 25.10.24
Climate change	The decisions recommended in this paper have a remote or low impact on Merton's Climate Strategy & Action Plan adopted by full Council on 18th November 2020.	Amy Dumitrescu Head of Democracy Services 25.10.24

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Executive Director	<i>Clearance/Approval of Report</i>	<i>Polly Cziok 14/11/24</i>
Cabinet Member/s	<i>Clearance/Approval of Report</i>	<i>Cllr Billy Christie 13/11/24</i>
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Appendix A – Cabinet Portfolios October 2024

Leader of the Council – Cllr Ross Garrod

- Chair of Cabinet
- Leader of the Council

Cabinet Member for Children’s Services – Cllr Usaama Kaweesa

- Covering the full statutory role as Lead Member for Children’s Services
- Ensure the Children’s Trust is fulfilling its partnership role
- Early Help and children’s social care services including disabled children
- Supporting families to stay together wherever appropriate, and promoting security and stability when children do come into our care
- Corporate parenting and ensuring our looked after children succeed
- Statutory duties related to SEND and joint responsibility for SEND support
- Early years, childcare, and children’s centres
- Strong safeguarding through the Merton Safeguarding Children’s Partnership.
- Youth Justice Service and prevention of youth crime
- Leading on developments in youth services and engaging young people in the life of the community e.g. Youth Parliament and Young Inspectors
- Leading on preparing young people for transition into adulthood

Cabinet Member for Job, Skills, and Education – Cllr Sally Kenny

- Leading on education across the life span
- Leading on the planning, development and management of the schools estate
- Ensuring the highest standards in schools when they are inspected by Ofsted and at statutory points of assessment, and minimising the impact of austerity on educational outcomes
- Championing equality of access and outcomes for all pupils including oversight of admissions
- Leading on preparing young people for transition into the world of work, training and further and higher education

- Ensuring the best attendance by all pupils, reducing the need for exclusions and ensuring inclusive practice across all schools and settings
- Oversight of DSG Safety Valve programme (with the Lead Member for Finance and Corporate Services)
- Governor training and support
- Leading on apprenticeships and training
- Deliver high quality and sustainable adult learning in order to improve the social, economic, health and wellbeing of our residents.
- Joint responsibility for SEND support
- Leading on the pilot of the Employ Merton job brokerage and finding service

Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services – Cllr Billy Christie

- Leading on the Council's recovery agenda
- Leading on performance monitoring and Service Planning
- Member Lead on the Your Merton, a place-based vision for the borough's recovery from Covid-19
- Responsible for effective communication with residents
- Leading on the budget, including the development of revenue, capital and debt management strategies
- Responsible for revenues and benefits and the Council's response to the cost of living crisis
- Responsible for corporate finance, IT and audit, human resources, civic and legal services, and risk management
- Driving improvements in council performance and leading budget and finance performance review meetings
- Overseeing scrutiny and the Council's registrars
- Leading on the promotion of the digital agenda
- Leading on the change management agenda with responsibility for driving through value for money and efficiency within the council
- Overseeing the Council procurement strategy
- Monitoring progress of council wide strategic approach to customer services and community support and access

Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Civic Pride and Climate Change – Cllr Eleanor Stringer

- Leading on efforts to boost trade and the local economy in town centres, supporting small businesses, markets and Business Improvement Districts
- Responsible for effective communication with businesses
- Overseeing the Regulatory Services Partnership
- Leading on trading standards and commercial environmental health
- Working with organisations in the borough's thriving arts and cultural communities
- Ensuring all equalities strands (sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, religion/belief, age, marriage and civil partnerships) are embedded throughout council performance
- Oversight of the Council's Equality Strategy and Equality Impact Assessments and drawing up an Equalities Charter

- Supporting the Merton Council staff BAME Forum
- Support and development of the LGBT+ forum
- Support and development of the Faith and Belief Forum
- Overseeing community engagement, including Community Plan, increased participation in local decision making and increasing social capital
- Overseeing the council's community partnerships, including specific focus on the voluntary sector
- Promoting and rewarding local action and volunteering
- Leading on the management of grants to community groups and decisions of Grants Committee
- Chair of the Merton Compact Board
- Overseeing voluntary sector organisations applying to become Refugee Community Sponsors
- Support and development of Merton's Armed Forces Community Covenant
- Support for refugees and those seeking sanctuary
- Lead member on Emergency Planning
- Responsible for the overall co-ordination of policies to protect and enhance the environment and sustainability of Merton, including the Council's own activities
- Responsible for policies relating to climate change and tackling the climate crisis
- Support housing retrofitting activities, accessing relevant funding and ensuring future housing policies and planning policies recognise our commitments to the environment
- To be the Council's lead on the Climate Emergency and to chair the Climate Change Implementation Committee
- Responsible for building links with residents, businesses and community groups to educate and activate carbon reduction
- To increase the involvement of young people in climate action
- To lead on the development and implementation of the annual Climate Delivery Plan to support the Council reach its ambition of net zero by 2030
- Overall responsibility for Cemeteries and Crematoria
- Support the planting and maintenance of our trees and growing our wild spaces, allotments and pocket parks
- Oversee the delivery of the planned playground and paddling pool upgrades
- Work with residents to increase the number of Friends of Park Groups in the borough and encourage sustainable activity by local groups in parks and open spaces
- Ensure contracts uphold best possible outcomes in effective management of parks and greenspaces
- Oversee the development and mobilisation of the future parks and greenspaces service
- Develop the next phase of the Tree Strategy and target tree planting opportunities in areas with low canopy cover
- Work with partners to increase the number of Green Flag Award sites in Merton from six to nine

Cabinet member for Enforcement and Community Safety – Cllr Edith Macauley

- Work closely with the Police, enforcement agencies and other key stakeholders to develop Crime Prevention policies

- Advocate for increased safety capacity including visible policing, and for the retention of both Mitcham and Wimbledon Police stations
- Work with the Police on the implementation of The Turnaround Plan
- Lead on reducing the threat of crime and anti-social behaviour in Merton and working closely with the Police and Community Safety partnerships
- Responsibility for Violence Against Women and Girls and to oversee the implementation of VAWG Strategy
- Oversight of the Council's Preventing Violent Extremism strategy
- Monitor and deliver the Safer Streets Pilot
- Overall responsibility for Public Protection, including the operation of CCTV
- Oversee the development and implementation of policies and strategies to combat Anti-Social Behaviour
- Responsible for all of the Council's street scene enforcement services, including the investigation and prosecution of cases
- Oversee work on the Domestic Violence Strategy development and implementation
- Lead community awareness campaigns to support strategic community safety priorities
- Oversight of the implementation and monitoring of the borough-wide Public Space Protection Order
- Lead on making Merton a safe and welcoming place for residents, businesses, and visitors
- Reducing the threat of crime and anti-social behaviour in Merton and working closely with Police and Community Safety partnerships
- Leading on a knife crime strategy for the borough
- Point of contact with Borough Command Unit and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

Cabinet Member for Housing and Sustainable Development – Cllr Andrew Judge

- Responsible for housing strategy, developing relations with Housing Associations and promoting the needs of tenants and leaseholders
- Responsible for delivery of environmentally sustainable development through the planning system
- Ensuring delivery of promises by Clarion Housing
- Overseeing monitoring and enforcement of HMOs and rogue landlords, across Landlord Licensing and Article 4 Directions
- Leading on regeneration and neighbourhood renewal initiatives
- Responsible for delivering statutory housing function relating the Housing Register and homelessness
- Responsible homelessness strategy and rough sleeper services
- Responsible for administering the disabled facilities grant
- Housing Enforcement-Private sector disrepair, licensing and enforcement of HMOs
- Responsible for the Shared Lives Service
- Overall responsibility for planning policy
- Leading on the development of the Local Plan
- Overseeing major projects in town centres, with an emphasis on greening and sustainability
- Building a vision in conjunction with local residents for the future of our neighbourhoods
- Overall responsibility for development and building control and spatial policy

- Lead on asset management

Cabinet Member for Transport and Cleaner Streets – Cllr Stephen Alambritis

- Leading on policy for the Council's fleet and SEN transport
- Leading on car clubs and urban micro-mobility
- Increasing the number of step-free-access stations
- Lead member for liaison with Transport for London and strategic transport projects
- Responsible for greater community input into the design and execution of LTNs and provision of cycle hangars
- Responsible for attracting external investment into the borough to support overall aims for sustainable transport
- Responsible for the functions of the Council as the Highway authority, including transportation planning, traffic management, road safety and all matters related to trunk roads, highways and other roads, including the development of new schemes
- Oversee the development and implementation of a Borough-wide EV strategy and Walking and Cycling Strategy
- Lead on work with establishing more electric vehicles charging points in lamp columns, on-street and establish electric vehicle charging hubs
- Work with TfL to join the pan-London micro mobility trial, and to ensure that the scheme works for Merton
- Oversee the development and implementation of a strategic transport strategy that supports greater public transport connectivity to and within the borough
- Responsible for on-street and off-street parking policy and parking enforcement services
- Develop effective links with statutory, regional and sub-regional agencies to create an efficient and effective public transport and road network systems
- Oversee the regular maintenance and improvement of the Borough's roads, cycle routes and streets
- Support flood risk improvement measures
- Responsible for minimising waste and maximising recycling and ensuring effective waste collection and disposal
- Develop links between relevant authorities at all levels to drive and implement effective air quality policies, including increasing the number of school street schemes in the borough
- Ensure contracts uphold best possible outcomes in effective management of waste and street cleaning
- Lead on the delivery and implementation of a new waste and street cleaning service
- Lead on making Merton a clean and welcoming place for residents, businesses and visitors
- Focus on streetscene improvement, including initiatives around HMOs/flats above shops
- Responsible for monitoring budgets and any capital schemes for services within the portfolio
- Overall responsibility for street cleansing, litter, the removal of fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles and graffiti
- Develop and have oversight of the Council's communication and outreach plan to help work with residents to reduce illegal dumping and create a cleaner borough

Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care – Cllr Peter McCabe

- Leading on tackling inequalities in healthcare delivery across the borough

- Liaising with the NHS on maintaining all services at St Helier Hospital, development of Colliers Wood Surgery and development of a new medical centre in Mitcham
- Lead on Public Health, delivering its statutory duties including the Health and Wellbeing Board, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, specified public health services, health protection oversight such as Covid-19 and support for the NHS, with focus on health improvement and reducing health inequalities for all ages
- Chair of Health and Wellbeing Board
- Ensuring Adult Social Care delivers its statutory duties under the Care Act 2014
- Ensuring the key principles under the Care Act of Prevention, Wellbeing and Independence are embedded in service delivery
- Lead on implementation of the Adult Social Care reforms namely; Integration, Charging and CQC Assurance
- Relationships with the local ICS (integrated care system) at place and the SWL ICS. The Primary Care Network (PCN) and wider health organisations, the voluntary sector while also ensuring that local health services are protected for Merton residents and the most vulnerable.
- Leading on tackling inequalities including tackling health inequality and health delivery across the borough
- Liaising with the NHS on maintaining and strengthening all services at St Helier Hospital, the development of Colliers Wood Surgery and development of a new wellbeing Centre in Mitcham
- Lead on Adult Social care for adults of working age with physical or learning disabilities
- Lead on Adult Social Care for older adults (+65)
- Lead on dementia and mental health services across health and care and keeping services at the Dementia Hub
- Responsibility for driving dementia-friendly policy, and high-quality dementia services in the borough
- Leading on personalised care and support
- Lead member for addressing food poverty
- Leading on support for informal carers
- Lead for care markets across a range of service settings, including residential care, nursing care, homecare and day opportunities for adults.

Cabinet Member for Sport and Heritage – Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah

- Maximising the usage of our public libraries as community hubs so that they play an important prevention role for our communities and address inequalities
- Continue to develop the offer by increasing partnership working and external funding
- Continue to develop the Heritage & Local Studies Centre and deliver a year round programme of activities to raise awareness of Merton's rich heritage
- Oversee the implementation of the borough's Heritage Strategy
- Leading on libraries including maximising use of library buildings
- Overseeing leisure operations and development
- Lead member for promoting active lifestyles by leveraging functions across all council policy areas and collaborating with relevant Cabinet members
- Business opportunities in heritage and tourism
- Developing partnerships with sporting bodies

