

Appendix B – Full responses to consultation survey

Introduction

What follows is the unedited survey data in the form it was received.

Section 1

Step 1:1.00-1:Agree or disagree (Adult learning should help improve people's job prospects)		
This single response question was answered by 813 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	519	63.84%
Slightly agree	213	26.2%
Slightly disagree	61	7.5%
Strongly disagree	13	1.6%
Don't know	7	.86%
Step 1:1.00-2:Agree or disagree (Adult learning should help improve people's health and well being)		
This single response question was answered by 813 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	647	79.58%
Slightly agree	141	17.34%
Slightly disagree	14	1.72%
Strongly disagree	4	.49%
Don't know	7	.86%
Step 1:1.00-3:Agree or disagree (Adult learning opportunities are an important part of my life)		
This single response question was answered by 820 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	630	76.83%
Slightly agree	152	18.54%
Slightly disagree	21	2.56%
Strongly disagree	8	.98%
Don't know	9	1.1%
Step 1:1.00-4:Agree or disagree (Adult learning should not be subsidised at the expense of other council services)		
This single response question was answered by 802 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	161	20.07%
Slightly agree	187	23.32%
Slightly disagree	217	27.06%
Strongly disagree	177	22.07%
Don't know	60	7.48%
Step 1:1.00-5:Agree or disagree (Spending on non teaching costs should be reduced as much as possible)		
This single response question was answered by 801 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	229	28.59%
Slightly agree	340	42.45%

Slightly disagree	118	14.73%
Strongly disagree	78	9.74%
Don't know	36	4.49%
Step 1:1.00-6:Agree or disagree (Merton Council should work with other education providers to improve efficiency)		
This single response question was answered by 801 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	241	30.09%
Slightly agree	260	32.46%
Slightly disagree	114	14.23%
Strongly disagree	127	15.86%
Don't know	59	7.37%
Step 1:1.00-7:Agree or disagree (It does not matter who provides the courses as long as they are good)		
This single response question was answered by 801 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	192	23.97%
Slightly agree	197	24.59%
Slightly disagree	156	19.48%
Strongly disagree	212	26.47%
Don't know	44	5.49%
Step 1:1.00-8:Agree or disagree (Merton should work with other councils to improve efficiency)		
This single response question was answered by 799 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	208	26.03%
Slightly agree	277	34.67%
Slightly disagree	141	17.65%
Strongly disagree	117	14.64%
Don't know	56	7.01%
Step 1:1.00-9:Agree or disagree (Competition between adult learning providers will improve quality)		
This single response question was answered by 799 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	90	11.26%
Slightly agree	160	20.03%
Slightly disagree	186	23.28%
Strongly disagree	293	36.67%
Don't know	70	8.76%
Step 1:1.00-10:Agree or disagree (I would take more courses if they were offered in locations closer to me)		
This single response question was answered by 801 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	267	33.33%
Slightly agree	200	24.97%
Slightly disagree	152	18.98%

Strongly disagree	117	14.61%
Don't know	65	8.11%
Step 1:1.00-11:Agree or disagree (The facilities in which the courses are provided should be modern)		
This single response question was answered by 799 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	118	14.77%
Slightly agree	274	34.29%
Slightly disagree	264	33.04%
Strongly disagree	99	12.39%
Don't know	44	5.51%
Step 1:1.00-12:Agree or disagree (More adult learning opportunities should be available to those with learning difficulties)		
This single response question was answered by 800 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	397	49.63%
Slightly agree	245	30.63%
Slightly disagree	69	8.63%
Strongly disagree	20	2.5%
Don't know	69	8.63%
Step 1:1.00-13:Agree or disagree (There should be more courses that help people to get a job)		
This single response question was answered by 797 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	347	43.54%
Slightly agree	257	32.25%
Slightly disagree	130	16.31%
Strongly disagree	22	2.76%
Don't know	41	5.14%
Step 1:1.00-14:Agree or disagree (More should be done to make sure courses are accessible to disabled people)		
This single response question was answered by 805 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Strongly agree	398	49.44%
Slightly agree	262	32.55%
Slightly disagree	70	8.7%
Strongly disagree	10	1.24%
Don't know	65	8.07%
Step 1:2.00-1:Preferred option		
This single response question was answered by 785 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Option 1: Continue the current arrangements and Merton Council bears the financial risk	371	47.26%
Option 2: Create a shared service with South Thames College.	142	18.09%

Option 3: Share with another local authority	92	11.72%
Option 4: Commission other providers to deliver adult education in Merton	71	9.04%
Option 5: Jointly commission other providers in partnership with LB Wandsworth	36	4.59%
Don't know	73	9.3%

Why do you prefer your chosen option?

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It will reduce expenditure without changing to a profit based provider.
A bigger pool of resources/budget but the separate sites should be kept. I would happily attend Mae but wouldn't want to go to South Thames campus.
Adult learning is essential in society. It provides meaning and opportunities for adults that are offered to younger learners as a matter of right. Such equality of opportunity builds on the good practice of diversity and inclusion. The students come from diverse backgrounds and their specific needs are catered for by the college courses, facilities, tutors and administration staff. Without Merton Adult Education at Whatley Avenue the London Borough of Merton will be a socially poorer borough. Council leaders need to invest in residents well-being and not simply follow a financial agenda.
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1. I think adult education should be local. 2. By combining with any other borough or college will ultimately reduce choice of venue and times of the courses. 3. It will also reduce the number of places available making it more difficult to get on a course.
1. The current arrangements are good. MAE offer a very good, well attended variety of courses. I have a disabled husband and am a full time carer. If these facilities were moved further away, I would not be able to attend. I need to know I can get home quickly if I were needed. This offers me some 'me' time and is beneficial to my health and well being. 2. This is a very busy college for young learners. It is not the correct environment for older adults who may be of a gentler disposition, who may need a calmer learning environment to regain skills and confidence. 3. Further distances are going to be difficult to travel to in limited time frames. 4. This is just privatising an already good service that works well. You have a lot of skilled, dedicated teachers and support staff that will be lost to this essential form of further education. 5. Spreading the cost but making the services less viable for the participants.
a basically local in house solution I disagree with option 4, there will be no Merton control of future costs
A full audit of the current facilities and the whole life costing of alternatives has NOT been done, so the financial case for change is weak. The Council needs firm robust financial data and not just a "gut feeling" that outsourcing is a lower cost long-term alternative.
A Merton location means that adult education is more accessible to Merton residents. The teaching and administrative expertise which now exists can continue to inspire and instruct. Janine Howard is our pottery teacher with years experience. Such leadership needs to be retained. Her students are enthused. I am sure many of your adult education teachers are the same. Merton offers quality services.
A proper consultation would allow courses to be refined and improved. This can easily be done internally within Merton. Once we lose buildings we will never get them back.
A third party provider would be motivated by cutting costs only and it would be difficult to monitor quality and service provision once a contract is signed with them. It is also likely that they would provide the bare minimum service at the maximum cost, which would not benefit students. Complaints would be difficult to manage. I doubt there would be a claw-back clause or a service delivery mandate that would be enforceable. Trying to improve or change or add or amend course provision would not be done quickly. The Council would be the third party's main customer rather than the student, which would not necessarily improve student experience or course offering as they would be slow to react to student feedback and less likely to change or improve knowing that they already have their "money in the bag". If the third party can't deliver a course which is required then you will have direct competition and a conflict of interest as the Council tries to deliver the course through another provider or on its own. Sharing services with a local authority such as Sutton or Wandsworth would reduce back office costs, but still keep the customers happy and keep quality and costs at a reasonable level. The councils can adapt to change quicker and won't be totally motivated by low offerings at maximum costs.
A variety of learning providers would force the competition to improve the services they deliver.
Admin costs do have to be saved but the breadth and quality of courses is paramount.
Adult Education and learning are an essential part of life for many in Merton and contributes to the cohesion of our community. Whilst I might consider the option of a Shared service with South Thames college as an option - no detail is given on how this would be implemented and structured and I feel could be misleading. So until full details can be supplied I would suggest in the interest of all concerned it would be best to stick to the current arrangements. Lastly the question must be asked - why is this consultation being rushed through - is there a forthcoming election????

Adult education courses are the only way out of poverty for millions of working class people. You want to close this college and not subsidise courses. Your motto is "let's keep working class people in the gutter".
Adult education is an essential part of a community, offering job opportunities and continued health and wellbeing for individuals. Downsizing these opportunities (whether through location, or facilities, or prioritising efficiency gains over services provided) will simply result in the majority of people losing this essential service
Adult education needs to be located conveniently for older people & provide courses applicable to them.
Adult education should not be privatised as would be the case if the administrations preferred option is realised. It is important that Merton Council retains control of the service and that it remains local. Courses would be rationalised if there were shared services with another local authority or another local authority managed college or commissioned services in partnership with another local authority.
Adult learning is very important part of every day's life as the society getting older generation increasing every year for the future, particularly many older people are stay alone and detached from society where learning circle is important part of well being and create happy society in order to stands healthier. I do not know the exact costs of details but I do certainly believe the adult learning will off setting costs against unhealthier increasing older generation without learning center circles.
AE needs a flourishing main centre as a focal point, and one which provides specialist rooms and facilities for those with a disability. Whatley Avenue does this, while smaller centres provide local facilities.
After reading everything i agree that we need to consider education provision in the East Side of the borough. I was lucky enough to undertake my GCSE English course at Cannon's House. The building was vey conducive to learning and i live in the East Side of the borough. The most important are disabled and disadvantged people.
Against 2 -may become 'poor relation' but finances would be secure. Option 3 would depend on the management of the service - if Merton has equal say could be a good option. Option 4 - least favourite as many of these 'other providers' have financial difficulties themselves and the quality of the staff and courses are not properly regulated - prices often go soaring and the providers 'get out when the going gets tough' Option 5 - isn't this the same as Option 3? I have chosen option 1 until we get more information about the other options in terms of management, length of contracts/partnerships, accountability etc.
All learners need a choice of subjects, location and culturally suitable environment.
All local authorities are in a similar position so it would not make sense to join with them when their situations are just as precarious. an established serve such at STC has experience to meet a diverse range of students needs
All of the Options except Option 1 makes sense. I'm not sure what are the costs involved. However, the Council's choice of Option 4 is probably the strongest contender.
All options except Option 1 mean a sell off of the main site and that would mean that the services would be much poorer and less accessible to people who feel safe at Whatley and have classes that they enjoy in good facilities
all options have good and bad points. a solution which maintains pr improves provision is ok..
An existing college such as South Thames will have the required expertise in delivering courses and a sharing of tasks may reduce costs.
Another LA would have more experience of Adult Learning
Any of these options which maintains the current service or improves range of courses is welcome.
Any shared service must be cost saving
Are there any other options that could save the Council Â£32m? I'm not convinced that any of the options given above would save the council Â£32m.
As an adult mental health service user the current arrangements are fantastic many adult mental health service users agree...the support is fantastic
As I do not know the financial implications this s a question I cannot answer. I can say that the centre at Whatley provides subjects that are not available elsewhere. Such a the excellent pottery studio. It would be tragic to lose this.
As I looked at courses with thames and the fact that there are two options near me means that I can find a course and time that suits. It encourages more people to study. I also looked at private providers and the value for money was nowhere near as good as council run courses.
As it is understood we should not put merton council at finance risk and may be another coucil coild have good facilities and ideas for share... so sharing is caring!!
As long as MAE is not closed down/Privatized, then let Merton council decide the option.
As long as services are similar (which they must be) then this is the best option. People working with the same aims under one roof must be most efficient and cost-effective model to work to.
As long as there are courses available for people with learning difficulties - which are easily accessible from Roehampton then needs can be met. Sutton is too far.
as long as there are improvements on course quality, teaching and costs any of the those options are ok
As Merton Council seems hell bent on getting rid of paying for adult education, it might be an idea to commission other providers to deliver adult education in Merton.
As the college is near my house and most accesable
At the moment, Merton Adult Education is bringing money to Merton Finances- Courses are top quality- Worried that Wandsworth will privatised, then forcing Merton to go along if they are joint, and by this, making courses unaffordable.

At the moment, the wide offer of courses that are not simply getting people to find employment, is a great way to offer people the occasion to mix with other people for different backgrounds. Only seen it in one course but I imagine it's going on in most of them. Good for the soul and saving on mental health later.
Based on information provided, this appears the most cost effective option, ie I think cost efficiency should be a driver in the decision.
because i can walk from home.it has parking for those who drive .it has good transport links and it is safe for disabled people to get to.iv'e been coming to that collage for 22 years now.
Because I do not have a problem with the current way the courses are run.
Because I know from extensive experience and research that the present arrangements deliver excellent value for money as well as quality. There is also an excellent ethos of service "added value" which is rare in the private/semi-private sector.
Because I live in Merton and I travel on buses in my wheelchair.
Because I strongly do not believe in using private companies to enhance their profits when providing education
Because I'm concerned there would be a lack of responsibility from other suppliers and that the quantity and quality of courses would suffer
because it could reduce administrative costs. however i do not believe that all courses should be free. e.g. ESOL because it means that there is a lack of commitment for many students to continue unless they have something to lose.
Because it could remain within the locality.
because it is based in this area. The other options would either increase the cost or take the courses away from this locality
Because it is not making a loss, it serves a local community and if you keep selling off our land, there will be nothing left.
Because it makes geographical and economic sense, in addition to keep learning suited to the local community needs
Because it needs to meet people's needs
Because MAE has help people like me get my confidence back and my concentration is coming back to normal after a very abusive long time relationship. Meeting people and sharing experiences as well as emotional well being.
Because MAE serves many adults in Merton. Helps them educationally, socially, mentally. There will be more mental health problems if MAE Whatley Ave closes.
Because Merton must be responsible and accountable. The current service is working well.
Because of the exiting studio space, pottery kilns etc which may not be available in a shared service with South Thames College. Sharing with another local authority could mean longer journeys for some vulnerable adults. Other providers may turn out to be more expensive (also option 5).
Because of the personality and uniqueness of MAE
Because South Thames Coll has a campus nearby making co-ordinating easier.
Because South Thames College has branches in different areas therefore, it will be easily accessible to everyone.
Because South Thames is an education provider therefore has the expertise. I'm in favour of co-operation with other authorities but Wandsworth already runs TOO MANY services for other boroughs so should be avoided! On no account allow the service to be PRIVATISED as this only results in cuts in order to make profits.
Because the campus at the moment is in a good location for me and if the college was merged it might not be able to offer the courses that I would like due to space restrictions and the equipment needed.
Because the current provision is excellent and constantly improving.
Because the environment currently provided by Merton Adult Education is appropriate and relevant to Adult Learners. Where is Merton is this type of environment and facilities available that would provide opportunities for the diverse range of learners currently attended the college. South Thames College is not appropriate because of their customer group and environment which is perfect for younger people and learners. Adult Learners will find this environment intimidating and will present further barriers to learning. South Thames College does not provide an environment which is appropriate for MAE's learners with disabilities whose curriculum offer would be provided within a lock down area and only promotes segregation, whereas MAE provides inclusion. Dilution of the offer will make the council vulnerable and not able to meet funding contractual requirements.
Because the environment in Whatley Ave is so friendly, especially for people with special needs, it makes them feel happy and secure. Also the courses offered in art and crafts are very good for older people to learn new skills.
Because the service at Mae is well used and highly regarded. The knock on effect to Joseph Hood Primary that selling off the MAE building in Whatley Ave will be devastating. How on earth in an already stretched to capacity site is a High School going to work? Why has this not been shared transparently with the residents and the school? It is an absolute disgrace and reeks of underhanded decision making and hidden agendas!
Because the services provided currently are excellent, why interfere with something that is working well in my view. As a council tax payer, this is one of the few services that accommodate my needs.
Because then this will have the least disruption and not compromise what is needed
Because there are many students who have learning and physical disabilities and change venues to them is going to be a not necessary challenges. They are used to this venue and it should continue the way it is. Also it is a valuable place that has been a college for adult for many years so it should carry on being it. The change of venue is going to be a challenge for many students and for Merton Council.

Because this is the only way you can continue to provide classes for all those students who currently learn with MAE. If you "commission" them, and get rid of Whatley Centre, most daytime classes will cease as there will be no venue to accommodate them DURING THE DAY. Those who attend daytime classes either do not, or cannot attend at night.
Because thousands of people rely on the current service and if this is moved hundreds of the local people who are older and/or have learning difficulties will be unable to benefit from the classes they currently attend. For some people their weekly visit to the college is the only social interaction they have - it would be a travesty to remove the current facility.
Because to me in Merton there is not as much adult learning for what I would prefer. For example, I have been trying to enter on an adult course for many years now and have not got this specific opportunity. But I am now pleased to be in one of your main courses.
Because to share, will halve the costs. South Thames has a site in Merton, so why not share?!
Because venues will be more accessible to people who live locally.
Because Wandsworth normally know what they are doing!
Because Whatley Avenue provides excellent teaching and learning facilities, it would be a shame to see the closure of a well established adult education site. Adult learning is a vital place for retired people to meet and find people with shared interests.
Because Whatley Avenue/Marlborough Hall etc provide a comfortable and safe environment for MAE learners, no matter their ability/disability. The environment at South Thames College (Merton campus) would intimidate the most vulnerable students. Leave MAE alone BUT put in a new and effective principal and management team.
Because Whatley Road college is a centre of excellence that I do not believe could be successfully replicated elsewhere.
Because when we finish our levels we don't get a graduation programme. When you combine with South Thames college we get that as well.
BENEFITS Sharing services with another borough will allow increased breadth of courses by giving both boroughs a wider pool of potential students in all areas. It will offer increased economies of scale by enabling courses to be merged. It will mean that the cost of maintaining duplicate facilities and staff can be scaled back, and the better facility for the course chosen between the two boroughs without need for divided investment. A contract for two boroughs will attract more competition between providers to provide a good service than one alone. Running a single tender should also mean less duplication of procurement process and associated costs. Public transport links between Wandsworth and Merton are excellent.
better to keep services local and in the borough
Better to share with another local authority but deliver locally. Wandsworth is not a good match for Merton.
Both are local and there are similarities in what they offer.
Brings learning together, and gives economies of scale while retaining local control of AE
Cannot rely on quality with the private sector. Making a profit usually drives down quality.
Clearly continuing as we are is not a viable option, but Adult Education in Merton should remain locally delivered and independent.
combining services always ends up with a reduction of services and a lower quality of service. we need places like Whatley Avenue to stay where it is and continue to provide what it does so well.
Continue with local classes and adult education in Merton. Merton Council needs to maintain and protect Merton Adult Education services from threatened cuts and/or closure. It is not feasible for certain groups, such as those like myself with limited mobility, travelling miles from the part of the borough (i.e. SW20 or SM4) that borders Surrey into the inner city in Wandsworth for adult education classes if the borough merges with another borough, as it would take 2 or 3 buses to get there, plus the extra time needed for travelling. Local adult education needs to stay accessible to everyone in the locality.
Cost-efficient ways must be explored and wide range of courses offered.
Costs need to be minimised but the services need to be accountable to the local authority. Other providers working only for profit would gradually reduce services and increase fees to an unacceptable level. The Whatley Avenue site must be retained. MAE is now self-funding and will tailor their courses in line with funding cuts.
Council should provide essential service to any people who pays tax. Adult learning service is one of most important services.
Council tax, increased if necessary, subsidised by the considerable reserves, should fund all necessary services. There are plenty of Brownfield sites on which money could be raised.
Courses should be provided in local centres, close to good bus connections or have adequate parking.
Current MAE provision overlaps highly with other local providers. It is far more efficient to increase numbers on courses already run by other providers than to try to replicate or duplicate provision separately.
Current provision appears to be too management heavy
Depends on how good the service is.
Do not believe any of the options would benefit Merton residents.
Do not like the idea of outsourcing
Economic sense to keep admin costs to a minimum. Scola for example has got very good purpose built facilities and it would be a shame if all these services cease to exist.
Education should be a key plank in the Council's economic and social plans. Commissioning out or sharing services would

mean the Council loses control.
Education should be local so as not to exclude the poorer sectors of the community. Privatisation of provision will impact on the quality, as seen in other areas such as prisons, cleaning contracts etc. Costs are reduced and quality suffers.
Education should be the responsibility of councils as they are the people invested in education, not money. Were other providers to be used, they would only be interested in money. There is a reason children's education is not done in the private sector.
Either 2 or 4. South Thames is well-established and as a teacher in adult education and HE, lots of my learners think MAE is part of South Thames anyway. There is not enough adequate promotion of courses to adult learners who are hungry to learn - both for business & pleasure. Option 2 would make best use of shared administration & facilities and leave the focus on teaching in the classroom. Several colleges I have worked at seem to forget the students are their clients and have become apathetic with regard to student care and customer service. There seems to have been a skewed focus on unnecessary and inefficient bureaucracy which has cost colleges dearly in student retention & satisfaction surveys. Colleges have to see themselves as businesses of education and their staff members should share these values. Overall, option 4 sounds the most sensible in the climate, but there is not enough information given on who these providers will be and how their quality will be ensured. It would be helpful to have more details in this regard to make a well-informed decision.
ensures quality and relevance
Ensures taking advantage of some economies of scale whilst retaining a local offering.
Exorbitant wages of council staff should be cut and efficiencies in administration should come before cutting Adult Education services. Adult Education services should be a priority for the council.
Experienced provider.
Fairly local to me
Financial risk is minimal. Distorted figures produced. Not accurate reflection on college costs. College is used by all sections and areas of the borough.
For me personally, Option 4 appears to be the best option, but the commission of alternative providers may make the cost of the courses I attend prohibitive or providers may not be found. I have therefore ticked the 'Don't know' option.
From all that I have seen and read I'm not sure the Council does bear much in the way of financial risk. Commissioning would undoubtedly cost considerably more, decrease choice and increase costs to students. Sharing the provision with another Borough provides no guarantee of courses continuing, being accessible or affordable. Many people would no longer be able to attend courses if they were to re-locate due to financial, travel and time constraints. Commissioning other providers to do the same is like reinventing the wheel, paying to reinvent it, and no doubt delaying delivery of said wheel. Why not look at cutting some of the admin spend - the ratio of staff compared to that of teaching staff seems high. I can't imagine that commissioning in any form could save money in the short or longer term.
From what I know SCOLA seems to be very good.
FYI
Good work so far....so why not keep on going???
Having attended courses in Merton for many years I feel the council has at least a measure of interest in it's students. Spreading the courses among several agencies or putting them in the control of strangers would negate that making us all small insignificant fish in a large pool.
how can you possibly answer this with no facts or figures. Costs, accomodation, population, parking ,staff. each area will want the best selection of courses, leaving the students further to travel
However, I think there is still a role for MAE. Only dome courses (Apprenticeships) should be commissioned
I am an existing adult student (languages) and I am greatly impressed by the teaching
I am enjoying my Italian course at the moment, but if the location and my teacher change I would consider quitting it.
I am happy with the experience I have of MAE. I think any change of funding or financial interest will change its nature as a community service provider.
I am hoping MAE will stay open and continue provide such excellent classes. For many years I have done evening classes, mostly to learn new skills to improve my employability yet it wasn't until I did a creative class that I really developed and grew as a person. Before then my life was all work and no play. Since taking up my class I have learned to de-stress, relax and be a calmer, happier person. I now have more confidence and am better able to express myself and to be myself. I am convinced the fun and joy I have has improved my well being and is building towards a more fulfilled and more satisfied life. Any niggles or anxieties are quickly forgotten once I am in my class. I actually miss my class when it is not on. I will miss it even more if it stops altogether. Please keep up the good service at Whatley and if possible offer more courses and choices. Life in the city can feel like a rat race and I think everyone deserves some relief.
I am involved in pottery and wish the current arrangements to continue. Specialist facilities are essential. Our students develop unique creative skills and confidence. This has a positive effect on the lives of working adults, retirees, the disabled, those with learning difficulties and carers.
I am not cognisant of the pros and cons of each option. It is vital that Merton residents should not have to travel to another authority.
I am unsure of the gains from the other options and don't agree with the principle of cutting adult education. Are options 2,3,4,5 the thin of the wedge to close down adult education in a staged manner. We need more not less life long learning to 1) drive community spirit 2) promote well being for a growing population to avoid isolation 3) to ensure people are

able to change career/prolong their careers.
I am very happy with Merton Adult Education as it is.
I am worried that by commissioning other providers to deliver adult education in Merton, it will become less accessible to the people who really need and regularly use the facilities.
I appreciate that MAE currently provide quality adult education courses to everyone. Any change in location, cost and structure of running the course would give me a re-consideration to continue my pursuit in adult learning.
I attend the stained and fusing glass course at Whatly Ave and greatly enjoy the course. Before joining this group of students i looked for other places to do fusing glass and was unable to find other oportunities. the class and the tutor are excellent with many of the class returning term after term. we would be devistated to loose our weekly class.
I attended a course at MAE Whatley Ave today. Having never been to the site before, I was delighted to discover what seems to be a rather hidden gem. I have lived in Merton for over 20 years and have to say that this is the very first time I have discovered somewhere that seems to understand what the word 'community' truly means. What a sad surprise to discover that the council is considering 'other options' - true enough that adult education would still be available in Merton - but having visited Whatley Ave today, having met the staff and regulars, I am far from convinced that that is the actual point.
I believe it would enable courses to continue to be available in locations convenient to me.
I believe life-long learning is everyone's right and it is society's duty to provide it at local and national level. I know from experience that adult learning can and does transform people's lives. Merton Adult education is a valuable local service and the benefits and results cannot always be measured or quantified but this does not mean they are insignificant. Courses in a huge range of subjects can help develop students' confidence and social skills and give those who are disadvantaged a second chance.
I believe MAE provides a good service and range of courses which are used by all ethnicities, ages, socioeconomic groups and abilities from across the borough, as evidenced by OFSTED. Instead of commissioning services which will incur significant costs and likely reduction in quality and types of courses offered, I feel MAE should be looking to increase courses and bid to provide courses to neighbouring boroughs By doing this they would reduce overheads and secure funding. Better advertising, improved administrative systems and streamlining paperwork would bring in more learners, including those from neighbouring boroughs where courses have been slashed. We should look at Merton libraries which were under great threat but now, by working in different ways, are open longer, providing excellent services and are award winning. Merton has invested significant amounts of money in the facilities at Whatley Avenue and it would be wasteful to sell them off to a developer or worse give them to Harris Academy.
I believe selling off the MAE site on Whatley Ave & providing adult learning from outside the borough will not provide Merton residents with the level of service required. Shortsightedly selling off this asset to the highest bidder, with seemingly no thought for or consultation with the Centre's neighbours on Whatley Ave, including Joseph Hood Primary School who share an access road, may help fill a budgetary hole, but it is nothing more than an ill thought out quick fix. The MAE site can never be replaced, once it's gone it will be the end of adult learning in the Borough.
I believe that in the case of Whatley Avenue, the council incurs very little cost. Many of the courses are independently funded and most of the runnin costs are recuped that way!
I believe that local services should be delivered by local providers who have greater knowledge of local needs and are more committed to serving the needs of local people and communities.
I believe that Merton could encourage more users with better advertising etc. and could within a reasonable period not be a drain on the Councils funds
I believe that since Wandsworth and Merton are neighbored boroughs, we should make the opportunity to work side by side to ensure opportunities for adult learning as well as further options. And it also helps making less cost to cover the course expense as merton had to sort out the MAE's budget.
I believe that the utmost should be done to ensure good course ranges are offered at a reasonable price to encourage people as the current courses do (currently doing my second course which is local and a good price). Local services are important in an economic climate where people still want to try new hobbies and learn new skills.
I believe the college should continue at the current venue, with the same, or better, provision. I do not think any classes should close if they are currently well attended.
I believe the other options would result in a reduction of services and are purely based on saving money. My course is very well taught and local and the college supportive. I don't see why any of this should be changed and worry for my future (I hoped to pursue the next level of my vocational course next Sept but this is only practical if the college remains here)
I believe, along with some of the current providers, Merton has within its onlwn borough the businesses and skilled individuals to make this work more cost effectively.
I cannot envisage another provider running the particular courses that I take.
I choose this option because the Whatley Road Centre provides a centre of excellence that I do not believe could be equalled anywhere else. Teachers, administrators, canteen staff, etc all contribute to a safe, caring, exciting and excellent learning environment. I think that commissioning out means the Council would lose control, which would inevitably be detrimental to MAE. I believe that the Council contribute so little to the Whatley Road centre, which is virtually self-funding, that little financial saving would be made in moving classes elsewhere and much would be lost.
I disagree with selling an asset that can provide the opportunity for adult learning over the coming decades. I would like

to see the council make the service more cost effective and more self-funding instead.
I do not believe that Merton Council has to run courses which lose money. This is just a lack of proper business like management surely? There are already other private providers of adult education, Merton has a responsibility to run different kind of adult education courses and be a source and focal centre of education in the community. Obviously they need to choose and run them more efficiently so they don't lose money. That just requires good management because the classrooms and capital assets are all in place. What is the remit for a private /other provider of adult education, how can they provide a community service ? This would be my second choice if Merton are confessing to the fact that they cant make it work.
I do not have enough information to make a choice. I prefer the option which will provide the best quality education in accessible locations for those who live in Merton. The venue should be considered by all likely users to be a in safe location and be reached in short time from their home by public transport. Adequate disabled parking should be available
I do not have the time to research which option is better, but what I expect is a partnership that improves the quality and the diversity of education possibilities to Merton Residents at a cost which is lower than current costs due to sharing. I do not think that cut-price courses necessarily offer quality and ultimately could destroy the attraction of adult education if the standard of delivery drops.
I do not know the difference between 2 and 3, both seem sensible options.
I do not know the risks - how people will be affected. I did not have an education and cannot access adult education because as a vulnerable autistic adult, there is no support... I do not have friends or supportive family. I have never had any support and do not believe I ever will. Life is hell I would be better off dead.
I do not see why current arrangements can't be made to work.
I do not trust the Council with the other alternatives and enough of local tax payers' money has already gone to pay for the new buildings which were moved from the school next door to the site.
I do not trust the Council with the other options.
I do not use the adult education system, but do feel it should be available to those who need it not those who want to take up a hobby. I do not feel that the residents of Merton who pay their council tax should pay for this service, it should be paid for by the end user.
I do not want to travel to Wandsworth and further to attend courses...I want them based in Merton.
I don't agree with private providers being used for this kind of service and would expect it to have a detrimental effect on the quality of services. I'm indifferent as to which other authority/college Merton shares its services with.
I don't have a lot of faith in Merton Council leadership, sadly. I have good knowledge of S Thames College management, and I would trust them to administer adult education well for Merton.
I don't have enough information about the implications of each model to make an active preference.
I don't know what the implications are of the above options with regards to where the adult services will be held. Whatley Avenue site should not be closed, South Thames and SCOLA sites are not close by and distance to travel to these other sites will be a huge hindrance and in many case will make taking up of the courses offered impossible
I don't know which would be best to keep Whatley Avenue open. Not happy with commissioning other providers.
I dont particularly have a preference between option 2,3 and 4 as its impossible to really have a preference without any facts- how does one choose between south thames, anothe LA or other providers. Ultimately my preference would be the option that delivers the best quality courses most efficiently.
I don't really know. May be financially better off.
I don't think we should aim to tie ourselves down to one solution or another at this stage. The option I've chosen gives us the greatest freedom to choose what's best for Merton.
I don't trust the other options to allow me to continue my french lessons as they currently stand
I feel continued attempts by merton to reduce budget at the expense of residents are counterproductive MAE has always provided me with high quality training & education and should be allowed to continue
I feel I do not know enough about how the money is spent -eg premises - staff etc to make an informed decision but Option 1 is currently working followed by possibly option 4.If venues are closed they will not be replaced like for like. New sheltered housing on Nelson site, increased population, need to keep Whatley Ave going with all its specialist resources. In big scheme of expenses 2.5 million is not much for a service which can be used by all the community. Just because it is in the west area if Merton is not a reason to close it. People here also get old, need to gain new skills, are disabled, want to make friends, improve quality of life. This service does more than just give people jobs - it supports quality of life do not destroy it for short term gain.
I feel it is up to you, LBM, to decide on the best option. I can' judge the merits of South Thames College, LB Wandsworth or other providers.
I feel that Merton Adult College has helped improve and better the lives of many service users that I have got enrolled on various different courses. I feel that it would have a very bad impact on many people's lives if things were to change.
I feel that the current arrangements offer a wide range of high quality courses delivered by excellent tutors. The facilities at Whatley Avenue are of a high standard, reflecting the investment made in previous years.
I feel the service is unique - its small size is an asset, many students attend because of this, having tried bigger colleges, one student told me about MAE 'here they actually care about you', 'here no one teases me'. Many students with

<p>learning disabilities find a bigger college to noisy and crowded. I agree that the admin spend is too high at the moment - but this is because all of the reviews have always been done by the college management, and they have never made any of the top level managers redundant - always only admin assistants at first, and then latterly some middle managers. Deal with the top heavy structure by slimming it down, don't take away a very well run college. You have a unique group of tutors at the college, particularly in the Learning Disability department - representing some 30 years + in teaching adults with learning disabilities, a very specialised task. Don't lose this!</p>
<p>I feel working together is a better option. Competition doesn't always provide a better service and often results in a dog-eat-dog situation.</p>
<p>I find that by sharing with another authority will help the collage the cost of running and more beneficial finically. It's like the bank merging with another bank to reduce the cost</p>
<p>I have been a student a MAE for 3.5 years. It has been instrumental in my mental welfare over this time. My personal circumstances have meant MAE has literally been a lifeline to me. I am largely tied to home and if the courses run elsewhere I will not be able to make it there on time using public transport and at considerable expense whereas currently it is free for me. Equally the standard of teaching is exemplary and I fear if MAE closes this wealth of knowledge and talent might not be able to relocate with them.</p>
<p>I have been attending Whatley Ave for over 14 years and there is a real sense of community there. Many learners are vulnerable yet they feel at home and cared for in this environment - this would be lost if courses were spread out all over the borough. I also suspect that the course that I am enrolled on - stained glass would not be able to continue elsewhere.</p>
<p>I have been attending Whatley Avenue Education Centre for 16 years. During that time I have undertaken computer courses, languages and health and well-being classes. I go there because I can walk from home so do not need to use my car and find the courses well-organised, efficient and informative. I rely on them to maintain my health and fitness (I'm 60 years' old) and thus helping to save the NHS an extra burden in related treatments.</p>
<p>I have been told Merton Council has Â£106M in reserve. Why can't some of this money be used without compromising other services in the borough? Hopefully the SFA will continue to provide the same level of service.</p>
<p>I have no objection to MAE being administered by another authority to save money by sharing office staff. What is crucial is to maintain a building at or near Whatley Avenue as the other providers are too far away to travel to. Your survey above does not give that information. It implies that classes would carry on at Whatley with new management.</p>
<p>I have not completed Question 2 as I really do not mind which option is chosen as long as Whatley Avenue remains open and provides the excellent courses it currently offers for all sections of the community. Whatley Avenue is a unique asset as it provides a safe, nurturing environment for the elderly, those with learning difficulties and the vulnerable members of our society. I do not believe that any other venue would be able to match what Whatley Avenue has to offer.</p>
<p>i have only done a blind survey on merton adult colloge they could be in the same boat when it comes to money but grouping the same course could benefit and save money as if you get 3 persons from merton and 4 persons from other areas that would mean 7 person in one class instead of opening 2 classes and useing to tutors</p>
<p>I have used the Whately Avenue site for yoga for several years and found it very convenient with good tutors. My husband has also attended oil painting classes. I think adult education is about expanding your horizons not necessarily about job training - i already know how to be accountant but don't know much about yoga.</p>
<p>I hope it is the easiest way to continue providing services and to minimize the costs</p>
<p>I know that there is a co-operation between Merton and South Thames College already and it has made a good effort.</p>
<p>I live in Merton, and thanks to Dial-a-Ride, I am able to attend college. If it goes out of the area, I would have to give up my three classes and my heart would break. This is my life blood to the community. I have lived in my flat for four years and know no one. At college I have lots of friends.</p>
<p>I live in Mitcham Sutton would be more accessible for me than Wandsworth or South Thames. I feel Mitcham does not have good access to any of the Adult classes</p>
<p>I prefer public services to be provided by and for the public, not commissioned out to private sector providers who seek profits as well as efficiencies.</p>
<p>I prefer this option because I don't want Merton to loose control of Adult Education and for it to get diluted down by other parties.</p>
<p>I realise that there has to be some change to make savings so this would be my preferred option if merton cannot continue as sole providers.</p>
<p>I retired in 1999 and attended Merton College on Saturday before. From 1985 - my dream was to learn how to paint and draw - I used to dream about it. I have attended Whatley Avenue all this time. I am now 78 years old - my only form of contact with meeting people and do the thing I love most. I am now disabled and need an outlet - I would miss my art class very much - my art teacher is the best.</p>
<p>I strongly believe that a joint endeavour with SCOLA (my preferred partner) would improve the quality and breadth of courses open to Merton residents. Scola provide a higher calibre and wider range of courses. In particular, they offer A'Level Courses, which MAE currently does not. I believe MAE should offer courses in A'Level English Language and Literature and Maths. These courses would allow residents the opportunity to improve their skills set, thereby allowing them to contribute and provide further added value to society thus benefiting the country and the economy.</p>
<p>I strongly believe this kind of provision is best in the hands of a local, not for profit organisation.</p>
<p>I studied at Merton adult education and it changed the way I used to live. I tried in South Thames college and it was spencive for me in that time but when I went to MAE I could get that for free and it allows me to get a new perspective</p>

<p>of my working life. It was a great opportunity and I believe other people should have the same opportunity that I have once. However, it would be great if the council could invest more in education. Investing in education is the single most effective way of reducing poverty.</p>
<p>I think it is a good idea to share and work together with other adult education providers. But I think the location should be kept and it should be within Merton. I am attending an evening course with a lot of other local people and know, that traveling 30min is fine, but not more than that and therefore location is an important factor.</p>
<p>i think it is good idea to make two authorities to work together. They can share knowledge, experience and ideas to improve the service.</p>
<p>I think it is important that a dedicated building be kept - specifically designed rooms with equipment are part and parcel of the right attitude to learning. only recently attended a course at Whatley Avenue and was amazed by the great facilities.</p>
<p>I think it is important to keep the focus on LA provision to ensure links with LEA's can be enhanced to ensure smooth transitions and shared resources for the benefit of students and reducing non teaching costs. The ethos and ethics of Adult education should be on not for profit provision.</p>
<p>I think it is wrong to reduce the number of centres providing adult education. They will become less accessible and quality of teaching will inevitably reduce with increased class sizes.</p>
<p>I think MAE is very important place for people who has problems to communicate, who find hard to find friends, has difficulties to coop with everyday life. This adults very likely to have mental problems.</p>
<p>I think Merton has a duty to provide opportunities in education or learning to all. Taking a course, learning a new skill and meeting new people is a great way of boosting ones confidence. Many of the courses I did included single parents or stay at home mums and networking with new people can fend off feelings of isolation and low self-esteem. I met two of my good friends on my Spanish class many years ago.</p>
<p>I think not enough people take courses which are on offer. There could be more takers in one borough and less in others so some form of bonding should be done to keep courses open.</p>
<p>I think shareing with another ocal authoriy is the best option because they can support eachother. Thay maybe can manage finances better. Also they can share good experiences and learn from it.</p>
<p>I think that local authorities should offer course opportunities to people residing in their borough.</p>
<p>I think that minimising the admin costs is essential to reduce the overall cost of providing the service. This could be done by sharing a back office function - but am not sure that it should be just considered with South Thames College or another local authority - could the admin/back office be outsourced? My concern with the preferred option is that it may reduce costs in the short term but longer term will increase costs, leading to a reduction in the service. I understand the need to reduce the risk of volatility in funding to the Council, but this is no doubt the case in other areas, where this risk is managed. I do think that the fees charged could be raised for the vast majority of participants with means testing/other concessions identifying those that should be allowed to participate for a lower fee.</p>
<p>I think that the current education sites provide a unique and excellent mix of courses and a very good level of facilities. Many of the courses available are not available in adjoining boroughs. Cost savings can be made in many ways, and in all the literature I have read it not at all clear what the annual shortfall is in the running costs. Some courses could cope with price rises and I am sure they would still be fully attended. I am also sure that cost savings could be made without sharing services or selling it off to an outside interest.</p>
<p>I think the adult education centre is a great space, location is accessable and prices are competitive. I would probably not use it so much if it were moved to another campus.</p>
<p>I think the council has little business running these servicesandshould leave it to the private sector except in the case of those with learning difficulties. There the council might only subsidize courses offered by the private sector.</p>
<p>I think the current provision is excellent and the Whatley Avenue site a well used building, with the ability to over a range of courses and suitable areas for storage etc for the more vocational courses. Given the vague nature of the other options - eg who exactly would these 'other providers' be and what facilities and range of courses would they offer - it seems impossible to actually express a preference for these options when the current provision is very good.</p>
<p>I think the existing courses at MAE are excellent and change will mean moving these courses to locations outside the borough</p>
<p>I think this would help keep costs down and also They have the facilities to offer more.</p>
<p>I think this would provide links with the east of the borough if the courses are also available to Merton residents at South Thames College. I do not know if it is intended to provide a brochure showing a wider range of courses for both areas as Merton's has been restricted in lots of ways and has not appealed to me in recent years.</p>
<p>I think this would reduce admin costs.</p>
<p>I think this would save a lot of money as you could get providers into a bidding war and go for the lowest price.</p>
<p>I think Wandsworth is the ideal partner for Merton as it is geographically close. I have attended courses there when similar courses have not been available in Merton.</p>
<p>I think we should join venture with other establishments to further the general public.</p>
<p>I took few courses in the current location and I found it a very good experience</p>
<p>I want a venue that I can walk to and if Whatley Avenue closes S Thames college is about the same distance from me.</p>
<p>I work in wandsworth as a support worker and ofte come to use south thanes college for adult courses and the offer a</p>

good service it would be beneficial to unite the two and have a wider service
I worry that costs, locations and quality may change to my detriment.
I would hate to see Whateley Avenue used for any other purpose. I do think that the ratio of funds teaching to admin needs looking at. I believe that may well be where the council could save money. Having said that, repairs on the building will need to be managed carefully. I also believe that more use of technology i.e. up to date phone and messaging systems would prove more cost effective than people!!
I would have chosen Option 4 if it were certain that South Thames College would be the commissioned provider as I believe overall this is the best option. It uses an existing Merton adult learning infrastructure, the STC premises are well located near bus and train communications, provide accessible facilities and are near to Morden Town Centre. Your information provided (thank you -it was very helpful) indicates that STC could take on approx 75% of the provision so this seems to offer a cost effective and minimal disruption to transfer of services. I feel very strongly that the commissioned provider should be a Merton based provider and contributing directly to the Merton economy as much as possible. Option 4 indicates that the commissioning would be tendered and so I assume would not guarantee STC being awarded. I have chosen Option 2 as my preferred option. I have done courses at both Whately Ave and STC and have greatly valued the learning experiences provided by both sites.
I would hope this option would aim to continue to supply the current level of service of adult education at relatively easily accessible centres.
I would like courses to remain in Merton as this is convenient for me and I would hope those running the courses would be under obligation to provide efficient, modern, well resourced classes.
I would like MAE to continue. It is the only real thing of value that is useful for me from the council as it offers great affordable courses near me for which I am happy to pay
I would like the classes to be kept fairly local and I know there are good classes at South Thames college
I would need to now more about the above options before committing to a response. Partnerships where financial, strategic, and governance is shared can provide viable options as long as it is well managed and supported.
I would not trust private sector providers to give a service that was good value for money as they have not done so in other outsourced areas. I would not wish to travel far outside the borough to attend courses.
I would rather have Merton bearing the responsibility for Adult Education. However, having recently studied at MAE I feel they are neglecting the Whatley Avenue site and that certain courses are therefore not as great as they could be because of the poor facilities and equipment available. I feel that South Thames college has good facilities and that these could provide a better environment for courses such as the beauty and massage courses. Also on a purely selfish level Merton campus of South Thames college is closer to where I live than MAE.
I would really prefer option 1 but if this is not feasible then option 2 appears to be the one most likely to provide services run and managed locally.
I would say that a provider specifically for the Merton area should be able to provide more Merton-relevant courses. On the other hand, there might be synergies to partner with other boroughs or South Thames College.
I'd much prefer to see Merton link with a college which already operates in the borough. I have little faith in Wandsworth's ability of committment to invest in adult education. Also Adult Education should not be purely focused on providing skills to improve job prospects. There are many vocational and interesting courses offered which are not linked to jobs but do significantly improve people's health and mental well being.
If by sharing facilities with other local authorities you are able to reduce non-teaching overheads and improve amenities and the quality of courses then it would be a good course of action but not this turns out to be a surreptitious means of cutting back in the future.
If cost effective , it should be done.
If financial issues are the problem, maybe a partnership with another college would help and maybe give more people options to access different courses.
If it's shared with South Thames the campus is still accessible within the borough and travel can be done locally. I am a student at MAEC and my courses are all evening and I use public transport. I wouldn't be able to access some courses if they were out of borough. I did a course with SCOLA last year and the time it took in traveling was longer than the session. It was actually counter productive. I feel it would be a great loss to adult learners and the borough if we lost this service.
If Merton can control the courses they run locally, at a more cost effective way, it would be more beneficial to Merton residents
IF other providers can maintain the range and quality of courses in a more efficient manner (because of experience or economies of scale), then everybody will benefit.
If the council uses an outside provider it puts the service in a weaker position to future cuts. If I wanted another borough to provide my course I would already go to it.
If the level of savings necessary are to be made we need to think more radically I would be happy to pay if a private company took over the provision or if indeed a co-operative were allowed to run courses using current sites and facilities
If the responsibility goes outside the borough there is a danger of the providers not having ownership of the services and thereby not provide the best service for Merton residents.
If the services are all under councils then there are fewer other agencies involved so less likelihood of poor communication between them, gerater efriciency if less competition and council should take full responsibility for what

they provide
If there is a financial risk its relative to services they offer.
If this helps to prevent redundancies within the Council it would be better to share but my overall preference would be to keep as it is at present.
If this means saving Whatley Avenue then it is
If this would save administration costs this would be a better option than outsourcing which can be more costly in the end. It's important that people should not have to travel too far to attend courses, especially for older people.
If you want to provide more career- and vocation-orientated courses they why not tie adult education more closely into FE? It doesn't make sense to switch to an alternative, commercial provider if this is your stated aim. Merton College could offer good efficiency savings and facilities, and has an already established profile in the borough (which could be raised further).
I'm a student at MAE currently it is local to me and is convenient times for me as I'm a single mum with 2 children at school the hours are perfect to work around the children if the college was somewhere else I would never be able to do the course I'm doing at fit it around the children.
I'm currently taking course at Scola,MAE should learn from Scola how to provide high quality courses
I'm not sure about what is the best as I don't have enough information.
I'm really happy with the courses offered by MAE.
Important for local people to be able to access local college that is not FE. Adults can often be put off attending a college with 16-19 years olds
Important for Merton to provide and have control over adult education for its own residents. A facility that improves the lives and mental health of residents. Learning is for life - council best placed to provide courses that benefit people's lives in many ways - new skills acquired, providing opportunities for people to get out and meet others, improve health through exercise - and council is an institution that can influence people to expand their horizons. Merton's adult education classes provide opportunities for learning not provided by neighbouring boroughs.
Improved choices
In order to continue to provide excellent educaiton services sharing teh admin costs seems the most appropraie solution in my limited knowledge.
Increased scale of operations, efficiency and reduced costs whilst combining resources, keeping control and not using money to create profit in a 3rd party organisation (Not entirely sure of conceptual distinction between option 3 and 2 - possibly to do with how South Thames college is run, not LA funded?)
Insufficient financial information and particularly in regard to the use of the site, if retained, or the use of the funds if sold.
Interlinking and networking with other places who already provide the education and resources creates efficiency and streamlines the sevice.
It allows for greater efficiency with little or do degradation in quality and range of available courses. The only concern is the jobs of those delivering the supporting services. There is only so much to be gained by leveraging off shared services and facilities.
It allows MAE to provide unique, highest quality and speediest response to customer needs.
It appears that the current service works well, although costs could be cut in the administrative and management jobs. consideration could also be given to increasing the fees for classes slightly, but with some subsidised places.
It can be daunting for people to go to these big college. Local services are more user friendly.
It could increase the courses available.
It has a community atmosphere. You will destroy Wimbledon Chase Community Centre.
It is a high quality service
It is accessible to the disabled. It is near my home.
It is already a hassle getting to Whatley for people who work. Trekking to South Thames or Wandsworth, after work on a dark Winter evening is out-of-the question. I think Merton needs to cater for people who pay council tax not just the people who are receiving benefits or are retired. Teaching venues need to be close to stations. I would definitely NOT go to an out-of-borough centre.
It is clearly a facility that is well used and does not cost the Council any money.
It is far from clear which is the best value option from the information provided. Is Option 4 preferred because it makes the greatest saving? Will it respond best to local needs? Or will it mean that Merton has to "take it or leave it" from an outside provider in future? Superficially at least, Options 2 and 3 would appear to offer the Council greater control over the future direction of policy.
It is important for a wide varierty of reasons that the council supports local, cost efficient leanring for adults. To reduce this service deprives people within the area of valuable opportunities both to better and amuse themselves. Addressing the provision of English Language teaching specifically, I think it is imperative that Merton continues to offer a local service to learners that requires them to mix with people from across the community. This helps to create effective communities and breaks down the barriers that exist in our community because of a lack of shared language.
It is important for LBM to be in control of its Adult Education Offering; we must be one of the wealthiest Local Authorities in the country (albeit not necessarily the best managed) and for the Council to be considering not being in

charge of its own AE offering is a dereliction of civic duty in a developed country.
It is just as important WHERE the courses are taught and the atmosphere of the establishment can be a large factor in whether someone makes that daunting decision to sign up to a course. Being an adult educational establishment and not of a daunting size it allows mature students to feel at ease and also those with special needs. For some people, coming here is not only to gain knowledge but it is a life line socially and personally.
It is not a bad idea to team up with another institution to deliver an improved service
It is the option which is proven to work and work well. Continuity is especially important for those with learning difficulties, as is a familiar environment.
It is the problem for Merton to solve and bringing in others is not a solution.
it is unclear what financial risk is being referred to, but back office savings may be made to keep the facility at the current location serving the local population
It is unclear with the other options which courses would be axed & which saved
It is very important that Merton continues to provide Adult Education in the Borough or gets some other body to do this. It is so important to adults that there is the facility to learn and improve. It is a fantastic way of getting folk together from different ethnic and social backgrounds regardless of ability/disability, sexual orientation and age. My particular class certainly mirrors all these different groups and we all get on together.
It makes sense to combine services and save money by rationalising back offices.
It may save money by sharing STC Merton Campus, such as classrooms, facilities, etc to deliver the necessary courses that Merton residents need.
It offers most flexibility
It really doesn't matter what I, or anyone else, thinks. The decision has already been made and it is a done deal!
It remains local and Scola have a good reputation for delivering courses
It saves money without the risk of privatising the service to private learning organisations, which has more risk of poor service, not being scrutinised properly and a service motivated by profit rather than for the benefit of students themselves.
It seems this not about the Merton Council bearing Financial risk...but Merton council are in need of LAND for development
It seems to me that most of these options mean Whatley Ave would close (possibly be sold). This is my closest and preferred site for MAE. I would not like to see the site close.
It should be possible to run adult education without risking losses if it is done efficiently, which has not been the case for many years.
It should not go to private companies it should stay in local authority-of the people for the people
It should stay as it is.Maybe updated a bit but This is a perfect college for many people for many reasons. If it wasn't for MAE I wouldn't be on the road to where I want to be.
It the provider is already experienced in the area of adult education it saves duplication of courses and concentrates the best tutors to a provider.
It will minimise job loss and create a greater skills mix.
It will reduce administrative costs and Wandsworth is a big council with a diverse population and within easy access of Merton.
It will save money
It works as it for students. A small increase in fees could help.
It works satisfactorily and it is understood that MAE is not as unprofitable as has been suggested. The Council also has ample reserves that could be used.
It works well, the facilities are excellent, the staff are knowledgeable, it would be stupid to merge with other providers or externalise as you lose control of the quality as if you don't care about adult education as you want to sell off the sites and focus on what is statutory its short sighted and stupid as in the future the NEETs and vulnerable adults will suffer.
It would allow the current services provided by MAE to continue but with some efficiencies.
It would be better to be in a college environment with proper facilities for teaching
It would mean the location doesn't move too far and south Thames college must have existing abilities to run educational services. Assuming they don't already hold these in evenings it would seem like a good use of space
It's a difficult decision to make - being swallowed up by a large fe college (opt 2) or dictated to by another borough (opt 3 and 5) or privatising an education facility (opt 4). Option 1 isn't really an option as it's not the council but the council tax payers (including myself!) who stand to suffer the loss.
It's important that night school facilities are protected in case ONE of the providers becomes bankrupt or can no longer work in this field
It's important that the accessibility in terms of the number of locations doesn't go down.
Its well placed and has over the years provided a good level of education for a wide variety of people..eg myself.After attending only 1 course i was able to obtain a much better position at my place of work..i have recently enquired about a further course and was a little upset that there was talk that the facility may close.A shame if it does.
I've used South Thames and they use unsuitable venues and make it hard to enrol. No facilities for people with learning disabilities

Keeping courses local encourages people to take courses locally - more travel puts people off courses and doesn't help traffic.
Keeping local services local means it is accessible to the people of Merton making people travel further and further will hinder access.
Knowledge from other learning providers is always positive.
Last time I looked at adult education courses in merton there was little of interest to me with far too many alternative health courses. They should provide more courses which help people back into employment also give life skills. This would be helped by linking with another organisation .
LB Merton probably lacks the expertise to go it alone. South Thames College has provided acceptable adult learning courses.
LB Wandsworth is our neighbouring borough and has a proven record of providing cost savings and successfully streamlining services.
Learnign opportunities should continue to be provided by local providers who are privvy to the needs of the local community.
Like schools, adult learning centres should be local and be part of the local community. They should be in walking distance thus reducing the problem with parking. It should remain part of our local cultural feature.
Local adult education college provides best service for the local community as it is best informed of what is needed here. Shared service will put Merton learners at a disadvantage.
Local authorities are committed to their communities and have substantial experience in meeting their adult and further education needs. They are not motivated by profit or the need to undercut competitors and are directly accountable to residents/service users.
Local college locally run for local people will best address what MERTON people need. It's local, accessible and relevant.
Local community
Local people need local facilities - transport, established places for activities. If it ain't broke why fix it. Examine other activities of local council which are more general political activity and reduce them. Education is a continuing need and should be provided.
Location and quality of the course as well as a range on offer is important. But, I have previously travelled to central London for courses if they are what I am looking for as a local borough cannot be expected to provide everything.
Location is very important as people want to be able to access services easily. Merton appears highly inefficient with a very high proportion of non-teaching costs.
Location of the college is quite convenient to students and teachers. All students and teachers live local. In addition, this is the only decent adult learning college available in the area.
MAC costs Merton Council very little. However, what it does offer is a friendly, resourceful environment that caters for all learners regardless of their capabilities and choice of learning.
MAE and SCOLA should work together to service the adult learning needs of the local community. LBS and LBM already work together so it is logical to increase this. It will decrease expenses and increase unity and help to stop duplication. Courses could be run in one or other borough to decrease the chances of wasted time and resources due to courses having to be cancelled due to lack of students as drawing from both boroughs would mean that was less likely to happen.
MAE at Whatley Avenue and Wimbledon are in purpose-built, modern accommodation - would be wasteful to abandon these buildings. Another service provider would use facilities profitably one hopes!
MAE currently offers an excellent service, the college at Whatley Avenue is welcoming and friendly. The atmosphere is extremely inclusive and I believe that this is A huge benefit to all learners. The courses on offer are varied and taught by excellent tutors.
MAE has a successful track record, a unique identity and breaks even. Dismantling it would result in high hidden costs with some learners left with nowhere to go.
MAE have a great site at Whatley with specialist teaching rooms. ie Pottery , Kitchen, Art , IT and woodwork what other venue could boast such great facilities
MAE IS dedicated to provide adults with opportunities beyond vocational needs which are catered for very well At other colleges in the borough. MAE Whatley Avenue is a unique environment a calm truely special place where amazing learning takes place To split adult learning bits and pieces allover the borough would be appalling. Where Would all the mature students and special needs go? Mixed up with other unsuitable learners at colleges dedicated to youngsters preparing for the workplace. The simply would not mix Successive have promised LEARNING FOR LIFE. Closing MAE Whatley would be throwing out the BABY with the bath water PLEASE OPT TO KEEP MAE WHATLEY OPEN
Mae is a consistently good and well-established provider of adult education services. It has particular expertise in providing educational provision to those with learning difficulties and to adults from other countries who wish to obtain educational qualifications in English ESOL. Furthermore it has thriving classes in arts courses of all kinds and in foreign language teaching. It would be counterproductive to close or move MAE elsewhere because it is vital to provide services locally, within the borough's main residential areas without requiring students to travel long distances.
MAE is a successful and popular institution with its own ethos and atmosphere. It has a strong student base and tutors who are not just there in the short term hence the good relationship and understanding between students and tutors. MAE is a local community which provides more than just learning. If it is broken up all this will be lost and I for one will be bereft and quality of life impoverished for local people

<p>MAE is a unique place for people to learn in. A college where people with a learning disability can learn in the mainstream. It gives them the independence to move forward and progress in life. Many courses that are at MAE are specialist where they may not be able to integrate elsewhere.</p>
<p>MAE is a well established institution providing a variety of courses at different levels to adults, thus enabling them to develop their careers, future professions. The building has adequate space to provide a teaching environment and ethos for a number of different weekly and weekend courses with transport links nearby. I believe Merton Adult Education college should continue to function as it is. If course fees need to be increased to balance and smooth financial stress then Merton local authority should be open to discuss the same. Has Merton Local authority been reviewing this problem over a period of time and decided to open its doors to public discussion now or yet another excuse to sell up another of Merton's prime building sites?</p>
<p>MAE is in a fantastic location to me as I live in Raynes Park. It is unlikely I would travel far to access adult education. Has MAE college been given the opportunity to present a business case to keep the college open? Is there capacity to increase the number of courses it offers, increase the course fees and reduce back office costs to make the provision of adult education more sustainable? MAE provides courses for many older and more vulnerable people; the benefits are difficult to evaluate. A reduction in spend in adult education may well result in higher costs for the council elsewhere.</p>
<p>MAE is run in an old and inefficient way, it needs a radical change to improve services.</p>
<p>MAE offers so much to the wider community. I have always felt privileged that such a range of courses were available to me that fitted round my working day. I was therefore saddened to hear that MAE college is under threat of closure. I personally feel this would be a great loss to our community. I originally joined the college as I have an interest in foreign languages and wanted to learn a basic level of Spanish. However, I have continued as I found that not only did I enjoy the academic aspect and learning a subject that was not available to me when I was at school but I got to meet and spend time with people in my community that I would not necessarily have had the pleasure to meet otherwise. Furthermore, it has encouraged me to make better use of the fantastic libraries we have in Merton and I have a much better sense of what's going on in the wider community both from other students and just being involved with MAE. I never underestimate the many benefits the availability of adult education offers to our community. A great example is my Grandfather. My Grandmother was terminally ill and in hospital then a hospice for the last 18 months of her life. My Grandfather, then in his late 70s, travelled to the hospital by bus everyday throughout this time to spend time with her and this left no time for anything else. After her passing he was left feeling a bit lost with lots of time on his hands that he wasn't used to. He enrolled for two classes at his local Adult education centre and it was a great way for him to reengage with his community by meeting new people and just having a focus away from a very difficult time in his life. Another good example is my Mother in Law who has recently retired from a 40+ year career as a midwife. Having always wanted to develop her artist skill but never having had the time previously she has enrolled in a foundation class and is thoroughly enjoying the experience in a welcoming and age appropriate environment that</p>
<p>MAE provides a really good service. Commissioning other would just allow them to make a profit and there would be no quality to courses.</p>
<p>MAE WHATLEY is Merton's flagship and well-respected throughout London. It must be one of the reasons for the award of "Best Borough"! For it to vanish would be a public disgrace.</p>
<p>MAE works well as it is: it provides excellent education opportunities with first class, dedicated teachers and comfortable classrooms and studios. Please explain 'Merton council bears the financial risk'. A risk is not a certainty so it would be good to see the figures behind this statement.</p>
<p>MAEC is a valuable community resource with a proven record of providing good quality courses to all sectors of the local community. The model works and should be left alone in my opinion.</p>
<p>MAEC is a valued community resource with a proven model that works. It must be left to continue.</p>
<p>Maintain as many staff from MAE however, oncosts should be reduced using this method.</p>
<p>Maintains Council management - i.e. not for profit. Economies of scale for management and back office functions.</p>
<p>Majority of the level 3 courses in the college are now offered as student loans not impacting on Merton's budget. Selling it to developers will make millions for the council, I suspect this is the option they would prefer, or due to the over population of the area the school may require the grounds. Both would be a great loss for the adult community as a whole, adults are less likely to attend the larger colleges, reducing the chances of some adults ever getting back into work.</p>
<p>Makes more sense to share the costs with another college from another council.</p>
<p>Many of the students at Merton Adult College at Whatley Avenue are disabled and or learning difficulties and or retired people who spend the afternoons or evenings there. If their college changes location to them would mean loads of changes that a lot of them would not cope very well, bringing more expense to the council. I believe that not only MAE should suffer financially cuts. Other sectors in Merton should suffer financially cuts as well and Whatley Avenue should be saved.</p>
<p>May get more variation of courses.</p>
<p>MEA at Whatley Ave is a precious resource for people with special needs and learning difficulties. It should remain on or near this site to be in borough, but there is no reason why efficiencies should not be made with other providers eg back office services</p>
<p>Merton adult education currently provides an excellent service in a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment.</p>
<p>Merton Adult Education deserves praise, support and the commitment of the Council. I am a Wandsworth resident who</p>

<p>came to MAE because of the shoddy state of adult education offered in my own borough (cramped room, old equipment in a poor state of repair - was not repaired or replaced in 18 months I attended) I STRONGLY DISAGREE that a shared service with Wandsworth or South Thames College would benefit teaching and learning. The course at Whately offers excellent teaching in a modern purpose built room - for the same price to students as the dire Wandsworth course. My feeling is that there are efficiency savings that could be made on administration but closing teaching centres and especially commissioning other providers is not the way to improve things for learners. Please remember that adult education is not JUST about getting a job, it is also about nurturing the abilities that don't get used in the workplace but keep us happier, healthier and ultimately more productive individuals.</p>
<p>Merton Adult Education has allowed me to continue my education when I was given no other support. I suffer from severe anxieties and panic attacks, I feel able to enjoy my learning in a safe environment where the staff, teaching and otherwise continue to make me feel comfortable. Thanks to MAE I now have a GCSE in English and Maths, Grade B and I am currently taking GCSE French and an ICT course. MAE has given me the confidence to be able to achieve more. For these reasons I believe that the council should bear the financial risk as MAE has been such a fundamental place for me and I am sure many others, and it would be a great shame to see it changed and costs that allow it to be a great place cut.</p>
<p>Merton adult education is an extremely important resource for the community. If there are savings then these could be found through new cost effective ways of running the centre perhaps by charging more for some courses or using the facilities more to bring in more revenue.</p>
<p>Merton Adult Education makes money for the Council, you should develop this business model and use this service for its uniqueness</p>
<p>Merton Adult Education needs to stay in Merton to meet the needs of the local residents and community. South Thames college is the best option as it not only is a grade 2 provider with excellent resources, but has a campus in Merton, which means that adult education will get to stay in the London Borough of Merton.</p>
<p>Merton Adult Education offers an excellent service to a wide range of Merton residents in a safe, friendly environment. Learners with learning difficulties and disabilities are able to interact with a wide range of people from the community... And vice versa. The curriculum offers something for everyone, leisure courses that help people express their creativity, helps with mental health. Fitness courses help keep people active, and vocational courses and literary / numeracy courses give adults a second chance in an environment they find encouraging without feeling embarrassed or intimidated by younger learners. This is an essential service if you want a happy, healthy, enriched & employable borough.</p>
<p>Merton Adult Education provides a very caring and supportive learning environment which may get lost in a reorganisation. Because it provides a variety of courses at one site, it is a place where diversity and community cohesion are experienced and not just taught. It is particularly good for ESOL students to see what else is on offer and to see how we value adults with learning difficulties. A scattered service will not expose people to the rich array of courses and there is a danger that there will be less integration across communities. I am also concerned that the greatly valued arts and crafts courses will not be rehoused and they will be permanently lost. These courses not only enrich our lives but also directly and indirectly lead to greater employability. People learn skills that allow them to set up their own business or through improved mental health they are able to return to work. Mental Health is one of the big issues and there is much talk of mindfulness particularly in relation to manual activities. These create new neural pathways and are often the best way out of mental illness. Merton may regret axing a service that is crucial to an issue that may be near the top of a new government's agenda. Finally a lot of money has been spent on refurbishing Whatley Avenue. This has led to an improved OFSTED rating. The service was criticised in the past for a lack of IT stimuli when it was delivered in a more basic environment.</p>
<p>Merton campus would be accessible to me. It has good facilities already</p>
<p>Merton College offers excellent courses for adult education locally and to help with employment but more importantly offers disabled people and people with special needs a chance for employment and a feeling of self worth.</p>
<p>Merton Council does a good job currently, why change what works well.</p>
<p>Merton Council should be able to budget and manage its finances without detriment to adult learning services. However, if necessary, the shared service option could be a good idea. Sharing with another local authority will just spread the issue and add extra bureaucracy to matters, without providing an effective resolution.</p>
<p>Merton Council should be in control of financing Adult Education in this borough to provide adequately for its older and disadvantaged citizens. It is their duty of care to the community.</p>
<p>Merton council should provide relevant services for the demographic of the residents of Merton. Not anyone else</p>
<p>Merton Council should retain hand-on control. Outsourcing is a disaster in every part of govt and local activity.</p>
<p>Merton Council waste of trivial things and takes away service tat are needed</p>
<p>Merton currently offers an excellent adult education service in welcoming and inclusive premises, I believe that they should continue with and develop this service.</p>
<p>Merton decides on who to commission.</p>
<p>Merton has stated its intention to support adult social care. MAE provides this (as well as opportunities for continuing education).</p>
<p>Merton is very good area and provides easy access for many people The facilities are very good and provide some of the best teachers.</p>

Merton need to take responsibility for Adult Learning within the community and not cut services so to fund other operations within the borough that carry heavy costs with no value attached to them. Its obvious that all they want to do is cut the service & sell off the land for development like they are elsewhere within the borough.
Merton should be able to provide skill, learning and life enrichment courses for its own residents and be able to respond to the particular needs of its own residents, rather than having to seek a compromise arrangement with neighbouring boroughs.
mertons obsession with reducing expenditure at the expense of local residents is wholly counterproductive and does much to undermine our local community
Merton's provision of present adult education and learning courses are very good, therefore it would be a great loss if the council could not find a way of working around and managing financially, providing the courses in their present form.
might be the best option to continue
More direct control over management and costings and tailored to specific needs of Borough residents etc and not influenced by other areas as a result of any "sharing" arrangements. Too much money is being expended on other non essentials in the Borough. Merton's Contingency Plan is exactly that - to help and be used to assist in times of financial restraint towards essential and important services. It is useless to have contingency money sitting for years not achieving anything and no doubt not generating much real interest on the capital sums (so not adding substantially to the capital itself) in the current financially difficult times in the UK. Use some of it now!
More efficient and the new provider will be held accountable to provide high standards by the two councils
More efficient, keeps it local
My concern with the other options is that learning centres would be further away from my home and more crowded
My experience is that the college as it works well and is well integrated with the community it serves - to lose the college would harm delivery and Merton Councils prestige and recognition
My preferred option is that Whatley Avenue is kept open, but this is clearly prohibitive for the Borough in the economic climate, and this Option of teaming-up with South Thames College seems to make the most practical sense.
My son feels safe in Whatley College, he does not mix easy, but there he comes home and says what happened during the lesson. Also they understand his needs there and support him while he attends. To travel further then Whatley College would be quite a worry to me. Please, please see your way to keep this college open. Thank you, a parent.
near home, excellent teaching, pleasant surroundings
Need support if take on commissioning model and commissioning seems most viable option given public spending outlook
No case has been made for these changes. The "consultation" period is too short and some decisions have been taken already without consultation. The Council must provide details of expenditure and income: exactly how much would such changes save? How much do fees contribute to running the centre? We need more transparent information and the Council's vision of adult education. Without these it is impossible to support any other model of adult education in Merton. The survey contains biased questions and does not allow respondents to express their full concerns about the proposed actions. The option of sharing administrative arrangements might be considered if it does not affect educational provision; please demonstrate. The "commissioning model" cannot be supported without knowing what is involved, who would deliver, how it would be more economical? Concrete figures and plans are needed. The Council refers to Whatley Road as an out-of-the-way location. A central location would be more, not less, costly. While most of the 5000 users are Merton residents, others find their way to this excellent facility from other parts of South London. Serving a wider community is an important function of adult education in London. This facility is well used by the elderly and retired; people with mental and physical disabilities; those recovering from mental stress, physical illnesses or isolation; those seeking to improve employment opportunities; and residents in Merton and South London looking to enhance their quality of life. MEA Whatley Road already delivers an excellent adult education service to an important constituency. At a recent packed public meeting there was a high level of stress among locals and the adjacent primary school at the number of flats constructed nearby and fear that the Council plans to sell the site. What are the plans? Rather than attack MEA, Councillors could demonstrate their commitment existing adult education services equal to any in Lo
No continuity of teaching. Outsourcing is inefficient and ineffective
No cost to tax payer and some interesting new ideas could come forward.
No robust case has been made for these changes. The "consultation" period is too short and decisions appear to have been taken without a true consultation. The Council must provide details of expenditure and income (including the proportion covered by students' fees), more transparent information and a vision of adult education in the Borough. Without this it is impossible to support any other model of adult education in Merton. The survey does not allow respondents to express their full concerns. Some questions are biased. The option of sharing administrative arrangements might be considered if this can be done without affecting educational provision; please demonstrate. The other option of a "commissioning model" is unclear. This cannot be supported without knowing what is involved, who would deliver, how it would be more economical. Concrete figures and plans are needed before any alternative is considered. The Council refers to Whatley Road as out-of-the-way. Over 5000 students attend. People will travel to adult education classes. While most users are local, serving a wider community is an key function of adult education in London. Moving classes to a more central location would, of course, be more, not less, costly. This facility attracts a wide range of students from all walks of life. It is well used by the elderly and retired, people with mental and physical disabilities;

people recovering from mental stress, physical illnesses or countering isolation; the local community; those seeking to improve employment opportunities; and residents in Merton and South London looking to enhance their quality of life. At a recent packed public meeting there was a high level of stress among residents and the adjacent primary school at the number of flats being constructed nearby and fear that the Council plans to sell the site. Councillors could promote MEA as an outstanding example of its ability to deliver high quality adult
None of the above. The people with learning disabilities would hate South Thames College and would not want to travel further afield. There are many cuts and savings in the borough that could be made. Everyone at Whatley Avenue loves going there and enjoys courses they don't put on anywhere else. We are talking education here.
not sure about Other Providers !
Not sure how it is cheaper to Commission other providers when they will want to make a profit, surely it's better for the council to make that profit.
Not sure that sharing responsibility with other organisations works. It may mean that people have to travel further for classes. As long as other providers are monitored for quality. I also worry about where classes would be held eh I attend Whatley Avenue which has a dedicated art area which is custom built for arts and crafts study. Would anyone else be able to provide such great facilities.
Offsetting or reducing risk invariably costs money! A commercial provider will need to make a profit and will not really be able to deliver equivalent quality at lower cost than a non profitmaking in house service. If they do take any risk from Merton, they will require compensation. They have a duty to their shareholders to get a return for any risk they take. Procurement systems such as PFI have been shown to incur massive long term liabilities which are out of all proportion to the (political) benefit of appearing to reduce current revenue costs and risks. It is irresponsible of politicians to secure their own short term popularity by balancing current finances at the electorate's very considerable long term expense.
Often with outsourcing there comes a lack of quality control, as the low cost becomes the sole motivation, and then changing providers becomes a huge problem. So you keep on with the old contract even though neither the client nor the user is satisfied with the service. By keeping control of the actual management, you would be able to ensure good service - and change when change is needed more easily.
On being widowed at the age of 52 I attended the college, had it not been local I would not have gone. The course gave me confidence, a feeling of belonging again and enable me to get employment in a new field that before the course I would not have felt adequate. I have so much to thank the college for.
Once MAE has gone it will be gone forever. The Council has enough money in its slush fund to cover the £32 m deficit it claims and MAE returns a profit. This is a smokescreen and I believe money has been offered for the MAE site. It is important to keep MAE to allow local residents access to adult education without having to travel far which at best is inconvenient and at worst impossible for some. Leave our community services alone!!!
Option 1 - financial risk I would say NO to this option. Options 2 and 3 either of these 2 options could work if properly managed and the quality of courses don't suffer as a consequence. Option 4 - Merton's preferred option - who are the "other providers"? How would this work? ie do the others have complete contact? How does this work financially? Do they understand the needs of local people? Option 5 - DITTO 4. Commissioning other providers could perhaps not be financially viable? As I'm not a business person and not a financier I can't properly answer this question. As an academic I feel adult education is very important and should continue, and the quality of teaching should be excellent, unfortunately I'm not an economist. It depends who the other providers are.
Option 1 is my preferred option as it works with skeleton staff already and is popular, relevant and financially affordable.
Option 1 is not worded correctly. Where is the option to continue current arrangements without the council bearing the financial risk?
Option 1 preferred as it is currently running reliable services. Adult education in Merton should be run by the council that knows and understands the region and its population's needs.
Option 1, because all the other options will either be expensive, less available or not in easy reaching distance for people who are not able to travel.
Option 3 has the advantage that a local authority understands that the unique role of adult education is to contribute towards the social and psychological well-being of the community, as well as providing vocational skills.
Other providers will presumably be able to offer an equal or improved quality of service. Payments for the contract will presumably be ring fenced for each agreed period i.e. cannot suddenly remove funding without contractual penalties being applied.
Other providers would give more range and scope to types of courses offered.
Other ways it may become more confusing and complex and may involve some staff losing their jobs which is not good.
Our college does not have any financial risk to the government all courses that are run are well attended and necessary to help people move forward in their lives
Outsourcing may be cheaper initially, but long term. Sharing with another local authority means costs are lowered and quality is maintained.
Over the years I have seen 2 teaching venues in the North of the borough which is more deprived closed. I think that liaising with another college would put more venues at risk and MAE would be subsumed.
Ownership is still within the confines of Merton borough. The identity of adult education is therefore still local to the borough.
People with learning difficulties are supported at MAE and will get care. They will focus on money not care.

Pooling requirements with another Borough is likely to offer a wider range of courses, venues and teachers, with potential cost advantages
Preferred option would be SCOLA which runs efficiently and resources could be shared.
Preferred to go for work and improve my knowledge
Presumably Merton Council has explored all these options at length and decided that option 4 is the most appropriate. It would need to provide a cost effective service for the long term. However option 2 might also be considered. As an established Education College facilities and staff would be in place already. The sites chosen to run the courses would however need to be easily accessible to all Merton residents.
Presumably the Council has looked into other options and concluded that Option 4 is the best. However Option 2 may also be a consideration.
Presumably the council has looked into the other options carefully and in depth and found that Option 4 makes the best financial sense for the long term continuance of Adult Education provision in the Borough. However Option 2 might also be a consideration.
Private providers will charge more and limit the courses to what are the most profitable.
Private services often do not provide the service they are commissioned to provide due to rising costs, offering the service too cheaply, needing to make profit etc.
process of elimination applied to my choice. I do not like options 4 and 5, which bring in commercial providers who will take a profit. Limited experience with carers is frightening. I do not understand Council funding, but if RISK IS INVOLVED IT IS BETTER SHARED WITH ANOTHER AUTHORITY. South Thames College may be that other "authority". My overall view is that the general public at large,i.e.borough residents, do not have the competence to choose an option on other than emotional grounds
Protects quality of teaching while reducing running costs. Retains central location in the borough.
Proven track record Experienced provider Existing pool of resources Good choice of courses
Provides services in the Morden area rather than at Whatley Avenue - easily reached by bus and train.
Providing administration & HR with another local authority is coordinated sensibly & effectively this option would mean that costs may be sensibly cut without affecting services and existing courses and staff. However, it is critical that the council investigate this solution in advance prior to committing to demonstrate to residents & to ensure it is a viable solution where both authorities are in agreement & that they benefit & understand the strategic approach for oncoming years. Unless this is done resources are at risk of not being used effectively using this approach.
Question 2 does not give a complete or balanced range of choices
Reduces financial risk for Merton, avoids having to travel long distances to courses if we merge with another borough and using other providers may increase competition and reduce costs
Saves money, even when it comes to basics like heating and paper towels.
SCOLA in Sutton
SCOLA is really good.
Seems to make financial and logistical sense...
Sensible option given financial restrictions.
Share back room functions save money but continue current provision
Share services has been a model followed in the private sector for many years allowing the core functions (in this case teaching) to receive the majority of the funding and reduce the cost of non core, support functions. Share services also allows for more balanced standards across local authorities and hopefully the reduction of accusations such as nepotism.
Share the costs (mainly administrative)
Shared costs and knowledge amongst boroughs enhances the boroughs' ability to improve all services and serve as a pan-London service.
Shared services risk cutting provision. Strength in the service and control over spending in a single borough will avoid competition for adult ed places between boroughs.
Shared services will reduce the accountability of the course providers. Shared services will inevitably be harder to reach. Specialised needs of local communities will not get the same attention. Commissioning other providers will introduce a project motive and would only make sense if you aimed to reduce the number of courses.
Sharing back office service provides opportunities for efficiency improvements, but adult learning must not be privatised/commissioned off to other providers to retain social policy and benefits
Sharing means both parties can pool resources and still remain run by the public sector.
Sharing obviously allows the colleges to share facilities and administration and should reduce costs. I know teachers who have worked at South Thames College, and the comments they made were not at all positive. Would therefore prefer a service shared with someone else.
Sharing service with other colleges are options which have not been explored properly and are totally unrealistic as they already have their own provision. Courses should be provided in Merton. Once this valuable facility has gone it would be lost forever. There are many many benefits oof Ad Ed. which are not fully taken account of and it would be a false economy.
Sharing services with other providers would limit courses on offer & reduce local accessibility. Outsourcing to a privatised provider would result in a reduced service. The council surely believes in the ethos: ' an educated society is a civilised

society', and learning should be accessible to all at any age Denmark may be a country to look at.
Sharing the burden with Wandsworth may make access easier for those in the east of Merton Borough
Sharing the service could mean less overlap in courses
Sharing with another college or local authority would help defray costs, but would not risk courses that are an important lifeline to so many. Loss of adult education would be highly detrimental to the local community - it is important for morale and well being of people in the Borough, providing important educational and cultural depth
Since 1986, I've completed a countless number of courses in MAC, I started with English as a foreign language, different levels, GCSE, English language and literature ! Various computer courses...which all lead to me continuing with my education and subsequently lead to improvement of my career . I also attended other courses that improve my other skills, such as computer skills, not to mention fun, social courses such as picture framing, upholstery... I attended all the courses because they were LOCAL I will be retiring in a few years and have a long list of courses that I will be attending as long as they are in Wimbledon! Don't forget, we are becoming an aging population and if u remove a valuable centre like this from the local environment you will have to provide support for lots of lonely people who use MAC not just as a learning centre but as a social place
Some costs must be reduced. So all options should be looked at to see who can offer best value for less money.
Some of the courses are free. A small contribution could be made. Most courses are very low in prices. One would pay more privately. Some/most of the lessons could be raised in price. Why is the council considering selling the building when more schools are needed? It could be a school by day with classes in the evening.
Sounds sensible.
South Thames already has merged with Merton Colleges to keep services and courses that way the Whatley campus can access a pool of funding.
South Thames already providing education and back office support staff already in place. Might have chosen option 4 but know nothing about other providers who might deliver the adult education in Merton.
South Thames and MAE together could deliver a range of courses in a number of locations, it could reduce the risk of duplication
South Thames college already has the expertise required to make a shared service work. Plus they have sites already available and satisfied students. Where as commissioning other providers means just a change of administration not an improvement to the present service.
South Thames college has good reputation
South Thames College has many facilities around the borough and in London, so it would be good for MAE to share costs and facilities with them. MAE should work independently as it currently does because it has not pressure from private shareholders towards certain areas of education, which is fundamental for this institution in order to offer a wide option of courses without the pressure of private sector looking after profits. If this option 2 fails in future due to more cuts, then option 4 would become the best option.
South Thames College has more spaces to accommodate more students.
South Thames College have the experience to provide the courses
South Thames College have the facilities, resources, experience and accommodation to cater for the types of learners at MAE. I think the commissioning model advocated by the council will provide adult education on the cheap, will not meet the needs of many current MAE learners and will drive standards down.
South Thames College is already an Education provider. I think you need to be careful about providing services only in the East of the Borough, as you could lose a significant number of students-you would just be moving the problem, not solving it.
South Thames College is already great and would only improve MAE courses, plus it already runs vocational courses for adults, courses for those with learning disabilities and Prince's Trust courses. It would lower risk of MAE having to close down. Its facilities are great and in Merton and easily gotten to.
South Thames College is already linked to Merton College and provides excellent education and self-improvement courses for adults. Therefore I'm confident that South Thames college and Merton education would be a good partnership..
South Thames College is an academic institution. Sharing with another LB will create discord.
South Thames College is an established and excellent provider of work related and helping to get job courses. Having a Merton Campus would be an excellent way to extend their expertise to LB Merton
South Thames College is fairly local to me.
South Thames college is slightly nearer to where I live and i would rather attend the college then not to go to any courses. However I do not feel happy parking my car in the car park at night. i need my car as I have heavy equipment to carry.
South Thames College provides a good service.
South Thames is a known, proven and able provider of further education which closely matches the 'style' of many courses provided by MAE
South Thames is a well established organisation, therefore would have the facilities and experience and personnel to provide such courses. Also has various sites.
South Thames Merton is local and has modern facilities. Other FE colleges provide for adult learners as well as 16-19

learners.
Specialist organisations are more likely to be commercially successful than a local authority
STC already has sites in Merton and this would merely extend their existing services.
STC already present in the borough and an experienced education provider. Am strongly against an external provider being commissioned; their focus will be on finance/profit and not quality of service.
Stop wasting money on other things like producing the magazine My Merton (which no one reads) and translating all other council literature into so many foreign languages. If people come to live in this country they should be encouraged to learn the language - at MAE.
Sutton and Merton already work together in a number of ways and it would seem sensible to combine adult education as well.
Th
That in my view might make it affordable to everyone.Thank you.
The
The adult education service for students with a learning disability is a unique service where adults with a learning disability are integrated, not segregated, with the whole community. There is a shared cafe and eating space, where these students are able to make choices, learn to be in a mixed environment on the road to being a part, not apart from, the 'general public'. Because the service is small it is able to get to know the individual student, working with their unique challenges, providing a personalised educational service. You have something wonderful here - don't lose it!
The adult education service needs to be put on a long-term stable financial footing if it is to continue. The service is currently heavily subsidized and I understand runs at a considerable loss for the council. With further cuts likely to happen as a result of the Conservative-led government cuts it places the service in a precarious position.
The arguments set out in the paper are robust
The arrangements existing are fine as they are and should be confirmed.
The art courses I attend are well subscribed and we have been told they more than pay for themselves. Being taken over by another agency would probably involve an increase in our already expensive fees and moving from our purpose built venue at Whatley Avenue to other premises within a huge area.
The best college I have been to!
The building of Whatley Avenue is great for Adult Education. It would not be any good for a school (primary or secondary) because it has no outdoor space. The college should be much more ambitious in the courses it offers. We should have courses in history, economics, literature, history of ideas, history of art... Students in these sorts of classes would pay fees that would help keep the whole thing going.
The central location of Whatley Avenue is ideal for all Merton residents. It doesn't have to be ultra-modern or slick. The teaching is good, facilities adequate for coursework and it gets many repeat-students who like the collegiate atmosphere and have an interest in all the courses and output from other students, not just from the course they are doing as an individual.
The college gives an excellent service. It's a local community college where people from all walks of life can 'mix'. Why are you sending this service to a large, threatening organisation where everyone is just a 'stat'? At Merton Adult Education everyone is friendly and it's very welcoming. As I understand it, Merton Council's financial contribution minimal so the financial risk is not great.
The college is established, it is convenient to get to and park, the facilities are spot on. It is local. Traffic is never an issue. The size of the site helps it to be more friendly and personal. The space for my upholstery course is acceptable and there is always a friendly atmosphere with staff and students. This may or be the same in a more modern building with smaller rooms and therefore smaller squashed in classes. The building is fit for purpose and it is easy to get from one area to the next. Staff were happy working there and would continue to be without any joyous cloud hanging over them and their jobs. The course is outstanding and another provider would not have the specialist knowledge that keeps me signing up for it and paying to do it.
The college is in the business of education, securing funding and providing a range of courses for all abilities. Working with another LA whose demographic is different from Merton's and who also have to find multi million pound savings could be a short term solution only.
The college needs to be locally situated for the convenience of local residents.
The college offers excellent learning opportunities for all. The benefit of having a base for the courses brings the communities together. If adult learning is within a FE environment adult learners will not feel part of a community. Commissioning (with or without Wandsworth) classes across the borough will separate learning opportunities which enables adult learners create a pathway for learning. Working with another adult education provider would create a full learning experience for students. The best option would be to keep the college as one entity. If as the report says the building is too expensive why not relocate to another building or move the facilities from the Chaucer Center.
The college provides a service to the community which would disappear. MAE provides a sense of community in an urban environment. It supports vulnerable adults locally. Moving the service for vulnerable adults further away will increase their stress and vulnerability traveling further. MAE provides skills which lead to employment close to the local school - a key factor for many mum's trying to get back into work
The college provides an enormously valuable service to the community.This ranges from the disadvantaged, disabled,the elderly,people wanting to go back to work, people who come for hobbies and have done for years, it is a life line to

<p>1000's of students.False economy-people will end up back on benefits as a result, costing the borough more money.Additional funding will need to allocated for the disabled adults in other areas.We have made a profit over the last year with the huge efforts form its staff.The most vulnerable are always easy targets.Efforts should be put into recovering fraudulent benefit and housing claims that cost the borough millions.Voters have already stated they will not be voting for the party responsible for the closure of MAE, this a large proportion of voters that could have an impact on the outcome of the election.In addition,the staff that will be hugely affected, their jobs, careers, more people joining the benefit system. How is that going to save money in the long term?It will cost the borough more.Sometimes common sense should be used,all decisions should not be made on just financial reasons but community, personal worth and the long term issues affecting the local community.</p>
<p>The commissioning option may be good for Merton as it will shed responsibility for the service. However it may not be good for users of the service as far as quality, cost and convenience goes. My experience of South Thames college is that they're only interested in young learners who attract high funding. I am a retired teacher who would like to develop skills I've never before had an opportunity to learn.</p>
<p>The council has a duty of care to deliver adult education and the costs to deliver adult education in the Borough are minimal in terms of the council budget.</p>
<p>The Council have given no indication of the financial risk and completely lacks transparency in the way it has handled the matter. It appears to have its own hidden agenda and this volte face of offering consultation has exposed this. They need to give facts. The people on the ground, who are the ones who matter, have been providing an excellent service for and to the community. To destroy this is contemptible.</p>
<p>The council is able to react to local communities wishes better than those not involved with the local area. Thus the provision of courses will reflect the communities wishes and needs.</p>
<p>The council is always boasting about having frozen council tax - why not put it up. You can't get something worth having on the cheap.</p>
<p>The council needs to fulfill it's obligations to the community. If necessary, raise the course fees a little.</p>
<p>The Council should prioritise funding for the education of adults and young people in the communnity. As they have done so many years.</p>
<p>The Council should think of ways of use the Whatley avenue building more efficiently. Maybe renting some of it to other business related to the education provided.</p>
<p>The courses and setting of the provision at Whatley Avenue seem to me to be valuable and unique. It is hard to make a choice between the above options when there is no information as to which of these could continue to make the provision on offer there.</p>
<p>The courses are central within the borough meaning they are easily accessible to many people. Centralising them in one place with eating facilities, means there is a sense is camaraderie, which is particularly important for those with learning/physical disabilities, but also for those out of work and disaffected. The costs are very generic and it is easy to book onto them.</p>
<p>The courses that you run are 1. very good 2. at convenient locations 3. provide other health and wellbeing benefits apart from learning something new.</p>
<p>The current arrangements meets the adult educational needs of disabled students and adults with learning disabilities. If the current system is changed, some students with learning disabilities will no longer have access to adult education due to reasons such as: distance from home, problems with travelling to and from college, less courses that will meet their learning needs, costs of available courses and less days in college to name a few. They will end up spending more time at home with lack of stimulations activities and more time vegetating in front of the television.</p>
<p>the current college finances itself and the public are being deliberately mislead</p>
<p>The current college is easily accessible by most people in the borough and should be kept in Wimbledon. The teaching is excellent and also moving elsewhere would make it very difficult for elderly and disabled to attend.</p>
<p>the current facility is fantastic</p>
<p>The current location at whatley is perfect for me</p>
<p>The current option works fine for a majority including me, and the problem that should be fixed is the efficiency within adult education and not the closing down off all colleges.</p>
<p>The current provision of services from MAE is already excellent from my perspective, and as a user I see no need to change what is already a well-structured operational model. As a student (past and present) of many of the courses available, I've greatly benefited from the variety, the quality of teaching, the resources available, the location of the college and the fee structure. I have always been in full time employment so have always paid the fees in full therefore with regards the financial considerations for the consultation, I would have liked to see a breakdown of how many students are self-financing, part-financing or fully funded by the council. As I have participated mostly in lifestyle and hobby classes I don't think I will have been exposed to a reasonable cohort of students who are funded by the council. Can these figures be shared? I understand that the council wish adult learning services to be financially resilient however I foresee the proposals to merge with another council or a third party provider to be in potential conflict with this objective as the council will lose independence in decisions and be at the will and influence of external parties who will likely be focused on their own priorities than those of Merton's or Merton's students. Please don't decry the impact on personal quality of life that ongoing adult learning and diversity of interests has. Partaking in stained glass making at the college removed my need for mental health services for clinical anxiety. The gives me a complete break</p>

away from my professional working life and I do not state this to solicit a reaction, this is true. I chose not to attend the mental health support services that had been offered to me in favour of this class therefore in your consideration of whether adult learning should be subsidised at the expense of other council services, this objectively demonstrates an example of when other services weren't utilised due to the benefits of MAE.
The current provision proves an excellent and diverse range of courses in a friendly, caring and inclusive environment.
The current service provided by Merton Adult Education is fantastic and inclusive. Providing excellent courses across the board for a wide selection of learners, some with learning difficulties and disabilities.
The current set-up provides a broad range of classes, not all about improving job prospects, e.g. the arts classes. These may not make someone more employable but can help build confidence and give a people from a wide variety of backgrounds and ages a chance to interact. This type of social benefit should not be underestimated. Options 2-5 would clearly result in classes being cut and it is mostly that arts subjects would be lost, over adult literacy or maths skills. Arguably this would be the correct priority but why should it be a choice? Keep things as they are, they work and provide a valuable resource for community.
The current situation works well. The issues are finance not the way the service functions.
The current system is providing a surplus to Merton Council and is a priceless commodity.
The facilities at Whately avenue are superb, especially in the Pottery suite. I have a physical disability and the pottery wheels at Whately Avenue are the only ones I can use standing up (Putney and Morley College do not have these - Morley has one but it is very out of repair and not really usable). I also do stained glass at Whately and, whilst the room is old, the teaching more than makes up for it.
The important thing is that there is high quality affordable adult education in Merton. I do not have the information to judge which of these options will deliver this. While clearly the council needs to ensure value for money it should not just go for the cheapest option, regardless of quality. It should identify which option can deliver a high quality, comprehensive service and only then assess which of these would be most cost-effective.
The investment in facilities at Whatley Ave recently have been considerable and greatly appreciated. The building offers a great variety rooms and equipment suitable for a wide range of courses accessible by bus and Train for Merton residents. Will venues be better and more accessible? Finding other suitable venues will create confusion for students and managers. Will there be an identifiable centre where student can seek advice on what, where and when courses are available?
The learners at MAE benefit from the current learning environment which is small and friendly. Many of the learners would not want to attend classes at another much larger venue.
The level and variety of courses currently offered by LBM is brilliant - I wish there were more. I believe that many of the classes operated could be operated at schools or colleges rather than at the MAE specific locations. This way the back office staff could be shared. Option 3 would be my next best option.
The link with a local provider, and assisting young people in particular. Sharing with other local authorities risks dilution of local priorities and needs.
The local area has increased in population over the last few years and with more housing being built it is the local authority who needs to meet the needs of their local people and provide a community environment in all areas that is inclusive of all residents.
The local council must be responsible for keeping and enhancing the quality of life of local inhabitants. This is a moral responsibility if nothing else.
the location is excellent for disabled people. It is small enough for students with learning difficulties to be looked after in a way that they deserve.
The MAE has made a complete difference to my son who has special needs. He attends a course 1 day a week and loves the feel and friendliness of the college which may be lost if another company takes over the running. He has met new friends and gained confidence. With all the rest of the cuts that have been imposed on the more vulnerable sections of our community, please don't take the MAE away as well
The main hub of MAE at Whatley Avenue greatly contributes to the sense of community in the borough - bringing together faiths, ages and abilities. If lost in this adult education review it will never be regained. Dilution of the provision across a number of providers may only seek to isolate many users. There are no guarantees that other providers will offer a service within the borough.
The Merton Adult Education Centre is the heart of our community where there are family festivals, evening classes, etc. MAE gives the area a positive feel because of its many opportunities. It was one reason of moving into our house, because I knew I could quickly pop over for a class to the MAE in the evening after my child care duties during the day.
The Merton AE campus is an excellent site offering a wide variety of courses and ideally located in the borough to be accessible to a wide range of people from different backgrounds. I would like to see the campus continue to operate from here and would be willing to pay more for courses as I believe them to be very good value for money.
The Merton brand and the South Thames College brand are both strong in Merton; trusting the brand is important to anyone booking the course.
The more organisations that offer adult education will be beneficial to learn new skills and educate one's self further.
The other options appear not to have been fully explored by the Council. They are not clearly explained and it is not clear that they will provide an acceptable level of service, provision for equalities, opportunities to sustain and develop.
Merton should provide itself, be responsible, accountable and committed to adult education. The financial risk discussed

is not fully demonstrated in information provided with this survey. Good planning will in any case avoid financial risk.
The other options are not clearly explained. The financial picture is unclear. What efficiencies could be made with the existing set up? Does it make sense to scrap these facilities which the council have fairly recently invested so much money in? How much would the other options cost/save? Is there a plan to conduct research into demand at other locations? My preference would be to keep the current location as it's convenient for me and the building and the facilities are great. The questions in the survey were badly worded i.e. 'Should the courses help people get jobs' and 'should they be there to help mental health and well being' - I would argue not all courses have to fit into one of those two options. A mix may be optimal. What is the demand for vocational courses? Is their evidence for specific skills gaps in the area which the college could fill?
The particular Tutor (Angela) is fantastic ALL the courses are full and very well attended (especially the art courses) This site is very convenient. It would be totally inconvenient to have to travel further and prohibitive to travel out of the borough. I was under the impression that LEARNING FOR LIFE was supposed to be the attitude of today. Closing Whatleys Avenue would be totally disastrous for the very local community and totally devastating for people with learning disabilities.
The pooling of resources would hopefully secure funding for the future. Commissioning other providers will make a variety of courses more widely available.
The present adult ed at Whatley Ave is of such high quality, it is a jewel in the crown of Merton's provision. To dismantle the facilities, equipment and expertise that has been built and tested over years would be utter folly - an act of vandalism! Ed. is far more efficient and cost effective if delivered in one comprehensive site than a little here, a bit there or another 'provider' using what premises, where?
The present arrangements work perfectly well.
The provision is mostly excellent and should be continued
The provision might be more efficient and modern.
The quality and standard of the current arrangements are excellent. They are at a good standard, financially viable for most residents and also an excellent variety to suit all needs ages and requirements. While courses to improve job prospects are necessary it is not the only requirement especially for individuals who are retired, highly stressed or need social component to their lives, hence courses on Tai Chi, Yoga, pottery etc. allow individuals to explore other skills release necessary creative energies, and become more active. With obesity an issue fitness classes are essential.
The quality of the current offer should not be compromised. There is very little adult provision in South London.
The quality will not be upheld for those with learning difficulties.
The service and location are good and ethos fantastic
The service as is has served local people very well. I do not want to see it changed. Other providers/locations can not do the excellent job the current service does.
The service could best be run by an efficient contractor with excellent links with private, public and third sectors. The procurement process can be designed to probe whether the contractor will make real links with local groups and businesses and has real commitment to people who are disadvantaged.
The service provides so much to the community. There isn't anywhere within the borough that gives people with learning disabilities the freedom that Whatley Avenue does.
The services offered have evolved to suit the clients that use the centre. This is important and valuable to these service users whose needs may not be met by a more corporate approach which will cater for a wider client base with different needs to those of the local community. Merton Council needs to look at ways of increasing income by additional services which would support the less financially lucrative services, whilst improving management of costs and improving efficiency. I appreciate MAE because of the service users i know who use it and value its services. They would be lost without this. Having said that, i know little about its services and perhaps if Merton Council raise the profile of the centre and its services it would get wider involvement and in turn financial input from a wider audience. I doubt that another provider will cater for existing local community needs.
The tutors will remain in post and sharing behind the scenes admin and management should be easier to reconfigure, and lead to less disruption to the courses
The Whatley Avenue site is a good site and the service is well liked and used.
There are plenty of opportunities to make the existing services more efficient, without the need to close excellent facilities at Whatley. Locations could be much more rationalised without undermining quality of provision and overheads would reduce dramatically.
There are excellent facilities and expertise at SCOLA which isn't far away. They have already reduced their costs and could make a difference to the planning of MAE
There is a crying need to cut backroom costs by working with other local authorities. I imagine that you have suggested Wandsworth as a partner because they have a good AE service?
There is a massive concern that the Council's proposals will see adult education move out of the borough. Secondly, adult education courses should not just be limited to those that can make a profit, but based on what people need and want.
There is already a working partnership between South Thames college and the Merton College site. I believe this is the best way to safeguard the positive elements of the current MAE offer.
There is no evidence that the other options will save significant costs while maintaining the quality of the service.

There is no financial risk to the government. The college is always full.
There isn't enough evidence that the other options will genuinely take the needs of disadvantaged groups into account and continue to meet their needs in the way MAE currently does.
There needs to be a hub where people can learn, make new friends, be part of the community and be valued. MAE is a safe place to learn for all students from the moment they enter the college. We meet people from different communities across the borough, make friends and share experiences. Larger colleges can not offer the environment for bringing communities together, the other options will not bring wider communities together as they will be pockets of learning.
there should be greater economies of scale
They are both in the borough, which will not bring about so much change. Within the reach from my home area.
They are both in the same borough. Think it should move into one big courses.
They are similar establishments, offering similar courses, are not too far away from each other, and I think, would correspond and work well together.
this would minimise the financial risk forecasted
This could be a joint partnership with a private company
This facility is really good as it is not too big and can therefore offer a more personal support intervention - really important for someone with a learning disability.
This faculty is a unique, individual, integrated service. I have had the opportunity to use this facility myself for evening class as well as organising a work program with Adult Ed for people with Learning Disabilities. You have not really provided enough information about the other options to guide.
this gives a chance for means testing for payment for courses. So those who can afford the course pay the full amount and those who cannot are subsidised
This is a good service. The college results are good as is the teaching
This is a great service and helped me get employed.
This is a local facility. This is particularly important for Towards Independence
This is a unique college where adults feel that they are not being sidelined, and the teaching they receive is intelligent and not dumbed down, as in so many places where there is a mixed range of ages and abilities. I think this college's uniqueness deserves to be more widely advertised and seen as an asset rather than an liability
This is about local community and access. It is fundamentally important to learn with people in the same area to be able to set up study groups and support and ensure its available to everyone in the community whether you have access difficulties or not. Equal opportunities and localism. Do not lose a successful service for shortsighted reasons
this is an excellent service!
This is correct option providing the council properly manages the finances with Whatley Avenue and does not incur extra costs.
This is local college, with large campus. Location is also quite convenient.
This is my preferred option as it appears to be the only option where Whatley Ave remains open. This is a valued local facility that many people enjoy and rely on.
this is my preferred option because Merton Council has not given specific details about the other options i.e. cost to student, location, what courses will be offered what will be cut. Also i don't want to travel to another borough to do my course.
This is the only outcome that will ensure services are retained and continue to provide for adults with disabilities and older people. Everything else is a big risk and very shortsighted of the council. There is little risk to the council as the service can be adjusted according to the available budget. Lose this service and it will be impossible ever to re-establish it. Why should we always be the poor relation borough and have no services of our own? MAE is the envy of other areas and should be retained by the borough.
This maintains greater control whereas Merton could be disadvantaged when facilities are controlled from outside! Overhead costs will still have to be paid for, possible with some savings of scale , but against that, tutors and students could suffer other disadvantages. These would include the "casual" use of inferior venues and inferior teaching resources and transport difficulties to parts of the borough with problems of poor access and poor parking facilities.
This option completely makes sense. This is about adult education and not further education. Aligning with a sixth form college and the level of training provision this would imply will put many off and not denote quality. A collaboration with other local authorities using people like scola would mean shared cost, shared resources and a better monitor of quality rather than employing freelancers with little assessment process.
This option would help provide a good service but would reduce the costs by sharing administrative tasks
This question will be answered only if you tell us why you've selected your option already.
This will enable you to access the wealth of experience and range of courses, and you will be able to maintain the local provision at Whatley Avenue providing greater opportunities for this community now and in the future.
This will help with funding.
This would allow a range of specialist voluntary and business providers: eg Mencap commissioned to offer courses for disabled people; Mind offer job-seeker courses for people with mental health issues; U3A offer more courses for older people;
This would be my preferred option because Whatley Avenue provides good learning facilities and space, and is easily

<p>accessible. If my course were to be moved to to a location other than this campus it would be too far for me to travel to attend. As an adult learner who works full time, it is important to me to be able to access education provision that is within reasonable distance from my place of work and living - moving provision to outside Merton would mean that many adult learners would also no longer be able to access this provision, particularly the considerable number of students with physical disabilities and learning difficulties who rely on this location for it's ease of access and proximity. Furthermore, past experience of provision at South Thames College has proved very disappointing: the level of service and quality of teaching was unsatisfactory. As a teacher myself, I place high value on quality of provision and would be put off enrolling for courses associated with this provider.</p>
<p>This would limit duplication of back office duties and perhaps also the upkeep of the buildings</p>
<p>THIS WOULD ONLY WORK IF THERE WERE CAST IRON GUARANTEES THAT THE MONEY WOULD REMAIN AVAILABLE AND THAT COURSES WHICH DO NOT ATTRACT SUCH A HIGH PROFILE REMAIN AVAILABLE. DRESS MAKING FOR EXAMPLE MAY NOT LEAD TO WORK BUT IT PROVIDES A HAVEN FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED A BREAK FROM BEING A CARER, FROM STRESSFUL JOBS ETC. COURSES PROVIDE MANY DIFFERENT REASONS FOR BEING ATTRACTIVE TO PEOPLE AND THE COUNCIL MUST NOT LOOSE SIGHT OF THAT PRINCIPLE.</p>
<p>This would provide some control on vested interests. It is wrong to suppose that "better off" parts of the borough are full of rich people. Many people are asset rich, and cash poor. this goes particularly for the elderly residents who really value the camaraderie which classes bring, and minimises Council costs on e.g. treating depression caused by loneliness.</p>
<p>To be able to offer/receive a good education opportunity , not influenced by commercial or economic principals.</p>
<p>To continue as it is, MAE, as it supports local people and works well.</p>
<p>to cut the cost of running the courses</p>
<p>to improve quality of courses and reduce costs.</p>
<p>To move to a shared or commissioning model will mean the end of the creative arts courses currently offered at Whatley Ave. Keeping Whatley Ave is essential as it provides specialist teaching facilities not found elsewhere. Students with learning disabilities need the small centralised community feel Whatley Ave provides. To say it is in the "wrong" location is simply an excuse to sell the land for a quick fix which will not solve the budget deficit. It provides a vital community hub. Once it is gone, it is gone forever. Merton Council has enough of a surplus to keep this college going. The majority of students study at this site. Gaining qualifications is important but some of the courses offered there don't have qualifications we can work towards, but are still vital to students' sense of well being, continuing education and providing opportunities for future employment.</p>
<p>Too many social services have been savagely cut. Merton Council have provided adequate arrangements and as a ratepayer in Merton, the college has been modernised using some of this money. In the last four years, the art and pottery facility has been moved and modernised. To close this facility would be yet another nail in the coffin of activities available for students who need to get out of their houses in order to stimulate their minds. Seeing as Merton Council has already shut down Merton Mind, the Beehive Centre, Maple Orchard, devastated the carers centre at Vestry Hall.</p>
<p>v</p>
<p>Very difficult to reach a conclusion when all the facts are not known, eg how would a shared service work and what are the pros and cons for each option.</p>
<p>Very happy to be joint with Wandsworth</p>
<p>Wandsworth is our nearest LONDON borough and runs an efficient council. We are a london Borough with needs most similar to those in Wandsworth.</p>
<p>Wandsworth seem to be good at managing their finances and the cost to their residents in terms of council tax appears lower</p>
<p>We already work with South Thames. I think they will provide a good service. The location is good for our tenants. They are similar to MAE in that they offer a variety of life skills courses, they are deaf aware and provide communication for our deaf tenants. We want to keep the service and joining South Thames may reduce the risk of losing it.</p>
<p>What matters is courses and locations. No info on consequences of these choices.</p>
<p>Whatley Ave College has +5000 students, and provides excellent facilities and learning. The Council's costs in running the venue are minimal, in terms of what the SFA contributes, what students contribute, and the charge that the Council makes to the college each year. It makes no financial sense to outsource AE to Wandsworth providers as the cost of diligence and proper governance of their performance and cost to students will be far more than current the outlay. To say that the SFA fund is too uncertain is immaterial. To also say that there is a divide between affluent west and eastern sections of the borough is specious. If Whatley Ave was in the far east of Merton, we'd still all go as there are so few AE colleges in SW London and NONE OTHERS IN MERTON.</p>
<p>Whatley Avenue is a profitable, beneficial adult learning centre that many of my family have benefited from. Losing it would deprive many local people of the ability to continue their education and self improvement, not least a large number of disabled residents, as well as those with learning difficulties. The nakedly political "affluent area" agenda being prosecuted by Labour councillors is a disgrace.</p>
<p>Whatley Avenue provides a great environment for adult learning and is a very safe place for the disabled in the borough to access. there is no other facility in the borough offering these services and I strongly agree that Merton college would not be the correct environment for the adults with learning difficulties.It would be a huge loss to remove the building in Whatley Ave and would create a very built up area with the primary school and local residents in mind in respect to overpopulating and parking and traffic problems.</p>

Whatley Avenue provides a safe, caring and inclusive learning environment for all learners. There is a real cross section of learners interacting and benefitting from the excellent courses available which are constantly being improved and developed to meet the needs of those learners. The college provides a centre which serves the community and provides opportunities not just for learning but for social interaction, physical and mental well being
Whatley is very close to me so I can walk to courses. I do not want it to close
Whatley Merton Adult education has proved to be profitable and there has been many occasions when my course has been full up. I do not believe the threat of closure has anything to do with the profit margins of the college but how much profit the closure would put into the pockets of the government.
Wheatley Avenue has superb facilities for all students. The range and quality of classes has developed over the years to provide an excellent service for all the residents
When I worked in Wandsworth, adult education was very good.
Whilst I don't disagree with any of the other options per se I think the borough and it's residents should value the facility and maintain control to enable it to meet the needs of all it's residents not just those seeking training for job opportunities. The need for somewhere to socialise and enjoy new activities is every bit as important as learning for jobs and supports people who are lonely also and for whom creative and non formal courses provide a significant social service. To focus only or even mainly on training for jobs is too limiting and many other colleges meet that need. Creative and relaxation courses have been dwindling and it becomes even more difficult for people to access. Whatley serves that need and even with a subsidy it should be valued and the council should be proud to support those courses
Widen the base of experienced teachers
Will build resilience and offer more opportunity
With option 2 (or option 3) a shared service provides opportunities for adults, whilst lowering costs, and may provide a broader range of services.
Without financial analysis of the options, no option appears more attractive than any other.
without my own opportunity of further ed. after "failing" the 11+, I would not now have a degree from Kingston University (a 2.1), it has improved my own self esteem and has broadened my outlook on life and its opportunities. It is good for the country to have a well education people.
Working with a close local authority will help spread the cost at the same time keeping cost to clients low and providing value for money.
Working with other local authorities should help to make greater efficiencies and economies of scale than commissioning services alone.
Working with other providers will in itself create more layers of bureaucracy and thus dilute the funding for the courses
Would like MAE to stay as it is to support local people
Would offer more possibilities
Would prefer for adult ed to remain in direct council control rather than outsourced; that leaves options 1 and 3, and possibly 2 depending on how it was constituted. Of these, I'd prefer 3 over 1 as this is a responsibility that doesn't necessarily need to be a purely local matter (so long as my elected representatives have genuine influence over the resulting body's decision-making). Option 2 could also be acceptable, but ONLY if the council retains genuine influence within the new relationship with South Thames College AND it would allow users to make use of all of STC's campuses - because their Merton campus has rather poor access for anyone not driving - by public transport or walking it would take me as long to reach STC's Merton campus from my home in South Wimbledon as it does to get to my office in central London.
You haven't explained if MAE is running at a loss. If it is breaking even the council could continue whilst exploring options to share services. The courses are not well advertised.
You only want to move the services because you want to sell the land

Which option?

Step 1:4.00-1:Satisfaction with options (Option 1 Continue the current arrangements and bear the financial risk)		
This single response question was answered by 730 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very satisfied	333	45.62%
Satisfied	141	19.32%
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	104	14.25%
Dissatisfied	81	11.1%
Very dissatisfied	35	4.79%
Don't know	36	4.93%

Step 1:4.00-2:Satisfaction with options (Option 2 Create a shared service with South Thames College)		
This single response question was answered by 727 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very satisfied	82	11.28%
Satisfied	185	25.45%
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	127	17.47%
Dissatisfied	173	23.8%
Very dissatisfied	105	14.44%
Don't know	55	7.57%
Step 1:4.00-3:Satisfaction with options (Option 3 Share with another local authority)		
This single response question was answered by 727 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very satisfied	57	7.84%
Satisfied	162	22.28%
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	134	18.43%
Dissatisfied	192	26.41%
Very dissatisfied	122	16.78%
Don't know	60	8.25%
Step 1:4.00-4:Satisfaction with options (Option 4 Commission other providers to deliver adult education in Merton)		
This single response question was answered by 728 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very satisfied	50	6.87%
Satisfied	110	15.11%
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	117	16.07%
Dissatisfied	216	29.67%
Very dissatisfied	176	24.18%
Don't know	59	8.1%
Step 1:4.00-5:Satisfaction with options (Option 5 Jointly commission other providers in partnership with LB Wandsworth)		
This single response question was answered by 727 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very satisfied	38	5.23%
Satisfied	83	11.42%
Neither satisfied or dissatisfied	106	14.58%
Dissatisfied	242	33.29%
Very dissatisfied	187	25.72%
Don't know	71	9.77%

Other options?

- | |
|---|
| 1. Expand the courses provided by MAE to increase income. 2. Liaise with TfL to improve public transport in the area of Whatley Avenue. |
| 1. Have a root and branch review of where current expenditure on administration could be pruned across the whole council - make economies in all departments but protect services at point of delivery. If commissioned provision would |

<p>be cheaper for Merton, what lessons could the borough learn from that to apply to the provision it makes itself? 2. Offer MAE services to local businesses (esp in light of recent award to Merton as small business friendly borough) and run them at a profit. Work with Love Wimbledon to develop this. 3. Explore links with universities and schools so that courses can be run at Whatley Avenue eg does Merton have links with Roehampton or Kingston to provide MA (Ed) courses for teachers? Whatley Ave could be a venue for taught sessions. 4. Provide exam intervention and revision courses for GCSE and A level students at Whatley Avenue - twilight and/or holiday courses. Students or parents would pay. Or schools could pay cost price in order to save their staff time. This is a huge market. 5. Look for opportunities to develop provision at Whatley Ave by scrutinising changes/new pressures on the education service eg get awarding bodies to run local briefing sessions to save staff travelling into London and taking more time away from classes. 6. Remember the value of the service to vulnerable people and develop it. Remember how big and hostile S Thames College could appear to them compared with the friendly environment at Whatley Avenue. 7. Offer the hall and café at Whatley Avenue to community groups for meetings and other events at weekends. The hire charge would need to cover the costs of using the centre and could generate some profit eg one evening's hire would cover costs and pay for one day's normal caretaking. 8. Remember that if you are prepared to commission a profit-making organisation to provide this service to the community, you will have no moral qualms about offering some MAE services for profit (hire/business use/exam re</p>
<p>1. Raising course fees to improve 2. Raising council tax to provide additional support for adult education 3. Cancel unnecessary council projects such as a new swimming pool</p>
<p>1. Sponsorship? From big business. Museums and galleries get sponsors to back their temporary exhibition. 2. Collaboration with big businesses for those courses designed to teach people skills to improve their chances of getting jobs or back into work - some sort of "shared apprenticeship" scheme on these courses. 3. Collaboration with other educational bodies within the borough (UAL, Merton Abbey Mills, Wimbledon Theatre) to stage events that attract funding - fairs exhibitions???</p>
<p>A mixed approach would be better than commissioning.</p>
<p>Adult education covers a wide range of courses with very different characteristics. What suits one might not suit another. So it could be that a combination of these options e.g. the council might continue to provide itself the least risk courses while using other providers to provide those with greater financial risk or where there would be economies of scale in working with others.</p>
<p>Adult education should be sited in existing schools. The facilities are there, the administration is there. There would be a healthy interchange, perhaps between adults and children teachers. There could be opportunities for adults and children to learn from each other, be it art IT pottery, whatever.</p>
<p>Again, very difficult to say as not all factors are known.</p>
<p>Apply for charitable status</p>
<p>As stated previously. Review and shake up current methods. You do not state who other providers might be...</p>
<p>AS suggested on previous page, think creatively about a range of providers for specialist courses, including South Thames College. A risk with commissioning external providers is ensuring quality of service and strong track record as well as cost.</p>
<p>Ask those who can afford it to pay more for courses (I would be willing to do so). Would any employers be interested in sponsoring courses?</p>
<p>Because it is Merton Adult Education, not Wandsworth Adult Education. It is important to the Borough to maintain its adult education in the building it is now and it has been for many years.</p>
<p>Both colleges to merge - Merton Adult Learning and South Merton College.</p>
<p>Can the present site continue current provision and have other provision moved to it to maximise usage?</p>
<p>commission other providers</p>
<p>Could any further reductions in costs be made to enable the service to continue as it is? Is having another partner now inevitable for its survival?</p>
<p>Council should try to keep the courses that are helping or appealing to more people and advertise them in order to get more enrolments to keep the cost down.</p>
<p>Cut down on admin staff at MAE and keep the courses run. Offer non vocational courses at higher fees: smaller groups, higher fees.</p>
<p>Cut down on all administration and in courses that are for leisure like art etc we do NOT NEED OR WANT to fill in the evaluation documents. Adults should be able to make valid comments about the learning and complaining if they have any issues about the course. Filling these forms in and tutors having to spend time completing them is totally unnecessary for adult leisure learning.</p>
<p>Cutting costs on benefits & misuse of benefits will save a lot more money for many facets of the Merton council business. Additionally it will promote sustainable growth and prosperity for individuals and the community. Cutting costs on education counteracts sustainable growth.</p>
<p>Decentralise the training to keep building costs down and keep administration</p>
<p>Develop a consortium approach to delivery with a college and a range of community providers.</p>
<p>Develop the centre with a community focus.</p>
<p>Diversify. Building on the existing oversubscribed classes.</p>
<p>Do not lie to people. You know the decision has been made.</p>

Dont just accept that the government is making these cuts!! All councils should PROTEST most strongly against this political manoeuvring. The current gov believes that the state should provide the minimum so that their wealthy business friends can make bigger profits. PROTEST!!!
dont know
Don't know
don't know enough on the subject to think about any other options
Don't try and mend what isn't broken.
Dramatically reduce administration costs and unnecessary paperwork. Keep day centres separate for those with learning difficulties for example where they are safe and properly cared for. Check on actual costs of repair etc of building at Whatley Ave. Running costs seem exorbitant.
E-learning courses that could be done as/when students want to do them and college could provide a tutorial/group session once/twice a term to check progress and help students with queries/issues.
Empower the local management team of MAE to self-manage and set its own budget and be creative to reduce its own cost every year, until it can be self-funding, cover it's own costs, without Council cross subsidising costs.
Enable other Council services/departments to access funds to deliver courses that best address the needs of their service users.
empower teaching staff to carry out more of the management
ESOL evening classes are vital to immigrants. It would be quite difficult for the young ladies to attend evening ESOL classes if you moved the college from its current location. Most of the ESOL students speak very little English and therefore it would be extremely difficult for them to travel around London in the evening.
Explore links with Croydon and Sutton
Follow Option 1, raising council tax & course fees
Form partnerships with other types of learning providers e.g. HE - all ages, U3A (for older people).
Further develop the existing provision in order to create more revenue.
Further develop the site at Whatley Avenue in order to provide more courses and generate more income
g
General suggestions for MAE: Improvement and retention as is; commercial sponsorship; competitions; best practice innovation from every single LAE provider in the UK.
Given the good work MAE does, the council could create an additional hub in Mitcham.
Hopefully our elected politicians have put before us all feasible options. Most certainly Adult Education Services must continue to be provided, and more efficiently where possible.
How about extending Whatley College, more classes, more subjects.
How about looking at the Chaucer Centre if Merton want Whatley Avenue why cant MAE move into the Chaucer centre. What revenue does Chaucer produce that Whatley doesn't?
How can you consider sharing further education with Tory Wandsworth, they would cancel them at the first opportunity. Higher education for the working class is not on the government's agenda. Do not deny young and older people the opportunity to improve their education and job opportunities.
I believe that it would be economically beneficial to expand the courses offered by MAE to include more vocationally driven ones. This does not mean eliminating those that currently exist but to draw in new students from other parts of South London so that MAE can be a beacon and centre of Adult education.
I believe this time of change needs a different framework, the question is not how can we cut what we currently do? but what does the council of the future provide? The later is critical in an increasingly 'cash strapped' society and may only be possible using a shared services model. Finally, have the teachers been asked for creative solutions as what they provide is the product people are prepared to pay for.
I cannot answer this question as I do not know the financial implications.
I think a soft federation with another college like SCOLA would work as long as Whatley Ave stayed open as a separate facility. This would allow shared back office facilities ie HR, IT, finance etc. Other cost saving and revenue creating options should then be implemented.
I think adult education ...delivered properly, could be a real money maker. I have done 3 courses in Merton...German, Photography and Maths. German was very good...very interested adults attending, the other 2 courses I am not satisfied with...they could be done better. Word of mouth makes courses popular. Why not do adult courses geared at helping our school children with homework...especially Maths and English..as these are essential subjects...I think parents would pay for these courses instead of employing tutors. I certainly would and I think you are missing a trick here...it would be a goldmine.
I think the aspects of focusing on health benefits should sit with local health providers or as a minimum as shared commissioning in order to get the expertise of health providers. Particularly with hard to engage groups such as those with Mental Health needs
I think the council should look at other opportunities for efficiency gains within the current environment. Heating for example - the college is always ridiculously hot (to the extent that windows have to be opened).
I think you should look elsewhere for cuts. There are many more people living in our borough. In my road alone in excess of 500 flats. So a lot more council tax in the coffers. Too much middle management not producing anything. And how

much council tax debt is there in Merton?
I understand that Merton Council has nearly Â£100m in unspent monies so I see no reason to cut this valuable and appreciated facility.
I understand the need to sell off the premises to use the funds for more important benefits, but why cannot the facilities just be moved. Merton were threatening to close the library recently - why can't Wimbledon library be used for night school facilities
I want Merton to control the providers. Different councils have different budgets etc.
I would like to understand why the council feels it needs to be so involved in this service. Why did you reject getting out of it all together?
If fewer courses and for fewer options per subject were offered and the number of non-teaching and administrative staff was reduced would it be possible the current albeit modified system to be brought nearer to budget.
If the beauty/therapy suite was updated at MAE then I feel that money could be made at this facility as it is in colleges such as NESCOL and Croyden college.
If the focus is financial, can you limit the number of funded places on certain courses that attract fee-paying students, e.g. limit council funded cases to 20% of students per lifestyle or hobby course? I wouldn't want funded places to be removed completely, this would be unacceptable also, but maybe support those courses available during the day more than those in the evening when people who work are more likely to wish to attend.
If the maintenance of the building is where the cost lies, perhaps the college could apply for lottery funding as the college in many ways provides a service for the elderly, unemployed and remedial learning. Could the fees be means tested as students come from all areas of Merton and some students may be happy to pay more for their courses as they represent good value compared to similar part time courses in mainstream universities and colleges.
If the site is so important to Merton Council what are the opportunities for continuing at an alternative site?
If the Whatley ave site is difficult to reach is it possible to talk to bus service to run small bus like one to KU at key points in the day?
If there could be a link up with another college (option 2) BUT whatley avenue must remain OPEN and ONLY back office admin should be shared this might work.
If you have concerns about the amount of money spent on administration rather than teaching, you could hire a private consultation firm for an one-off study of the administrative processes currently delivered by MEA management with their recommendations in order to make it more efficient. You could also organise meetings between the management of MEA with similar institutions in LB Wandsworth as well as in other boroughs, in order to get ideas of how to manage administrative costs more efficiently. I suggest not to work in partnership with LB Wandsworth because they probably have more expenses to cover in other areas, leaving a heavy weight of their education costs on LB Merton, and this is not good for us! However, our staff should be able to meet with their staff in order to improve operations and processes.
If you have to move the facility then retain the building for other educational uses and don't knock it down
I'm happy about everything and love to study here. Only when we finish our course. Please arrange graduation programme please.
Improve the efficiency and profitability of the present arrangements: Reduce non teaching staff, increase utilisation of the premises, perhaps increase fees. (A commercial provider would definitely have to charge more to deliver their shareholders a profit)
In conjunction with other options make courses more useful
Increase the price of some courses
Increase council tax to meet the deficit
Increase fees for non job related or special needs classes. Separate vocational training from 'hobby training' and fund accordingly. I do art classes. If these were offered at Wimbledon Art College I would go there (if Whatley Avenue closed). I attend classes for pleasure and would pay a commercial price. For basic skill and vocational training I suspect would require government funding.
increase places and give to the primary school at the back - Joseph hood to address shortage of primary school places in Merton
Increase the amount of commercial courses/lettings in order to maximise income where it can be viable. I have been looking for a touch typing course and I know several friends also that would be interested, so continue to develop curriculum.
Invest to further improve the current provision to create more revenue
Investment from leading Merton companies that would benefit from a skilled employment opportunities, as well as increasing their commitment to social well being.
It is critical that Merton provides an adult education centre as it should be a central tenant of any 'beacon' council. Indeed, the number of residents in Merton is increasing thus the income/revenue stream the council receives increases. As a result there is no excuse for not having a superior service that all are proud to be associated with. Indeed, the reason I have suggested a collaboration with SCOLA is because I believe this will result in MAE having to harmonise upwards in order to be on par with SCOLA's exemplary service.
Join with SCOLA. You could still commission course from private providers as well.
Just keep MAE working!. Council has already taken away a lot of things I used- and I pay a heavy council tax

Keep the existing arrangement and facility.
Keep the existing provision and develop it further to create more courses and revenue income.
Keep Whatley Avenue as it is. Use as a model and roll out other adult education facilities across the borough!!
Keep Whatley Avenue as main site and offer more courses and more options with local community support.
Leave well alone as the numerous number of people i have come into contact with have been more than satisfied with the courses they have attended..
Link up with providers in the Kingston borough
Look again on how to make Merton prosper and expand the facilities they have. Not many other colleges offer what Merton does and if marketed aggressively I don't see why there shouldn't be an increase in uptake and surely then you could improve the facilities instead of losing them completely
Look carefully at the range of courses being offered and perhaps reduce the number of subjects and/or the category options currently available per subject.
look to make all marketing and feedback material online only to significantly reduce printing costs. Online course booking rather than via telephone for manual inputting by staff Reduce energy bills by only having rooms and equipment at MAE in use lit and/or on.
Lottery funding?
MAE could be moved to Canterbury Road Chaucer Centre as MMF is moving out
Maintain the present system, having spent on improving its resources, and re-introduce a reasonable scale of fees to most students on courses which are free at present. For example, Â£100 per student would almost pay the tutor's fee for a class of average size. 15 students there would contribute Â£1500 of an annual fee of approx. Â£2000 to the tutor. That amount saved would go towards the over head costs which are very high. Access to remote maintainance facilities will always be inferior to having on-site help available. That would reduce the standard of provision for the students. Whatley Avenue does focus the provision of student support and dispersing this all over the borough (or outside) would be a disaster. The Council could consider the reduction of the bureaucracy used to run the service. There is something of an over-management and over administration in education in general!
Maintain Option 1, but examine ways of saving money an innovating delivery by comparing MAE with similar local authority providers and also for-profit companies. e.g. is there a role for part online delivery - via a local MOOC equivalent.
Make MAE operate without Council funding as SCOLA does. There is no reason why MAE should require council funding if it had a good/proper management and a governing body to challenge the running and admin of the college.
Market Whatley Ave College properly and expand the facilities. It is a unique facility and should be a source of civic pride, not financial gain. It is clear that when the site is under occupied or utilised the Council will propose its sale.
Maybe more use could be made of the college during holiday periods to bring in extra revenue.
Maybe those with greater financial means could pay more to help those less well off. Call for volunteers - there are plenty out there
Merton Adult Education could source funding from the private sector, e.g. Barclays Bank, Sainsbury's, Prudential Insurance.
Merton and Wandsworth AE classes under one roof would be good - more efficient/streamlined?
Merton could keep control over the courses but just use alternative venues. Schools of an evening? Local gyms? Hire a room over a pub?
Merton Council should offer MAE facilities to other areas. Other boroughs could offer MAE courses. There are frequent buses from Wimbledon station and Morden. We have students in our pottery class from a wide area because nowhere else offers the same quality provision. Why not offer courses to 16+ students? Schools would no doubt be happy to avail themselves of the facilities and teaching at Whatley Avenue.
Merton should cost out how it loses money at the moment at Whatley Avenue and think of ways of increasing the revenue through increased use of the facility or charging more for certain courses. It is an extremely important resource. If it is possible to share some management functions that do not directly affect delivery then this would be acceptable.
Money - need to maintain buildings - lottery, charity e.g. football clubs. Lose people who are not essential to activities.
n/a
Nil
No
No, but I strongly agree that the course should continue, rather than staying in my flat looking at four walls all day long.
No,certainly not.
None
None.
Not strictly another option, but I wonder why so many courses are subsidised or free (eg GCSE maths & English) when I'm sure most students would happily pay for these courses.
Offer courses in other council properties- even taster classes- Libraries, etc- Open pop-up class-rooms in empty shops- this will regenerate the high street- provide jobs .Keep the expertise in Adult education- build up communities.
Offer some courses at slightly higher rates, or consider offering courses at different times to take advantage of those parents who want to study but can't fit the times in around the school runs, as this might increase course take-up. More

Saturday courses and course starting after 7:30pm would be good too. Hiring other venues, even in Sutton could help with cheaper venues, as could maximising room usage in the current Education Centers used. Perhaps some local groups could make use of the venues and run their own courses from the empty rooms at a fee, and schools could make use of the venues too. After school Pottery and Art classes for local schools, etc, could make good use of these facilities when they are not in use during part of the day. Combining Adult and Child Education to allow parents to attend a class while their children attend another class at the same time in a nearby venue is a sure winning combination and would improve take up and revenue substantially.
only people on income test should be exempt from paying the fees on any courses, educational or non educational
Open local high schools to adult learners in the evenings, using their teachers.
Option 3 would be as good as option 2.
Option 4 does not say where the courses would be situated. If they are too far away from the current site, learners would not enrol and travel and then you could close them giving insufficient enrolment as the reason.
Outsourcing the admin function to achieve economies of scale. Considering the property strategy separately for the provision of MAE - Whatley Avenue seems to be relatively cheap although not that accessible. The Council should continue to be the provider of education rather than outsourcing this - as that will drive up costs ultimately.
Perhaps the council should look at the opposite side of the coin by promoting its adult education services to other boroughs, thus earning money to offset the cut in funding. Otherwise Option 3 would have my preference.
Personally I believe a modest rise in Council Tax would solve most of the financial problems facing the Council. We can't just keep cutting services. Additionally fees for course could be tiered to reflect the learner's income. Could income be received from hiring out space at Whatley Avenue to local businesses?
Please consider your options carefully. I am enjoying my courses at Whatley. It will be a shame to see it go. I hope you can find a way to make the building work harder, by maybe sharing the facilities with other business.
please leave as it is
Pooling resources with other boroughs could be an option but unless you offer detail to your proposal on what this would entail and how it would be implemented I don't see how people can make informed decisions.
Possibly sharing the use of existing buildings or amalgamating with others in the same building
Provide more courses which people want to come to. If you make the college a centre of excellence it will attract more students. The college could then provide commissioning services to other councils.
Raise the rates. Ridiculous to think that services can be maintained at a satisfactory or excellent level without increasing rates.
Reduce admin staff by making it easier to enrol online. Increase charges for oversubscribed courses for employed people
Reduce back office and administration costs. Try to reduce number of centres and make better use of existing ones.
Replace the current MAE management with efficient and effective leadership.
Request could be made to present and former students, including myself, for contributions of approx Â£100 if possible to prevent closure of Adult ed at Whatley. Perhaps local business would be willing to contribute. Outside providers deliver at a profit, so why can't Merton??
Retain the MAE site for adult education, and review the courses offered at the site.
Retain Whatley Avenue and MAE to prevent additional demand on social/health services from disabled and elderly adults. Make more effort to let out spare rooms to community groups and clubs to increase income. Encourage London Transport to look at bus routes to address cross borough transport.
Review current back room functions and use technology to improve efficiency
Run courses in a school to save money on running and maintenance of a separate building
save whatley collage
SCOLA IN SUTTON
scola model
Scrap the Morden Leisure Centre at Â£11.5m and use the money on MAE. There are already two excellent leisure centres in the borough but no other adult education college.
Services that are available for the adult learners with learning difficulties, of which in years to come the numbers have risen.
Share admin costs with another borough?
share back office facilities but keep front line teaching facilities
Share with the Open University for online learning to replace the need for physical locations
Shared services will inevitably result in less options being available. Accessibility will be harder for many and there will be an increase in class sizes which will affect students ability to learn.
Sharing cost is more advantage rather than getting rid of MAE.
So long as the high quality of courses is maintained, the location is convenient and the choice of courses remains at least as it is (or wider), I do not feel strongly about who provides the courses. However, I think sharing with another local authority would be best as the issues faced by both would be similar
Sponsorship from Private companies
Sponsorship from successful companies who will benefit
Stop wasting money on stupid unnecessary things and people that don't deserve it.

Streamline adult education at the top.
Streamline the service so only courses which have a high attendance rate are offered.
Survey local people. Develop the courses to suit Merton people.
The Arts and Creative courses could be offered and managed potentially by established colleges in the Borough including Wimbledon College of Art
The college should remain at it's present venue.
The college was a lifeline for me and helped me overcome a lot of issues. I have enjoyed many courses there. I have been unable to attend this year (2014) because of health but was hoping to start again in January. For my health I cannot afford private lessons, health clubs etc and the college is a great help.
The council has decided to sell Whatley Avenue and at the next council elections will crow about the amount they made!
The Council must provide more transparent details of what it means by 'other providers', and 'sharing'. If this means closing Whatley Road and moving classes elsewhere it cannot be acceptable. If the Council provides more transparent information on savings related to each of its proposals, and on the current costs of the service, it would be possible to discuss other options.
The only option is to keep Whatley Ave open.
The only option is to keep Whatley Avenue open and not put the staff out of work and displace the students who rely on the college for so many reasons.
there is no other option this survey is biased
There is so little detail accompanying these options. How can you possibly expect to receive any meaningful results and feedback from the community when you ask them to consider options full of jargon? What does option 4 mean? What assurances are there of how the handover to a 'provider' would be managed and measured? Where would the service be provided in Merton, how could MAE's current facilities be matched?
There seems to have been no consideration of alternative revenue streams - indeed, expansion of the services in profitable ways could increase revenue above increase in costs. Could other elements of the budget be drawn in - for example, the massive, regular underspend on adult social care, given that adult education plays a big role in this (or can, or should). These things may have been considered, but there is not enough information in this consultation.
They need to totally re-think the senior management at MAE - it is poor and THAT is why you are currently in this position - despite warnings from students and staff alike. It needs a governing body to CHALLENGE the senior management team on ALL aspects of running the college - SCOLA has the right set-up - they could advise and help to improve the set-up and gain more students. MAE has been badly run for many years and has been allowed to go its own way with no intervention from anyone.
This should be made an election issue. Then closure would be out of the question.
Tightening the administration costs, reduce the many that do the jobs. I sent one email requesting information, and received 2 or 3 replies - all differing in their answers too! This is extremely inefficient.
To keep the Whatley site and bring in other services for example MMF, Libraries & outreach services.
To merge the use of the Chaucer Center. Using Whatley site for staff training and conference events in Merton.
Transfer as much of the current services as possible to South Thames College without going through a tender process. Only tender the 25% that STC is not able to take on.
Trim all unnecessary wastage in offices and council offices and other unnecessary projects
Two is best option I guess.
Under Option 1 the council could possibly consider charging non-borough residents a SMALL course fee premium to attend courses at MAE. If it can be made to work without complications at enrolment, it would bring in an additional revenue stream.
Use existing community and social housing venues - this is how you get to the so-called 'hard to reach'.
Use existing secondary schools facilities to deliver courses.
Use local schools - like you used to. You used to hold classes in Richards Lodge in the evenings.
Use Morden libraries as alternative facilities for courses.
Use Whatley's facilities more - such as for Merton staff training and council events
Using facilities at MAE Wimbledon to host courses.
Utilise the facilities at the MAE college more. Although the classes are well attended, publicise the classes more, fill the classrooms, use the facilities, develop the service. Do not just cut it and give up, improve and expand to bring further development and resident satisfaction and sense of belonging and pride.
v
Well designed commissioning process using all the flexibility allowed to the LA by the European Commission (and there is plenty if we do our research well). In this way, local groups and energies will also be involved in delivery. The important thing is to make the process as transparent as possible.
Why can't Merton have the same success as other centres. Build on the college strengths.
Why don't you encourage volunteers to come forward and help at any means!!
Why not partner with the Borough of Kingston. Their variety on offer at the New Malden Leisure Centre alone is more attractive than anything I have seen in Merton. The building is of course more vibrant with so many leisure facilities, but it seems to be an extremely busy, dynamic centre with a lot to offer its community.

Why not work with the bus company to ensure better transport links from other parts of the borough. And maybe find a good satellite venue/s for other parts of the borough. A few vocational courses will be fine, but not at the expense of the arts!
With the way the country is at the moment there are people who are really struggling to feed, cloth and provide for their immediate families. They want to study to get a better job. So is very necessary MAE remains accessible for these individuals by offering free courses to them.
Yes - all students should pay for lessons - maths, English etc. This way the college benefits would improve 50%. I pay full payment on my pension
yes Option 1 but with a better management of costs
You could explain the options a bit better. I understand as I have inside knowledge but don't know if Joe public would. Also, you don't make clear what the financial burden is.
You have a fantastic opportunity with the primary school next door. You have a captive market of over 300 children and their parents. I would like to see the adult education provision and the fantastic resources made available to the school community (A charge to help reduce the financial shortfall could then be agreed).
You should keep things as they are!
You should set up an intervention team with specialist skills that can help people with SEN to go from school to further education or apprenticeships. This should be in a position to have contacts with employers all ready to go.

Any other comments?

The council should cut down some of the non-teaching positions and continue the current arrangements.
1. You should stick with the provision you make now, especially at Whatley Avenue and Marlborough Hall. Check that the other venues are fit for purpose. 2. Consider re-opening the previous Mitcham adult ed centre that is boarded up and empty, to close the east/west gap you are concerned about since you closed it. 3. Consider carefully that commissioned providers are unlikely to have specialist facilities for creative arts courses and there are equality concerns if you take the commissioned option, because people with learning disabilities and physical disabilities use these courses. 4. Scrutinise what Merton Council pays annually to Conway. Stop paying Conway for unnecessary cosmetic street work, pay only for what is required to ensure health and safety and vire the excess to community services like social care, adult education and children's education. 5. The Council should choose option 1 because it is not clear how the other options could work, create economies and serve various stakeholder priorities. The the lack of detail and of transparency is one factor that is alarming.
a choice should be made that provides the most cost effective provision of education without impairing quality. it should also provide a wide range of topics. Not just vocational & language courses but also courses that provide interest e.g. photography, stained glass furniture restoration ,literature appreciation, gardening etc.
A private provider will gradually increase costs and reduce service.
A very careful research must be made of what can be offered either by other bodies or in cooperation with others.
Access to funding for learning providers should be simple to enable grass root trainers to access funds. They are the ones that can reach the residents that need the support - such as those based in Mitcham. In addition grass root groups might not be able to afford to compete with Private Enterprises in terms of writing bids and accreditation for their course or venues.
Add to poll tax across the borough.
Adult education in Merton is a very valuable resource and needs to continue offering these services to Merton residents. The option that the council ultimately chooses must ensure that it is both cost effective and efficient and accessible to all Merton residents for the long term.
All the borough should suffer financial cuts not only MAE
An option which doesn't close MAE Whatley Avenue
Any option other than number one (retain present service) will be irreversible and this council will be remembered as the council that killed adult education in the borough.
As I have already stated, my life would be a lot less fulfilled without all the help Merton College gave me.
As I said, your evening classes would be more profitable if they were held close to a station because it would be easier for people commuting from London to get to on their way home. Also you charge by the year. Working people (perhaps in and out of jobs) don't always want to commit for a year and therefore go to private providers for a term instead.
As we are a provider of service it would have been good to get involved with this consultaiton months ago
Be honest about why the council is doing this! They want to sell Whatley.
Care should be taken when looking at external providers as an option or combining efforts with another local authority to avoid courses being cut back at the Merton sites (to then be on offer further from our borough) or prices escalating
Classes in lots of different community centres would not work for staff or tutors due to not having adequate facilities and the continuity of a college environment
Commissioning the services is the best way forward.
continue with the arrangements and take risk
Conversly, I think in fact adult education in the borough has always been undersold. It could be marketed much better

and more widely and the council should think about investment in adult education rather than a scale-back. It is short-sighted to try and make savings from such a valuable and unappreciated council asset.
Council members should consider how much social inclusion and education in arts and leisure activities they are leaving in tact for their loved ones and relatives in the borough and how much respect for selling off the family silver they will receive for becoming just like money grabbing bankers.
Council should provide costed models for each of the alternatives so we can see where the savings are or are not. So far these have not been available.
Council should take into account the possibility of raising course fees, for those that can afford them, to boost income.
Councils are always looking to cut services (I worked for a council for 32 years). This is not always the answer. Services can be improved and costs reduced without cutting the service. Ask the staff and attendees how costs can be reduced without sacrificing the service. We on the outside have no idea of running costs or productivity. Ask those you employ, small cost cuts mount up.
Courses for Merton residents should be provided within the Merton area.
cut down on number of courses, that would save money.
Cutting costs in a sustain all manner is paramount.
Decide how to keep Whatley Avenue site and then explore other financial models and partners.
Definitely option 1. More should be done to increase revenue and reduce costs. Whatley Avenue is a valued local facility that is very important to local people within Merton.
Deliver courses that appeal to people and at an appropriate level. I think courses need to be more specific...and advertised better.
Don't know
Either keep MAE Whatley Ave open or move to Chaucer Centre where MMF have met for years. It will be an empty building there.
Ensure decisions are not made purely to enable re-deveopment of site, or use it as a school - it was purpose built.
g
Give MAE time, say 5 years to cover it's own costs by empowering the local management team of MAE to self-manage and set its own budget and be creative to reduce its own cost every year, until it can be self-funding cover it's own costs, without Council cross subsidising costs.
Go into partnership with U3A (University of the Third Age).
Has a survey been commisioned to obtain the views of those in the east of Merton borough
I am not sufficiently well-informed to comment. I do think democracy is overstretching itself with consultations of this nature. It is for the politicians to make the decisions, without having the fall-back defence of saying "this is what the public wanted" when things go wrong.
I AM ON MY FIRST COURSE AT THE CENTRE AND WAS EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH THE ART CLASS ROOM AND THE WHOLE BUILDING A WONDERFUL FACILITY, PLEASE KEEP IT OPEN
I am still strongly in favour of continuing with MAE but I believe there must be ways of reducing costs for this that should be looked at - I'm surprised that this hasn't featured as one of the choices.
i am very concerned that Whatly will close and no other venue will be found for fusing glass as it needs specialised space and equipment.
I believe all councils are under similar financial pressure and therefore trust there is significant discussion regarding shared solutions and best practice. I have experience exception teaching at Merton (upholstery - Sarah Bolton) and fear that commissioning other providers to deliver the service will not only sacrifice quality, in addition, the procurement process will get bogged down by bureaucracy and won't be as 'cost effective' as originally predicted. Change is costly and if unsuccessful is particularly damaging.
I believe that the council should continue to provide the services in a modern management structure
I believe the most vulnerable people should be considered within this consultation. Large college environments are not suitable for everyone and Merton needs to ensure that classes are also delivered in environments that are suitable for those with disabilities. - e.g. small groups within libraries, inclusive friendly environments such at Whatley Avenue college.
I believe the Whatley centre should be saved.
I cannot tell, without further information.
I do not believe the council's preferred option is viable. Merton Council have provided no cost analyses and I do not believe any suggested option could save any substantial amount and certainly not provide a better service.
I don't see enough evidence that commissioning services would save money. I think it would just be a cheaper and worse service
I don't think it should be with a provider of sixth form/teenagers/young adults education as the atmosphere could be intimidating for older/learning difficulties people.
I feel the council should do what it can to keep Adult Education in Merton. I don't think joining forces with another borough should be an option. Also can the council specify what they mean by option 4? What other providers? The council is not being clear on exactly what options and providers they are considering.
I find the phasing of Option1 extremely leading and believe the use of the term 'financial risk' inflammatory. While I

<p>accept that council cuts mean that difficult decision will need to be raised the implication that retaining current service would in some way harm other services unfair. This is obviously not what LB Merton want to do, but there should be more fair and transparent wording. Implying that options 2-5 would solve everything and there would be no longer any financial risks is unfair. Option 2-5 would result in poorer adult education services but not solve the problem that the council is keen to suggest exists.</p>
<p>I have been a student at various times in the last 14 years. I have gained a teaching assistant qualification and both my NVQ 2 and 3 in Teaching through MAEC. It has also been my lifeline in terms of making friends and finding a hobby. I think it should be kept within the community. Sharing with South Thames means that the campus is still local and that's important to me.</p>
<p>I have heard that there is an option that this site becomes a Harris Secondary School. I am strongly opposed to this option. There is a healthy and improving cluster of secondary schools in the area and I think the borough would best invest its resources in the continual improvement of these. In addition it could have knock on effects for Joseph Hood Primary school and if this becomes linked to the Harris chain, reduces any choice of primary provision for local parents.</p>
<p>I have no idea whether South Thames or SCOLA or sharing with Wandsworth Borough is more cost efficient and wiser and more beneficial from a high quality of delivery perspective. But you have to find a balance of courses that will attract people who can afford the full price of courses eg a selection of music, singing, art, pottery, cookery (exciting non basic) in order to perhaps subsidise those courses which are essential for people seeking work eg English, Maths, Business & IT skills. I do not think this is addressed well enough in the curriculum on offer.</p>
<p>I have no objection in principle to MAE being "privatised" but it is important that an organisation taking on the task should be properly qualified/experienced in the education field. We do not want duplication of the ludicrous situation where parks and gardens will/may be run by South London Waste Partnership.</p>
<p>I have said enough above. I expect a degree of intelligence from whoever set the questions, but possibly that person is in real need of education</p>
<p>I have worked in partnership with local and out of Borough providers and found a vast difference in the quality of services and the level of commitment from out of Borough providers.</p>
<p>i hope you do not close any of the centre especially Whatley Avenue. i am sure you can find ways to produce more income from all the sites.</p>
<p>I know that the council has difficult decisions to make in the light of financial constraints. However it is my opinion that Merton Adult Education should be valued as a flagship service that is worth continuing support rather than something that represents "financial risk" to the council. There is an undercurrent of speculation that there are plans to sell Whatley Avenue for redevelopment; if this is the case, I feel that it would be a tremendous waste of a really good educational facility.</p>
<p>I live in Norbury and attend pottery in Merton with my daughter, a Wimbledon resident. I am impressed by Merton Council which adjoins Croydon. Mitcham Conservation signs, neat pathways in Northborough Road, SW16, for example. Please keep what you have built up in adult Educational expertise. Flaunt it, sell it, run seminarsto finance it. Be flexible. Guard this good institution. See how adult education can serve our children in the borough, which should be a consideration. Motivated and imaginative adults can better guide the young.</p>
<p>I prefer to be as close to home as possible (Grand Drive) but would go to another borough if the venue was to close.</p>
<p>I realise it is a very hard decision to make financially. I would just ask that the needs of all young, the unemployed, and the elderly, [to keep them mentally fit and active] - all are considered and provided for as education provides the key for the mental and physical well-being of the people of Merton. Thank you. If Whatley Ave is not used how will Merton be able to maintain it as part of Joseph Hood School if it cannot when used as for MAE?</p>
<p>I really don't think we should partner up with other councils, It is already a large and unwieldy beast, I find the bureaucracy too much, as a user AND as a teacher of adult education in Merton. Why make it even larger and more chaotic and bureacratic.? The adult education needs a clearer remit and less paperwork. If another provider can reduce bureacraucy and simplify the delivery, then that is an option, But not more council quality frameworks and paperwork...not a good idea.</p>
<p>I really hope Merton council makes an important decision to ensure the continuation of adult education. Opportunities like this don't come around this often in London.</p>
<p>I strongly feel that we can learn from the way Wandsworth Borough manage their budget and commission providers.</p>
<p>I study in the evening, not just for work but as a hobby, an opportunity to switch of and meet others. To extend my self and experience, to have a work life balance. The venue, character, atmosphere and environment created by staff students and facilities keeps me coming back. This is not something I could see replicated elsewhere especially of the service was split or shared. With other providers. Merton adult education at Whatley road is not just for people with learning needs but caters for whole other sections of society (elderly, working, mums, hobbyists, EAL) and all these sections of society should be considered, moving provision elsewhere takes it away from those who need it. Keep MAE as it is. How could they guarantee that slipping current courses into others provision is going to provide th current numbers of places available? It cannot be guaranteed. Keep it as and where it is!</p>
<p>I think in recent years there has been too much emphasis on 'measurable outcomes' - the original purpose of Adult Ed has been lost in this</p>
<p>I think one of the main things that the council should do is keep the provision as is, possibly with a little fine tuning - but categorically promise to students, local residents and the adjoining school that it will NOT sell Whatley Avenue. And that</p>

<p>Whatley Avenue will continue to function as the main site for adult education in the Borough. WA is an easy to get to location. It is easily accessible for students with disabilities and it is familiar to students with learning difficulties - something that should not be under-estimated. Additionally a considerable amount of money has recently been spent on the site in terms of energy saving and the creation of the art block.</p>
<p>I think South Thames and MAE should be put together and it looks good for the student's further education and meet more people. Further activities to put together.</p>
<p>i think that what isn't written anywhere is that you are looking to sell off the site on Whately Avenue to developers and thereby plug reduced council funding with selling an asset which is very valued in the wider community. there are probably a whole stack of back office council jobs which could go! Or you can always just issue more parking tickets - that must rake in millions.</p>
<p>I think the council shoudl continue with the current arrangements as it is working especially for adults with learning disabilities. The current arrangements have motivated adults with learning disabilities to stay in college to learn new skills, integrated with other people that are more able than themselves, gain certificates, work towards independence, gain self confidence and self worth, work towards finding a job and continue to be life long learners. The current system provides a variety of courses for people with learning disabilities to chosose from according to their abilities. This will be lost if things change.</p>
<p>I think the council should bare in mind the importance of life long learning within the community and value it as highly as it does providing services for children. It is a lifeline for many older people to socialise and keep mentally and physically active.</p>
<p>I think the council should look at offering more rather than trying to offer less at a cheaper cost and absolving their responsibility to a third party supplier. Working in Partnership with other Councils while still maintaining overall responsibility for Adult Education is a much better option for all concerned.</p>
<p>I think the mix of students at Whatley Avenue could not be recreated if provided by a FE college like South Thames whose main focus is young adults. The current mix to me is an important and attractive element of the provision.</p>
<p>I think the priority for Adult Education (AE) should be for the provision of courses/activities that are not otherwise provided by local clubs/societies/groups. Schools should ensure that pupils leave with appropriate qualification/skills for future employment and not rely on AE for this.</p>
<p>I think there needs to be clarity about the funding situation, and also of the potential savings offered by each of the options. What are the real practical differences between options 2-5? Why is only LB Wandsworth a possibility for option 5? The consultation seems lacking in detail about what the 5 options mean. This hardly seems to meet the recent "Moseley" requirements on consultation.</p>
<p>I think what makes MAE special is because it is local and accessible. It being an adult only college means it is less busy, noisy and students are engaged and motivated. I particularly like the fact that it is a residential area and I enjoy the work there. It has a friendly staff. People with disabilities are catered for and I'm sure benefit from a non-hectic environment.</p>
<p>I think you have to make sure that the disabled and people that have learning difficulties have a say in this as well as this will affect them in a big way. We have to modernise the courses that will help with people getting jobs or need extra training as there are going to be a lot of redundancies for adults and there is not enough help for them to get back into the job market if you are of an older age.</p>
<p>I will be satisfied with any of the options as long as it works and the transition doesn't end up costing more than we can afford. I would like the whatley to stay open it is very close to my house.</p>
<p>I would be very disappointed if the council goes ahead with commissioning services to private education providers. Whilst it might save money in the short term, it is vey short sighted of the council as it will cost more money later on because Of poor service to students and cost cutting which leads to the council picking up greater financial cost later on. I urge the council to please reconsider its preferred option and choose one of the others to keep serices in house.</p>
<p>i would like the collage to stay open so my son who has drowns syndrome can use the collage when he is older and have independents to walk there.</p>
<p>I would wish Merton Adult Education to do what it says on the tin and be provided by Merton.</p>
<p>Ideally the offer should be at more locations across the borough as Whatley - the main centre - is difficult to get to on public transport.</p>
<p>If any money can be saved by partnering, then it is even better than cutting funding to save money in areas like youth and community activities.</p>
<p>If continuing with current arrangements, consider moving more services to the central Wimbledon building, this being readily accessible from all parts of the Borough, unlike Whatley Ave., which is not, as well as being some distance on foot from nearest public transport links - particularly inconvenient and unappealing on dark Winter evenings! That site could then potentially be sold for affordable & other housing, blending with the surrounding residential area.</p>
<p>If it ain't broke, don't fix it. Change can prove more expensive and less satisfactory. The Whatley Avenue Centre has good office facilities, good specialist rooms, and good facilities for those with a disability</p>
<p>If the council should join with wandsworth then many training services could be out of borough. Elderly, disabled, poorer, unemployed, those with out cars, those with family responsibilities (either of the young or elderly) would not be able to travel to these venues. Distance, cost of transport plus travelling to unknown venues are all barriers to many people.</p>

If the council tax were raised a bit every year you wouldn't have to cut services so much - too many services are reduced or cut that should be maintained.
If the courses I do were not provided locally and easy to get to I would not continue.
I'm hoping that the council will go with Option 1 as many local residents I believe feel the same and have enjoyed the benefits of MAE, being a source of education and employment and great ethos that it stands for and hopefully will continue to stand for in the future.
Important to have more than one location where services are offered.
Important to keep the facility at Wimbledon Library for ease of access to those living in Wimbledon
In looking at how other boroughs provide adult ed services, it is impossible to compare the college at Whatley Ave with anywhere else, as what we have there is truly unique. With its specialist teaching facilities for the creative arts, it is a vital centre for learning many dying crafts and skills. There is nowhere else one can learn many of these skills in the area. The fact that many of these courses are fully booked well ahead of time and are bringing in fees bears this out.
Is it possible to find other venues eg schools for evening classes. Most facilities would be available on site.
It doesn't matter. Anyone completing this is simply going through the motions.
It is imperative that this resource is kept it works extremely well in the area and is a good safe environment for people to get to and is easily accessible.
It is key that education is provided near to people's homes otherwise those in most need and with other responsibilities will not be able to access it.
It must stay in the public domain.
It will be best if Merton continues to control adult education in borough, but sharing services and buying power with other colleges and boroughs - it is clear savings have to be made and the focus should be on maintaining services to the user and building on the quality of existing provision.
It would be better to share provision with more than one local authority.
It would not be an appropriate site for a secondary school. Space is limited and so there would be inadequate outside space for pupils. Road access is stretched already with the existing primary school which i imagine causes local residents currently many problems with parking and access at school opening and finish times and gives parents of the primary school significant difficulty in delivery and collection of their children which would be compounded with another school on the same site
It's not always about the money or savings. It's about the quality and depth of the courses offered.
It's very difficult to be 100 pct of any of the options. Merton should look through EVERY opening
Just don't sell this building for another block of flats. Keep it as it is as much as you can. People come from far and wide. It would be such a loss.
Keep control over the provision and maintain high standards rather than outsourcing which would only lead to profit being made by profit making providers. minimise
KEEP MAE AS IT IS REDUCE COSTS IN OTHER WAYS FO INSTANCE NOT KEEPING WORK EXPERIENCE COURSES OPEN WHEN THESE ARE PAID FOR BY THE COUNCIL HALF THE TIME STUDENTS. DO NOT BOTHER TO TURN UP.
Keep our college open.
Keep the first option but totally re-organise MAE's management team - get rid of the current people and employ those who know and understand adult education provision and how to manage it in a sensible and cost-efficient way.
Keeping Merton Adult Education open is the best option and provides good value for money, relying primarily on skills funding agency and fee income.
LBS and LBM both need to save money, and the councils need to remember they are there to provide for the needs and interests of the local community, promoting greater unity will not only save money but encourage integrated working which is of benefit to all .
Leave it as it is and invest in it.
Like schools, adult learning centres should be local in order to encourage residents to attend without too much journey time and with the healthy option of being actually able to walk there. Local adult learning centres also provide and widen the learning horizon for its adult citizens and enhance pride and the feeling of belonging in the local community.
MAE has been here successfully for decades - you are just trying to save money by causing problems and issues for the local community. Adult education is so important - you do not make is very clear in this survey which appears to be worded in a confusing way obviously so you will get the answers to suit your needs. This should be investigated by the Market Research Society.
MAE has been mismanaged for years, but the tutors are excellent despite the poor treatment they receive from senior management.
MAE is a valuable asset to the council. Many learners have gone into full time employment and part time. Adults want to learn in a mature environment with peers.
Mae needs to continue as is. It is vital for many of its students. Merging with other large colleges that have younger students will discourage mature students and those with special needs and may lead to them retracting in their confidence and sociable skills gained through attending Merton adult education.
Maintain option 1. Several millions of points was spent recently in the past few years on building new facilities at Whatley Avenue. If this centre is sold off to developers, then this investment will be lost. What guarantees does the

council give to ensure that equivalent facilities can be found at alternative venues without the need to spend similar amounts on new venues?
Make sure all facilities are within the borough of Merton and easy to access by public transport
Many of your questions have no unless we are told, say, which other council services should bear the brunt of subsidies if not adult learning. What is the competition proposed and are they good or bad providers? These questions can't be answered without at least examples. Many of the questions leave no value as the data is presented.
Merton Adult College is an excellent college. It provides very useful courses for young and older people. The teaching standard are very high and hundreds of students use this college. We don't want it to be closed. My job prospects have improved because of this college.
Merton Adult Education did help lots of local residents in many ways during all these years. Please continue the current arrangement if possible.
Merton Council needs to maintain and protect the current Merton Adult Education services from threatened cuts and/or closure. The facilities and buildings already in place need to be kept in ownership/stewardship of the local council and not sold for profit. Once they are gone they are gone for ever. And replacing facilities/buildings in the future will be more costly. Therefore maintain the current facilities and buildings - be innovative and use people doing "community service" to update/ refurbish them and then maintain them.
Merton has many fully subscribed classes which more than pay for themselves. Certain councils such as Wandsworth have a reputation for cutting essential services to vulnerable people and I would not feel secure being "handed over" to them. The saving on local health services should also be a consideration. Where people, especially older ones like myself are happy and feel they have a purpose in life they are less likely to become ill.
Most of the care provision resources are in Mitcham which is too far for carers in Raynes Park. MAE offers respite from caring. It also provides many specialist courses for the disabled and those with learning disabilities. These people would be devastated if MAE were to close. MAE is a social service.
My main concern is that Arts and Crafts subjects which need specialist equipment are facilitated. The present site has several rooms with essential equipment. I would like to know how the council would ensure these subjects continue in another venue.
My main concern is what would happen to the current site on Whatley Avenue. There is a school next door and it is set in a residential area. Adult education in our Merton community.
My main concerns as a close resident/Adult Ed user/parent of a child at Joseph Hood are: Where will the new courses be, will they be suitable for me and what are the costs going to be. What will happen to the site afterwards bearing in mind the 300+ primary aged children that are basically enclosed in a tight site with no vehicular access except through the Adult Ed
My Merton continues to provide an inefficient means of communication for the council. Today's IT environment will be the best way to a bigger audience, lower costs and as paperless will be more sustainable for low carbon footprint. These savings can be re-directed to MAE.
n/a
Nil
No
No but social services is much more important than classes for those in employment, with reasonable incomes, not looking for classes to improve their job opportunities. I'm taking a class and as far as I can see we all fall into the categories I have just mentioned; I enjoy the course but am shocked if it is subsidised by the council
No privatisation of education.
No, because there aren't any. other than keeping MAE available to the community and supporting it fully. It could become a flagship and an example of excellence to other educational institutions if promoted and supported properly. Its diversity an example of what can be achieved when managed well and helping so many individuals with their personal and academic goals. Priorities should be to help people to improve their quality of life whether its is to better their employability or achieve something new, help people to be independent and survive in the real world...there are many more reasons to keep the college accessible to so many people than there are to close it.
Not getting rid of Whatley Rd if possible- be imaginative for its use. Maybe get good architects to maximise the space. Get Ambassadors who will advertised the undersubscribed classes in local communities-
Not really. AN observation. Living in Wimbledon is increasingly bland. It is all new blocks of flats, a highstreet full of supermarkets and restaurants (also bland). Please. Don't take any more life out of the borough. I know finances are hard but please don't lose adult education or dilute to do much that nobody wants it.
Once a decision is made a thorough review of the new arrangement should be undertaken to ensure it is fit for purpose and value for money.
Once closed, it would be most unlikely that such effective and useful services could ever be provided locally again. In a time where the population is ageing increasingly, i.e. the number of old people rises, it is vital to ensure that stimulating and socially cohesive services are provided and that those with English as a second language should be catered for locally. However, youth/younger people's engagement is certainly lacking in all adult education.
Option 1, plus improve the already excellent teaching by properly supporting the staff and students.
Option 4 could be more expensive and bureaucratic. Options 2,3 & 5 will not be focused on Merton residents who may have no access to crucial courses.

Other providers will be financially motivated and arts and creative and relaxation courses don't deliver financial gain they are a social need as stated previously
parking, overpopulating the area and removal of the original site would be a travesty !
Perhaps charge a little more, encourage more to attend the courses, especially those who pay, putting info in Floodlight is no longer good enough, you have to go out and grab the users, good publicity would help. You must not let this wonderful resource end, it would be a tragedy for all the potential and future users.
Perhaps reduce some of the more obscure leisure type classes in Adult Education. This could save on teaching costs etc. Change the minimum numbers in classes to be viable. There seem far too many gardening and painting/drawing classes on offer for example. Fitness classes could be reduced (as there are many other centres around the Borough where these activities are offered incl organisations using church halls etc - just look at notices in all the supermarkets offering these opportunities!). You could do this at least as a temporary measure until financial climate improves. By "sharing" services with other organisations it would be more difficult to revert back to fully Merton controlled in the future as organisation and funding would have completely changed. More money would then need to be spent on renewing control etc by Merton itself. And no doubt some of the centres would have been sold (as yet more ways to get money into the Council's coffers) so meaning a lack of suitable venues available to use when they might then be needed!
Please keep these services local and council run. I know you need to balance your books but in this day and age any opportunities to get a wide range of people from different ages, sexes, economic and social backgrounds together and to give people the opportunity to learn new things and widen their horizons are invaluable.
Please see above.
Really examine whom is employed, why? Political, social, nepotical. Why external planners for services are needed when we already have departments/establish these. They can't do it so why are they there? The bureaucracy.
Retain the MAE site for adult education, and review the courses offered at the site and look at ways of offering services jointly. The MAE offers an invaluable service and the current site is well used and should be retained.
SCOLA are a leader and I believe through partnering and collaborating with them MAE will grow stronger and stronger. MAE should bear the financial risk as no other council of repute does anything to the contrary.
Sharing with another college or authority is likely to increase the complexity of decision making and administration, and therefore should only be pursued if the higher utilisation of fixed costs- accommodation and administration really delivers a significant benefit.
Should take a decision that is cost effective and provides high quality service.
So far the questions in this consultation survey relate to organisational and financial means of achieving an objective without having properly defined the objective in question. At the public meeting I attended on 2 December it was clear that there was an overwhelming consensus in favour of retaining Whatley Avenue as a resource. How that is achieved was clearly less important to those present and in any event is a decision that should be made by the council's officers not the users of MAE.
stop rail roading your hair brained schemes onto the residents of wimbledon chase
Stop spending a huge amount on gardening, yes it looks pretty but when you say you have to cut back that's a start. Making Merton College look pretty, forget it. People are there to learn not relax and sunbathe.
Strongly request that Merton choses an option which benefits the Merton economy, not just a short term financial savings.
Suggest present MAE buildings with efficient provider to run classes within these accessible venues.
Support loc people. We pay the tax and deserve a good service from you
Support the MAE and all who use it
That what is best Merton Adult continues but accepts the reality of the financial situation that the council faces.
The above would solve money problems
The choice should depend on quality of service provided and value for money, not who is doing it.
The college at it's present venue is successful. I believe the council should keep the college at the present site.
The council need to consider the impact of the changes they prefer to the impact on the community. As a student I have made friends with people from other communities which would not be possible in any other environment.
The council should choose to recognise the true value of what they already have, instead of rushing to dismantle a treasure, for dubious gain. It would seem, from the public meetings, that Whately Ave, Adult Ed, more or less pays its own way and is not such a financial burden as is made out, nor would it make much difference to 32 million saving, if disbanded.
The Council should clarify the implications of the currently preferred option
The council should continue to provide the excellent facility at Whatley Ave. The local people deserve this wonderful centre. I do think that course costs could be increased in line with other adult ed courses.
The council should ensure that they continue to decide on aspects such as fees payable, location and type of courses provided.
The council should keep the MAE colleges as they are. They meet the needs of the Merton community.
The council should not dilute the quality ofvtheoffer
The current service is excellent and offers the people of Merton the chance to access adult education in an environment which has been created for this purpose. This is a service which should kept and developed.

The current service provided at MAE is excellent and yet still improving. I believe Merton should continue to develop the fantastic service we have
The existing provision is successful, inclusive, well run and welcoming. These qualities have been achieved over time through the hard work of staff and tutors. Because of this I believe it would be hard to continue providing adult education of such high quality if it were commissioned out to different sites and providers.
The figures and statements about participation and finance within the college which are being presented by the council and councillors are completely inaccurate and aim to show the college as inefficient. This flies in the face of all the good work that MAE does in the community as well as the hard work and commitment of the staff and learners. OFSTED and the Skills Funding Agency recognise it, why can't the council. This whole process has been mishandled and rushed through and the lack of clarity has only made Merton as an organisation and cabinet appear untrustworthy. Stop the spin and be honest about the ulterior motives and plans for the Whatley Ave site
The first priority of any Council should be to conduct meaningful consultations about these important issues.
The Labour councillors lie all the time. This survey is a waste of time as the decision is made.
The location of services has a significant impact on ability to utilise the service therefore remaining at MAE would be the favoured option, supported by shared services with South Thames College (Merton Campus). The other locations are likely to be unmanageable by a large number of current users.
The main concern I would have with partnership working and commissioning is quality control of the service delivered.
The main problem is the loss of the Whatley Avenue site. There is a pottery studio and workshop spaces that will be difficult to provide in any other site.
The option chosen should keep the facility at the Whatley Road site.
The preferred option is to keep this centre open. It provides a valuable service to the local community. South Thames is on a large campus which some adult learners would find very threatening.
The present location is ideal for most people in the borough to reach easily.
The size and location of college is important. MAE is local to me - big enough to provide a range of classes but not so large as to become anonymous.
There is no doubt that MAE offers high-quality courses. Perhaps put the fees for the courses up a bit (the more recreational ones, such as language courses, or art classes). Merge MEA premises?
There should be a governing body for the college, the role of which would be to ensure effective management for the community.
There should be an adult provision in Merton for the residents. This is provided, in the main, by MAE at its existing sites.
This is pointless without idea of consequences
To develop existing services and courses to create more revenue.
To just take responsibility to deliver adult education in the borough and invest in the community & their training needs.
To repeat, maximise the outputs the current option 1 provides. Look at the OFSTED report. Support your own BOROUGH, that is to say, Merton, not Wandsworth...
Two is best option I guess.
Two main criteria should be: Retention of high quality teaching staff Location(s) in the borough accessible to all. Either a single central location or dispersed - but not all in north or south of borough
unclear in any choice if will have specialist physical site requirements for courses such as woodworking/carving, clay glass work upholstery etc that Whatley Avenue site has
v
vital to keep the range of courses offered. There is great danger of courses which require more than a desk and a whiteboard being lost
We need to defend education for all the reasons that have been said before. Once it's gone, it will not be resumed when the 'austerity' has ended. There is money in London and it is not being used to educate the poor towards more opportunity. We must defend education.
Whatever option is chosen the back office overhead has to be significantly reduced.
whatever option is chosen, the council must be aware of, and take into account, the needs of adult learners, eg easy to get to, easy access to buildings.
Whatever option/s the council chooses please consider and analyse the the practicalities and effects carefully and please let adult education continue and thrive. Difficult times. Good luck.
Whatley Road provides a safe and caring environment for the vulnerable, the elderly and the disadvantaged. The teachers at Whatley Road are passionate and dedicated. Collectively they motivate and build confidence in all students. Following my retirement from a responsible position, I became depressed and lost confidence. The "family" feeling and caring attitude of the tutors at Whatley Road encouraged me to join classes there. I love the glass and pottery classes I attend. Using my hands in that way has improved my arthritis and dexterity and the friends I have made and the tutors have changed my life infinitely for the better. I am considering a dance class and Tai Chi for next term and I would not attempt that elsewhere. I tried South Thames College previously and felt lost in that large, faceless environment. I do not believe any other venue could provide the nurturing and caring environment achieved at Whatley Road.
Whichever option is chosen must be the most beneficial for Merton and ensure that Adult Education can continue in the Borough.

Whichever option is chosen the service provider should be given clear quality criteria to meet, which should be assessed at the end of the first year. The contract should allow the council to change provider if these are not met.
Whichever option we choose, I think it's essential we look at existing available resources eg our libraries as delivery points. Whatever we choose we need to get away from subsidized flower arranging etc & move to courses which help those who need it.
Why destroy a good college which has been helping Merton students? They provide everything in one college there would be the joined up thinking if you did commissioning.
Why don't you encourage the college to bid for this service.
With numerous petitions against the proposed changes, I feel that the council must listen to the local community & leave MAEC well alone to continue its valuable role.
Yes. There are so many services and benefits for the people who currently use MAE at Whateley it would be a tragedy to close it. MAE is a well used and known part of the current community it would detract from the quality of life of the current 5000 students. The teachers deserve recognition for their services!
You can not put a price on bringing communities together in a mutually respectful environment, respite for cares who attend courses, prevention & recovery from illnesses, the confidence people gain, to improvement in their employability.
You can't just keep cutting everything a bit. You must cut out whole services if your budget is significantly cut.

Section 2

Step 2:7.00-1:Used MAE		
This single response question was answered by 716 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	562	78.49%
No	144	20.11%
Don't know	10	1.4%
Step 2:8.00-1:Types of courses		
This multiple response question was answered by 543 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Beauty & Complementary Therapy	18	3.31%
Business and Training	49	9.02%
Careers Information	16	2.95%
Childcare and Education	33	6.08%
Cooking and Catering	40	7.37%
Creative Arts	273	50.28%
English	40	7.37%
English as a second or other language	23	4.24%
First Aid	29	5.34%
Fitness and Wellbeing	82	15.1%
IT and Computing	79	14.55%
Languages	137	25.23%
Maths	33	6.08%
Towards Independence	14	2.58%
Step 2:9.00-1:Course venue		
This multiple response question was answered by 544 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Whatley	447	82.17%
MAE Wimbledon	160	29.41%
St Marks Family Centre	5	.92%
Vestry Hall	8	1.47%
Merton Primary Schools	5	.92%
Harris Academies Merton and Morden	4	.74%

Job Centre Mitcham	3	.55%
Merton Libraries	24	4.41%
Other	17	3.13%

Other?

Response	Number of Respondents
All Saints Day Centre	1
Cannon House	1
Cannons	1
Canons	2
Canons House	2
chaucer centre	1
church road children's centre	1
Community centre	1
Family Learning	1
kingston	1
Mitcham Canons	1
Mitcham Common House	1
Morden Campus	1
South Thames College	2

Section 2 contd

Step 2:10.00-1:Other providers used		
This single response question was answered by 714 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	273	38.24%
No	432	60.5%
Don't know	9	1.26%
Step 2:11.00-1:Who was other provider		
This multiple response question was answered by 247 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
South Thames College (Merton Campus)	21	8.5%
South Thames College (Wandsworth Campus)	31	12.55%
SCOLA	47	19.03%
Wandsworth Lifelong Learning	5	2.02%
Richmond Adult Community College	7	2.83%
Kingston Adult Education	26	10.53%
Other	136	55.06%

Other

Response	Number of Respondents
-	1
ACT TOO - one to one computer literacy	1
another provider in yorkshire	1
CALAT	2
Cannot remember	1

Carers Association	1
Carshalton College	2
CASS short course	1
Cerebra charity	1
cherry pie music school, and common runners	1
Church	1
CIMA	1
City Lit	10
City Lit, University of Dundee (distance learning)	1
CityLit	2
Compass education & training	1
Corporately run seminars	1
course not available	1
Croydon	1
Croydon Adult Learning Services	1
Croydon College	1
Croydon council	1
Denman College Abingdon	1
Do not live in Merton	1
East Surrey College	2
esher college	1
First Aid for Life	1
first aid with React First	1
From Canadian provider	1
H&F courses	1
hadlow college	1
Havering College	1
Independent exercise classes	1
in-house	1
Italian Institute	1
JJAADA	1
Kensington & Chelsea	1
Kensington & Chelsea Adult Ed. College and City Lit.	1
kensington and chelsea college	1
Kings College University	1
Kingston College	1
Kingston uni	1
Kingston University	1
Lambeth	1
Lambeth college	1
LGIU	1
London Language Centre	1
Malden Centre	1
Mary ward	1
Mary Ward + Morley	1
Mary Ward Centre	2
Mary Ward Centre, Queens Square	1
Mary Ward, City Lit	1
Me	1
Merrist wood	1
Merton Chamber of Commerce,	1
metropolitan university	1
Morley	1
Morley College	3
National Extension college (NEC)	1
NESCOT	2
Newport Open College	1
NHS	1
On line training and First Aid instructor training from a private provider	1

online	3
Open University	5
Open University and City Lit	1
orpington college	1
Oxford University Department of Continuing Education	1
Paid for by work	1
Pottery - Privat tutor	1
previous tutor at MAE when the course closed	1
Prince2 Practitioner- TheKnowledgeCentre	1
private	5
Private college London School of Jewellry	1
Private companies	1
private company	1
Private course,can't remember provider	1
Private courses	1
Private individual	1
Private Practitioner	1
private provider	2
Private tuition	1
Privately run exercise classes	1
product use	1
Professional development provider related to job	1
Putney School of Art	1
QKL	1
Roehampton	1
SOAS	1
Southfields	1
St Mary's college, twickenham	1
St Xavier college	1
STC - Roehampton	1
Surrey Adult Education	1
Sutton adult education	1
training throught the school	1
UAEA Wandsworth	1
U3A	1
UEL	1
Unison	1
University of East Anglia	1
University of Surrey (part-time MSc)	1
V & A Museum	1
Various	1
Wandsworth employees	1
Workers Education Association	1
YMCA	1

Step 2:12.00-1:Why other provider

This multiple response question was answered by 255 respondents.

Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
They provided the course I wanted, Merton did not	163	63.92%
More convenient for travel	42	16.47%
More convenient for timing	43	16.86%
Cheaper fees	16	6.27%
Better facilities	21	8.24%
Other	55	21.57%

Other

Response	Number of Respondents
1:1 Tuition.	1
A personal connection put me onto the courses I am doing	1
Availability.	1
Because the Campus now is South Thames College in Merton	1
Began there before merton	1
Bespoke course	1
Better reputation	1
better reputation for chosen course	1
chosen by the school	1
Classes ran all year, not just term time	1
Couldn't get into the course at MAE	1
course not available	1
Course specific to church	1
Didn't know about MAE course at the time	1
Do not live in Merton, but work here	1
employer send me there	1
Flexibility	1
For work	1
I didn't know about MAE, otherwise I would have come here	1
I didn't live in the borough	1
I had no idea about MAE by then	1
I lived in that area at the time	1
I lived there	1
I made a complaint about a course and didn't feel it was addressed seriously by Head of Languages.	1
I wanted to explore other options but preferred the teaching at Whatley so returned.	1
I was not aware of the MertonAdult Education	1
I went with my daughter who lives near SCOLA	1
Job Centre sent me there	1
Jobcentre provided no choice	1
Kingston adult education centre in North Kingston now closed	1
Merton's website didnt specify the course. South Thames college's ebsite had more details so i was able to decide quicker	1
More flexible course & access.	1
More flexible days I could attend	1
my employer chose	1
My old university	1
My work place send me there	1
on- line learning with OU; professional body provision at SCOLA	1
one to one instruction	1
Postgraduate academic study	1
Postgraduate qualification therefore not applicable or in scope of MAE's service provisions	1
postgraduate study	1
Required for work	1
selected by employer	1
shopping	1
specialist professional	1
Specific Accounting	1
Specific to job	1
Specific to my needs	1
The client needs an evening activity	1
The company I work for chose the provider	1
The merton course was full	1
This course was prior to moving closer to merton	1
This was a residential course	1
This was not a good place to learn	1

University degree	1
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Step 2:13.00-1:Importance of aspects (Improving job prospects)		
This single response question was answered by 667 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	235	35.23%
Important	143	21.44%
Unimportant	209	31.33%
Very unimportant	73	10.94%
Don't know	7	1.05%
Step 2:13.00-2:Importance of aspects (Meeting new people)		
This single response question was answered by 683 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	224	32.8%
Important	300	43.92%
Unimportant	128	18.74%
Very unimportant	24	3.51%
Don't know	7	1.02%
Step 2:13.00-3:Importance of aspects (Developing a new hobby or pastime)		
This single response question was answered by 686 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	364	53.06%
Important	244	35.57%
Unimportant	62	9.04%
Very unimportant	10	1.46%
Don't know	6	.87%
Step 2:13.00-4:Importance of aspects (Developing a new skill)		
This single response question was answered by 686 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	495	72.16%
Important	171	24.93%
Unimportant	16	2.33%
Very unimportant	2	.29%
Don't know	2	.29%
Step 2:13.00-5:Importance of aspects (Sharing an interest with other people)		
This single response question was answered by 688 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	332	48.26%
Important	250	36.34%
Unimportant	91	13.23%
Very unimportant	10	1.45%
Don't know	5	.73%
Step 2:13.00-6:Importance of aspects (The availability of a specific course)		
This single response question was answered by 683 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	453	66.33%
Important	201	29.43%

Unimportant	19	2.78%
Very unimportant	3	.44%
Don't know	7	1.02%
Step 2:13.00-7:Importance of aspects (Getting a qualification)		
This single response question was answered by 677 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	189	27.92%
Important	142	20.97%
Unimportant	254	37.52%
Very unimportant	81	11.96%
Don't know	11	1.62%
Step 2:13.00-8:Importance of aspects (Improving my confidence)		
This single response question was answered by 681 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	251	36.86%
Important	237	34.8%
Unimportant	143	21%
Very unimportant	46	6.75%
Don't know	4	.59%
Step 2:13.00-9:Importance of aspects (The quality of the teaching)		
This single response question was answered by 686 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	511	74.49%
Important	162	23.62%
Unimportant	6	.87%
Very unimportant	3	.44%
Don't know	4	.58%
Step 2:13.00-10:Importance of aspects (Learning designed for disabled people)		
This single response question was answered by 670 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	207	30.9%
Important	152	22.69%
Unimportant	187	27.91%
Very unimportant	75	11.19%
Don't know	49	7.31%
Step 2:13.00-11:Importance of aspects (Learning designed for those with caring responsibilities)		
This single response question was answered by 670 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	203	30.3%
Important	169	25.22%
Unimportant	178	26.57%
Very unimportant	73	10.9%
Don't know	47	7.01%
Step 2:13.00-12:Importance of aspects (Having fun)		
This single response question was answered by 666 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	259	38.89%

Important	293	43.99%
Unimportant	87	13.06%
Very unimportant	18	2.7%
Don't know	9	1.35%
Step 2:13.00-13:Importance of aspects (Access to online resources and learning materials)		
This single response question was answered by 677 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	142	20.97%
Important	246	36.34%
Unimportant	219	32.35%
Very unimportant	54	7.98%
Don't know	16	2.36%
Step 2:13.00-14:Importance of aspects (Online booking and administration)		
This single response question was answered by 680 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	131	19.26%
Important	247	36.32%
Unimportant	235	34.56%
Very unimportant	55	8.09%
Don't know	12	1.76%
Step 2:13.00-15:Importance of aspects (Friendliness of non-teaching staff)		
This single response question was answered by 681 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	234	34.36%
Important	322	47.28%
Unimportant	97	14.24%
Very unimportant	19	2.79%
Don't know	9	1.32%
Step 2:13.00-16:Importance of aspects (The cost of the course)		
This single response question was answered by 683 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	300	43.92%
Important	302	44.22%
Unimportant	73	10.69%
Very unimportant	7	1.02%
Don't know	1	.15%
Step 2:13.00-17:Importance of aspects (Help to gain basic skills in maths, English and science)		
This single response question was answered by 669 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	156	23.32%
Important	98	14.65%
Unimportant	240	35.87%

Very unimportant	145	21.67%
Don't know	30	4.48%

Other important aspects of courses

1. Some of the courses for disabled and care providers seem to be more social services than adult education. The cost of courses is important but just needs to provide value - it's ok to charge enough to cover the delivery costs. It doesn't need to be subsidised.
a comfortable place to learn new skills not necessarily academic which is safe and inclusive environment to learn regardless of sexuality and gender
A high percentage of those on mine and other courses are retired, unemployed and suffering from depression and other conditions. These courses play a large part in our mental and physical well being. What is saved on the courses could be spent many times over on medical and social services if they are withdrawn.
A professional service
A sense of pride to secure a qualification within the local borough where I live and being able to use that qualification to improve my employment status and to better my life.
A shared desire to learn a new skill.
Ability to walk to the venue at Whatley
Above answers pertain to me and my circumstances but for unemployed people or others wanting to gain further qualifications or improve those extant already, "Very Important" submissions would be more accurate answers in this section. For people from overseas for instance, quality and the sustained and adequate teaching of English language and pronunciation etc is vital if they are to fully participate in and contribute to UK life.
Access to equipment not available at home.
Accessibility
Accessible local adult education classes are important for people like myself with limited mobility. It is not feasible for some people to travel long distances on public transport to attend classes, both the time and effort involved in getting on and off public transport would be a deterrent to travelling from SW20 to classes in Putney or Wandsworth.
Activities to promote well being hugely important!
AE courses are an important part of living and learning in a community giving learners a sense of wellbeing, improving confidence, providing skills and ability. To take these away is heartless and shortsighted.
Affordable local courses- breadth of courses - getting to know people in the community I live in
All I have achieved by going to college will go to waste.
All of these aspects are important. Night schools have been around for decades and we in Britain have been well known for it. Can Merton justify paying for an incongruous sculpture at Wimbledon station and then take out evening classes???
Although I have not taken a course in the last 3 years I have done so previously and I am booked on two computer courses in Jan and Feb 2015. The fact that the courses are available when needed is very reassuring even though they may not be required on an ongoing basis every year.
Although not important to me personally I work with SEN and the training provided by Merton has helped both people and families I know improve quality of life and also has provided skills for carers and professionals employed to support SEN.
As I have to use public transport, ease of getting to and from the centre by bus etc is important
As the retired population increases there should be more courses of interest to those who are retired and at reasonable cost.
Assurance of safe practices in the pottery workshop which may not be so in unsupervised courses.
At the time I was extremely pleased to have passed GCSE German aged 60, catching up on my teenage years. Qualifications are not everything, but for younger people they are important. Some courses do not need to be driven by Ofsted requirements of the acquisition of a certificate.
Attending a venue dedicated to adult learning. An atmosphere that supports those with disabilities and additional responsibilities. Dedication to lifelong learning and continuing independence.
Availability of specialist courses - advances languages, technical courses etc.
Awareness of health and well being issues.
Being able to go somewhere local to get out of the house and do something creative
Being able to have flexibility with courses due to demands in work/being a carer and raising a family.
Being able to study a course to develop an interest or hobby, it does not have to have a certificate at the end. Being able to speak face to face with someone easily when it comes to administration. Having a highly experienced tutor to lead the course.
Being local and in person to help with issues 1 on 1
Being part of my local community.
Being part of the community of Merton irrespective of ability, education, or financial situation.
Being to access a course locally.
Breadth of courses. E.g. Carpentry
Classes can contribute to the sense of a community spirit. However if the classes are not attractive to a wide spectrum of the

community, then this will not be achieved.
Clean safe environment
Closeness to home. Daytime courses
Continue to learn in later years. To keep occupied and use your brain.
Continuity of leisure and arts at Merton Adult Education very important.
Convenience
Course specific to my needs are provided that are otherwise unavailable locally.
Courses and learning should inspire creativity.
Courses at a variety of times. Courses in appropriate accommodation.
Courses should be offered at times to allow parents and those with caring responsibilities to take part.
Creativity Lifelong learning Getting out in retirement Working alongside some students with special needs in my mainstream class. Specialist facilities Centre that provides a range of courses because I will learn a language next year and being in the Centre gives me immediate access to education.
Creche facilities
Dates and times of courses are very important.
Deaf awareness
Doing a course stimulates the mind, helps keep the body active and probably saves social services and the NHS considerable amounts of money
Don't think so
Ease of access to an excellent course with an excellent tutor
Ease of booking Friendliness of staff Place to eat
Ease of travel to and from Whatley Centre in relation to having to travel further afield to centres in other boroughs.
Ease of travel to place of study
Easy access to venue - which Wimbledon MAE most definitely provides.
Education - learning about the world, culture, history, literature.
Education is a right for all people. It's a basic need for the local population. It should not be compromised.
Excellent teaching and friendly environment
exercise courses to keep you fit and well including reducing back problems etc e.g Pilates
Extending my knowledge. Making me think.
Financial help and creche services for those who need the service the most-low paid/disabled/disadvantaged.
Fluency in a foreign language
Gets me out of the house! After retirement it is very easy to live in isolation.
Getting help purchasing the best courses.
Getting the results back in time to re-enrol.
Good courses which provide the opportunity to develop skills to high standards. Using specialist equipment with experienced tutors.
Good quality support and guidance throughout
Good specialist facilities for painting, my current interest
Happy and well supported teaching staff. If Whatley Avenue is closed, where will daytime classes that have special equipment be run? This venue is a vital community asset!
Having a break from life's other responsibilities and having a chance to think about and do something different
Having a course that helps me recover after a MS Relapse.
Having courses on a variety of days is important to make sure that there will be a day that I can attend.
Help and options of courses for people with mental health problems.
Help to maintain an active mind in retirement and maintain lifelong learning and self-development.
I am interested in vocational, practical courses that would increase the likelihood of me finding a job. Also financial help in achieving the qualification
I am not disabled but feel strongly that education should support the needs of disabled adults.
I am studying upholstery which is a trade rather than creative arts and this should be highlighted.
I attend a yoga class. There are many other yoga classes available privately but there are too expensive and I very much value the wide social mix in my class which I would not benefit from elsewhere.
I believe that Adult education is a great way of enabling people to socialise and interact with others.
I do ballroom dancing at Merton and when I get home after the class, I look at myself in the mirror and I am smiling and my face and eyes are bright and happy and my skin is rosy. Dancing makes my blood circulation work, I become more flexible, fit and laugh a lot especially when i make mistakes with my dancing steps - I enjoy being with other people who share my interest in dancing
I firmly believe that local courses benefit people of all ages and circumstance. I retired 18 months ago and the current YOGA course is a life skill I intend to carry on come what may and the teacher at Whatley is gifted!! I previously did a gardening course there that I speak of so highly and use the skills learnt there frequently in my garden and allotment. The special needs and language and maths courses at Whately have helped so many folk get jobs. Please leave it alone.....
I found all these aspects at Whatley Avenue. So when will be a time to go?

I gained interview skills for employment.
I had to give up a good management job to care for my husband when he became severely disabled. This time out to participate in an enjoyable, stimulating activity, close to home, enables me to bring some quality and variety to my altered life, to benefit my health and well being.
I have answered this section as if I personally was taking a course and as I am fit and able I have not shown interest in the questions that effect those disabled or with caring responsibilities. This may not be the correct interpretation for the questions above.
I have attended courses for different reasons - to gain an interest, to improve health and fitness and to gain work related qualifications. Reasons can change. The disempowered - those with learning difficulties, disabilities should be a top priority. Work is not always a realistic short term goal for them but there are many ways adult education can help to enrich lives.
I have indicated which criteria affect me personally - I recognise that certain criteria are important for other students.
I think adult learning promotes a sense of community.
I think affordability is key.
I wish there wre more courses held locally. These were all taster courses...excellent.... but the cost of courses is just too much for pensioners, and if it is in the evening, traveling at night is not to be relished
I would like there to be more courses offered in areas such as graphic design, web design & search engine optimisation.
If I attending a course for a qualification or skill I would only do it if it gave me access to an apprenticeship, trainee position or network leading to possible work.
Improvement in my health and well being.
Informal and adult education is less daunting than a more formal teaching academy
Integration of class members, particularly those from other countries
It gives a great feeliing of self worth to find you can actually achieve something, especially if older, disabled or unemployed. and the importance of this and regular social contact in helping to alleviate depression cannot be stressed to strongly.
It is a bit of an anti-climax when a course finishes and there is no follow on course.
It is important that the adult education we benefit from and enjoy, is not being delivered to us at the expense of future generations. Any procurement system that appears to be cheaper than the true cost can only be achieved by deferring the cost using complex fiancial instruments. The savings are illusory and the true overall cost is far far higher.
It is important the environment and culture of the college encourages and inspires learning which happens at MAE.
It is important to me that courses run in the daytime and especially in the afternoons.
It is more about developing a craft rather than a hobby or a job prospects for me
It is not important to have a flash venue it is the people that are important and MAE staff and tutors are brilliant
It is very important for my mental health to be able to develop my creative talents at a pottery course.
It stops be being a couch potato. It keeps my physically and mentally active
It would be good to widen the type of course offered to older people to include early art history as well as modern art developments.
Its all important
Knowing that our tutor is appreciated and well treated by college staff
Learning in a friendly environment
Learning languages in Merton
Learning new skills and having better qualifications will enable of better career path.
Learning new skills, meeting new people, social outlet, enjoyment
Learning with a respected institute who I can reference in interviews.
Lifelong learning to promote good mental health and well being into older life - learning new skills and keeping active mentally and physically
Local college, good teachers, reliable and friendly staff
Local facility that I can get to easily. Community feel of the centre.
local provision is very important that oaps can get to on foot and others
Local, available, good value
Local, trusted provider
Locality!!!!!!
Location
Location - would have liked to have done several adult ed courses in the last few years but the locations were not compatible with my life Also specific dates of courses will play a big part - my work and personal schedule is fairly erratic
Location and access (public transport or car)
Location and access. Timing of courses (to fit around work). Number of classes (some classes are very popular therefore are fully subscribed quickly so a number of classes are required to meet demand). Variety of unique offerings available.
Location and transport links
Location close to home.
Location of provider
Location should be on good transport links for people who do not have cars.
Location, courses on offer, timings for working people and those that do not.

Locations that have good public transport links.
Lower costs of the courses for people who are not on benefits but at the same time cannot afford to pay higher fees. It is important to have different courses for people with learning disabilities locally and that meets their needs.
Maintain developed / developing skills
Many adults who have been working or raising a family look forward to the opportunity of learning a new skill when they have time to do so. It may be something in the arts or sciences and is often something they have always wanted to learn. For others it is a crucial way to gaining employment. It would be a backward step for Merton to stop offering these opportunities.
Meeting a broad range of people from different backgrounds and ages.
Most of these are important to me, but not necessarily important for me.
My course which I attend with my married daughter offers a wonderful opportunity to be creative together. The joy of making something to be proud of can be thanks to LB Merton.
My overall wellbeing as a result of taking part in something alongside others with similar interests
My son wants to read and write, he can do basic but this year he was able to get into Whatley with English, now to be told this college may close.
n/a
No
Not sure
Now that the tutors in the pottery and glass classes have built up my confidence I feel that I would like to try to increase my physical activity with a Tai Chi and/or dance class. I would not attempt that anywhere other than the Whatley Road Centre. I know that if I cannot find the class one of the reception staff will take me where I want to go, the canteen staff will make sure they have food that caters for my diet and the tutors will encourage me and not make me feel old and useless.
Offering the ability to expand my mind and to live better.
Only that I would be looking to avail myself of a course or courses later this year.
Option for more advanced courses.
Parking facilities
Paying per lesson
Pleasant studying environment. I am happy with Whatley Av and MAE Wimbledon
Professional experience of tutors and possibility of progression towards the next level
Providing a blended learning experience and a good student experience
Proximity to my home.
Proximity to where I live as I do not have time to travel far.
Quality and quantity of the resources and not having too many students in the class.
Quality of care and support for those with disabilities etc
Quality of provision
Quality of teaching staff
Quality of the overall course
Quality of venues and they environment it is very important
Range of courses.
Read the history of the working class in this country, the only chance of improving their lives after possibly failing at school is to give them a second chance, one that most would grab with both hands is HIGHER EDUCATION, a chance to move up the social ladder, get a better job, improved salary opportunity, more tax for the government, IT IS NOT ROCKET SCIENCE, give it a try sometime.
Realistic timing for commuters - which is difficult, as too early/too late means it doesn't work for many people. Weekend courses would help. Merton is heavily a commuter borough, so it's a big factor.
Reasonable location.
Reputation of teaching and college. Price. Specialist courses.
Second chances for those who had difficulties with learning in their school days.
See above answers
Self development
Should keep adult education in order to give older people the incentive to go out and communicate.
Some courses are better than TEFL course for some ladies who would not go out of the home if it were not for sewing classes- For some other people is a good as respite care- Maybe is cost money but it makes masses of savings in the long term.
Specialist equipment in teaching room, good resources for creative class, good friendly atmosphere. Facilities that are appropriate for the purpose and well maintained. Knowledgeable teaching staff who encourage all students.
Specialist facilities e.g. Pottery kilns
Specifically I want to learn in an adult class
Support for those who are socially isolated
Support if find difficulty completing the course.
Support!
Supportive, inclusive, non threatening environment
That courses are inclusive and accessible to people of all ages, ethnicity, background & economic circumstances.

That it is close by, and I can get there quickly.
That the equipment students use is updated frequently and kept well maintained
That there are robust feedback systems in place for participants. The current ones could do with improvement!
The accessibility is important
The arts enable people with mental health issues such as depression and anxiety, in work or out to have a safe and supportive environment to explore their feelings and to express themselves non-verbally and creatively. It is the room of mindfulness and helping people through difficult times. The teaching staff are VITAL in this area, being sensitive to the needs of learning a new skill and being able to express profound feelings in a constructive and creative way, developing confidence, friendships and rekindling social interaction and reducing anxiety. Arts are essential for many life skills not just job skills.
The atmosphere of the learning centre is important. I found both South Thames and SCOLA cold and non-teaching staff uninvolved and unhelpful. I would not return to either college and did not finish my courses at either college.
The availability of my course is the most important of all the above. There is simply nowhere else in the near vicinity where I can study my particular course.
The centre should not be too big as this overwhelms people.
The chance to relax and enjoy a course enabling me to manage stress levels as I have a high pressured job.
The chance to see those disadvantaged by life learning as equals with the mainstream population.
The close proximity to my home. Because I am a full-time carer, I cannot travel far from home: I have to be able to return quickly if necessary.
The college is not only fundamental in furthering students future prospects but is essential in providing independence and mental well being for all.
The collegiate atmosphere of a campus where other courses that interest me are taking place and where I see and meet people from my own neighbourhood where I couldn't meet them elsewhere.
The comfort that the intimacy of a smaller establishment brings. A sense of community and caring nature rather than being just a number in a mix of such a large group of students like in most colleges.
The continuation of the existing courses.
The course having a teacher who can explain problems is very important rather than just offering an online course
The course I attended was extremely vocational, which has made it one of the most useful I've ever done. Although it is classified as 'creative arts' and may therefore seem as though it is less likely to help people find work there are at least two people I know who went on to set up small businesses using the skills learnt on the course. My main concern is that the other options available will essentially mean losing the range of courses available and the flexible times eg evenings. I do work but the opportunity to expand my knowledge is really important to me, so having evening classes is key.
The educational side is most important but I also enjoy the social side of adult learning
The environment. Whatley Avenue provides a unique environment.
The learning environment that is appropriate for adults of all abilities
The learning support staff.
The location of Whatley as I am a local resident
The opportunity to interact with different types of people.
The opportunity to meet people from all walks of life. Retired people who are keeping themselves active, carers there for respite, people who work and enjoy the relief from their daily lives. People with needs. Adult ed enables people to meet through a shared interest.
The opportunity to select from a wide range of arts and crafts courses that include ceramics
The pivotal aspect is stretch ie stretching ones brain and improving ones physical wellbeing. On the latter, I think MAE should offer more/different types of courses to improve fitness levels across the Borough.
The quality of care that Merton Adults provide is outstanding.
The quality of the facilities is very important.
The quality of the teaching meant that I learnt to a professional standard and then sold the work that I produced from one of the courses
The sense of community that Whatley provides
The sheer joy that all courses are under one roof and in walking distance from my home are a crucial deciding factor in the choice of my courses.
The so called Creative Arts are always the soft options for budget cuts or fee escalation because 'bean counters' see these as having little or no commercial use. However, skills learnt create self-employment, networking and empowerment. We are not all accountants...
The teaching of the French course I attend is very good indeed. My main concern with these possible cuts is it affecting the brilliant work Merton does for those with learning disabilities - these classes, as long as they are well attended, should be ring-fenced, I feel.
the time it take to get to the causes as i am a carer and my free time is important to me
The variety of courses
The variety of courses should be both academic and non academic.
There needs to be a good art studio, which there is at Whatley Ave.
Though not in the past 3 years, I took an Italian language course with MAE for four consecutive years which I found to be

excellent.
Through attendance at college and getting an updated qualification, I was more confident in applying for jobs.
Time and day of course.
Times - some courses are run during the day when normal mortals have to work
Times of courses (ie) in school hours
Timing (evening is better)
Timing on evenings and weekends
Timings around school time/terms and flexible payment plan
To be able as an elderly member of society to continue throughout the rest of my life to have a choice of being able to continue leisure activities near home
To feel part of the community
To me personally? A wider choice of creative courses but to people generally - a choice of courses that improve their job prospects and give them support in learning if they are disabled.
Transport links
Tutors who are accustomed to teaching adults.
up to date courses
v
Variety of the offering
Variety of courses & especially the quality, enthusiasm & dedication of the teacher
Variety of courses on offer which have sadly diminished in recent times. Value for money is also very important.
Venue must be nearby or local a) to reduce travel cost b) for convenience to encourage participation, keep time-commitment to manageable level and any costs relating to time like childcare.
We are a partner and will deliver what the community wants.
Whatley is like any other school - it's full of people with different interests and specialities, not just in the subject you have chosen. I'm studying pottery but I enjoy seeing what other people are doing too.
Whatley Avenue campus is well located and offers good facilities for creative arts.
Yes - it is important to keep the body supple as one gets older to minimise ailments. Social contact is also necessary.
Yes, the honesty and professionalism of the teaching staff and their ability to understand their students' strengths and needs in order to provide a comprehensive education. This ability was shown to me by the teaching staff in my courses taken there!

Elements of the venue that are important

Step 2:15.00-1:Venue importance (Being close to my home)		
This single response question was answered by 686 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	298	43.44%
Important	279	40.67%
Unimportant	104	15.16%
Very unimportant	3	.44%
Don't Know	2	.29%
Step 2:15.00-2:Venue importance (Being close to my work)		
This single response question was answered by 645 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	68	10.54%
Important	135	20.93%
Unimportant	317	49.15%
Very unimportant	108	16.74%
Don't Know	17	2.64%
Step 2:15.00-3:Venue importance (Access by public transport)		
This single response question was answered by 681 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	293	43.02%
Important	261	38.33%
Unimportant	109	16.01%

Very unimportant	15	2.2%
Don't Know	3	.44%
Step 2:15.00-4:Venue importance (Car parking spaces)		
This single response question was answered by 677 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	130	19.2%
Important	216	31.91%
Unimportant	242	35.75%
Very unimportant	80	11.82%
Don't Know	9	1.33%
Step 2:15.00-5:Venue importance (Good access for disabled people)		
This single response question was answered by 676 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	261	38.61%
Important	196	28.99%
Unimportant	147	21.75%
Very unimportant	38	5.62%
Don't Know	34	5.03%
Step 2:15.00-6:Venue importance (The condition of the facility)		
This single response question was answered by 680 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	160	23.53%
Important	367	53.97%
Unimportant	133	19.56%
Very unimportant	14	2.06%
Don't Know	6	.88%
Step 2:15.00-7:Venue importance (Access to Wi-Fi and IT on site)		
This single response question was answered by 682 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	150	21.99%
Important	207	30.35%
Unimportant	250	36.66%
Very unimportant	63	9.24%
Don't Know	12	1.76%
Step 2:15.00-8:Venue importance (Having a caf� or food outlet)		
This single response question was answered by 683 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	84	12.3%
Important	239	34.99%
Unimportant	273	39.97%
Very unimportant	76	11.13%
Don't Know	11	1.61%
Step 2:15.00-9:Venue importance (Access to books, materials or other resources)		
This single response question was answered by 682 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	150	21.99%
Important	301	44.13%

Unimportant	190	27.86%
Very unimportant	32	4.69%
Don't Know	9	1.32%
Step 2:15.00-10:Venue importance (Facilities specific to my course, for example kitchens)		
This single response question was answered by 677 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	319	47.12%
Important	233	34.42%
Unimportant	87	12.85%
Very unimportant	16	2.36%
Don't Know	22	3.25%
Step 2:15.00-11:Venue importance (A welcoming atmosphere)		
This single response question was answered by 680 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Very important	347	51.03%
Important	288	42.35%
Unimportant	32	4.71%
Very unimportant	11	1.62%
Don't Know	2	.29%

Other

+having to travel by bus will put people off
A big enough room for my course to be run in so a good range of people are in the group
A friendly and inclusive atmosphere.
A good range of classes.
A library and on-line teaching material
A non threatening inclusive atmosphere.
A relaxed and good working/learning environment. Not all new purpose-built venues offer the best facilities. It is nice to be surrounded with history and culture and a venue adapted for the needs of the service.
A sense of community. The facilities do not have to be exceptional - the teaching staff and carers more than supplement that.
A warm, welcoming and inclusive atmosphere.
A welcoming and non threatening atmosphere.
A well resourced studio. I refer to pottery, which is excellent at Whatley avenue.
Adequate light and space for art equipment, a comfortable temperature. Our current premises at Whatley were purpose built and equipped for art and pottery only a few years ago.
Again the sense of community
All courses done at MAE. Â£1000s spent on new pottery / at unit building.
Although I do not currently need facilities for the disabled, I enjoy a venue that mixes people of all abilities, both physical and mental and I believe that this is very important. I know that as I age if I needed more assistance, I would be able to get it from the tutors and staff at the Whatley Road centre.
An ADULT focussed enviroment
As above: classes should not be over full/cramped. There should be enough space for students to work without having to double up with others. So classes should have limit numbers to achieve this. Equipment/tools/resources must be adquate in amount and condition.
As I mature, so I find Whatley out on a limb, and with no parking
As long as it's fit for purpose I don't mind what it is like
as long as the building functions and is not freezing cold, then it is fine
As long as the building is sound it doesn't matter as its the people who are important.
Being a friendly and welcoming space, not too big
Being near transport hubs, not just general public transport - Wimbledon, Clapham Jcn etc - places you can get to on your way home, or it's hard to motivate yourself to go out
Being part of a local community
Cater more for deaf people by providing BSL, CSW or interpreter.

Central location in borough
Class times
Clean and safe, walking distance/in wimbledon
Clean, quiet
Cleanliness Fit for purpose Security
Community focus
Community focus / not corporate.
Creche facilities
Currently adult ed courses are easily accessible to me as I live locally, I would probably not choose to travel further than 2 miles from my home (morden/Wimbledon or Raynes park)
Decent toilets not too far from the classrooms! Lifts for disabled people and good teaching equipment such as smart boards and good projectors.
Dedicated studio with facilities to create and produce works of 'art', be they hard, soft, two or three dimensional.
Dedicated to adult education.
Easy to bike to and with bike lock up facilities.
Equipment that is always well maintained and in workking order. Whatley Avenue has equipment for woodworking, sewing and cooking: there is no other daytime venue in the area.
Excellent, covered bicycle parking.
Facilities of woodwork workshop are vital. Most people don't have these facilities at home and couldn't access them in any other way
Familiarity. I attended courses with my children (now adult) and always felt welcome and comfortable.
For my chosen course at the moment (stained and fused glass) I find it hard to believe that you will find another site that will have or take our glass kiln or allow our teacher access to said kiln during the day, even when a class is not running.
For people like my nephew - they can't manage without places where they can further their education. Whatley offers everything within a safe and secure environment. Keep it open please.
Friendly people
Good quality tools and materials appropriate to course are available.
Good range of opening hours and freedom to access resources
Good, clean amenities.
Ground floor classroom / facilities, such as a Whatley MAE, as I have limited mobility and find stairs difficult.
Having books, materials and other resources that I can borrow from libraries and welcoming atmosphere is not very important if it helps to save money because I would prefer to have range of courses on offer.
Having the facilities is key. Merton only recently spent a considerable sum on the excellent art and pottery block - this is a fantastic resource which is rare in London.
I cannot answer most of these questions as it depends on the course. I haven't needed WiFi or any 'nice to have', however I did need parking and the ability to get a hot or cold drink and sufficient space to work for upholstery and desks & chairs for language. I have attended Merton & Richmond for language and preferred Richmond and Merton & Kingston for upholstery (same tutor) and preferred Kingston for parking and ease of access.
I do pottery classes and having the facilities at Whatley are very important - they are excellent and other providers do not have the same facilities.
I enjoy a venue where classes are properly resourced and equipped
I strongly believe that no alternative venue can provide the safe nurturing environment that Whatley Avenue can. For example I live near South Thames college (Merton) and in my experience they are not geared up to accommodating the needs of the elderly and vulnerable adults. If this is the chosen option I would be reluctant to attend even though this is my local college.
I welcome te new lift and toilet for the disabled.
I would not mind the venue being further from my home (currently a 5 minute walk) if there was sufficient car parking.
If car parking facilities are not available passenger drop off needs to be available.
If parking onsite is unavailable, being able to park close by in residential roads free of charge.
In a safe area
In an area where I feel safe to walk about - both day and in the evenings.
It doesn't have to be modern, it just has to be serviceable. It seems Merton is obsessed with pushing 'modern' as better, and that is a poor excuse for knocking down decent buildings.
It doesn't have to state of the art.If running cooking courses means that expensive equipment needs to be bought where the costs are unrecoverable, then dont run the courses, or do it somewhere where there is a kitchen/computer room already in place and maximise usage.
It is a nice old building that has been well adapted and is perfectly suitable for its purpose without being an extravagant fancy modern facility that my grandchildren will still be paying for.
It is local to my home and a suitable venue for the courses on offer.
It is no use offering classes that have "tatty" facilities. Why should people pay to learn in places that are old, scruffy, with smelly buildings with horrible toilets, or facilities that is out of date. Young people expect decent quality, why not provide it.

You can get away with "scruffy" for immigrant learners perhaps in the short term, because perhaps they do not have such high expectations, but not for youngsters born in the UK. It is patronising to offer "rough" premises, just because people wish to improve their lives.
It should be in an environment that is conducive to learning without distractions.
It should be non- threatening and pleasant. I have found the presence of some of the mentally disabled people there rather threatening at times. Not the right venue for them.
Light and airy. warm in winter and cool in summer
Local and friendly
local, ease of access by public transport, well laid out, artistic facilities, linguistic training facilities
Locality
location
MAE has all of these things
Merton Adult Education is a venue that is not overrun with teenagers intimidating the older generation. Used by older students willing to learn.
Modern toilet facilities that flush well/speedily [needed when a lot of people are going to use them]
More parking if possible for disabled people.
n/a
Needs vary. As an art student my basic requirements would be adequate light and space a reasonable temperature and the provision of equipment that is too large or heavy for the bus!
No
No.
No. I felt as regards facilities for language learners Merton was excellent.
No. The current facilities are more than adequate.
Nostalgia
Not sure
Opening hours. If the centre/classes were only available in the day or if the course was only offered on one day I could not attend.
Pilates and yoga facilities are excellent.
Pleasant atmosphere with sufficient space and not too many people on the course
Professional teaching staff. Not having a tick box mentality or too many evaluation exercises. These are irritating and not always useful.
Quality and inspired teaching...
Quality of teachers
Quality of teaching and assessing staff
quality of teaching is more important than modern facilities
Quiet space to study
Safe both on campus and the surrounding environs
Safe, well maintained and comfortable room temperature.
Safety of venue
Security, personal safety.
See previous answers
Sense of community
Smaller venues, as at MAE, create a greater aspect of care and intimacy for hesitant or disabled learners.
Somewhere to get a coffee when doing evening classes (eg at Whatley Avenue).
Somewhere to study away from home.
Spacious classrooms and lounge hall.
Special equipment such as correct height tables and good quality kilns
Staff - The staff at Whatley Avenue know the needs of the students. Who they are travelling home with and what there courses are. They are extremely welcoming.
Sufficient space in classroom for all pupils
That it is clean and comfortable
That it is well maintained and kept at an acceptable temperature (as opposed to overheated until you open a window - when you freeze)
That it provides for the local community
That my chosen subject is well resourced.
That the facility is clean, and warm (which reminds me the MAE is always TOO hot - perhaps you could save money here?)
That the physical size of the teaching space is appropriate for the type of class being taught. It would be nice to have some kind of storage facilities for specialist classes e.g. woodwork and upholstery
That the venue is more accessible to the east of the borough. For those who have greatest need for education, most of the courses are provided in Raynes Park; they should have more in Mitcham. I would certainly be more inclined to take up further courses if that was the case.

The above covers it. Some of the above I regard as important but they don't affect me personally (e.g. access for disabled people).
The atmosphere there is so friendly and conducive to return weekly. The fact that it is not huge and impersonal is actually fantastic.
The cafe and hall where it is possible to socialise with fellow students.
The journey time is sensible
The large spacious, bright and airy rooms. Less noise from traffic because it's on a side road, residential area. Quiet surroundings make it an adequate location for learning.
The learning environment provides safety and a personal approach which is inspiring and gives me a sense of achievement in a supportive and friendly venue.
The locality is extremely important as it enables me to walk to venue, which is a bonus in keeping healthy and fit.
The pottery room was built in the last few years and it would be ridiculous to stop using such a great facility.
The quality of the courses
the staff at whatley in the canteen have been very helpful to myself and others making sure there is wheat and gluten free food for myself and others
The staff know me by name, rather than a number.
The unique Whatley Ave building has some historic and aesthetic appeal which adds greatly to the learning experience.
The venue needs to be well lit, warm and clean with enough places and hooks to put coats and bags down - this is missing from some of the rooms and is a big problem in the colder months. The toilet doors need to be easier to open - the doors are far too heavy to push open and they must have door hooks for coats and bags behind all cubicle doors.
The venue should be conducive to learning and teaching with adequate facilities for all students with different abilities.
The whole feel of Merton Adults is personal and friendly.
To be as clean as possible and continue supplying good services.
To have volunteers around to help in some aspects of my ability.
v
Venue expenses should be reasonable.
Venue for adults, not predominantly young people
Warm in cold weather
Warm, especially at this time of year.
Welcoming and safe
Welcoming atmosphere- generally it's the people who makes it and this doesn't cost money
Whatley Avenue and Marlborough Hall are good for me (public transport).
Whatley Avenue is a small, friendly environment. I can go confidently to my class and around the building. When I wish to take other courses offered by MAE, they will be in the same building, which will be convenient and help my confidence. I value the diverse community of learners. I appreciate the significant investment by the Council in improvements to the building in recent years.
Whatley Avenue is a wonderful venue - fantastic teaching kitchen, cafe, shared eating space, car parking.
When I went to Whatley for the first time the classroom was very difficult to find. The building is strangely organised and signs would have helped especially as all staff seemed too busy to assist me.
Wimbledon is a fantastic venue, but if cuts have to be made, I would say that the IT room could be cut to one person (I've never seen anyone on them) and the kitchen is incredibly well appointed. I know we pay for our tea, but I would rather have more affordable lessons for the sake of those on lower incomes, than better amenities. With coffee shops just around most corners these days, students can bring in their own; others can bring drinks from home.
Yes
Yes, at the end of my class I can go to visit a friend who lives bear by. She used to live next door to me in Streatham before she moved to Merton. I had not seen her for years until I enrolled for the dancing course at Merton AE.

Any other comments

A lot of investment has been made at Whatley Avenue and it would be a shame not to remember that.
A solution that will benefit the balance books in the short term (ie selling Whatley Avenue) will have serious repercussions across the borough and will make it a less attractive place to live. The Council should strive to maintain its own adult education facility and promote and measure the benefits of doing so more effectively that it has done to date. Have the qualitative and quantitative benefits of MAE been measured? Please remember that the people MAE supports (disabled and foreign) are going to be the hardest hit by the changes to the provision, sadly they are those least able to articulate why they need the college and its facilities. For them, it is further evidence that they don't matter or belong here; and it is damaging to us all.
A vital service for adults of all ages, whether for ongoing vocational or personal development reasons. I have noticed, though, that participants in my current and past courses have by and large been older, female, savvy and middle class. Nothing wrong with any of those characteristics but, if my experience is typical, could indicate the need to increase uptake by other sections of the community.

<p>Adult ed opportunities are vital for the mental and physical well-being of residents, and have major benefits especially for people who are isolated, or have special needs. The needs of the east of the borough must be addressed as a broad long term strategy not as an add-on</p>
<p>Adult ed. in Merton is already of a high standard and the fracturing proposed in the future will be entirely detrimental. Refusal at the public meetings to discuss the Whatley Ave site or recognise the value the building brings to the learning experience, makes the council's so call concern for adult ed, totally disengenous. The only real interest is in freeing up the site.</p>
<p>Adult Ed. is very important especially for people with special needs, ESOL, and retired people so I earnestly hope a way can be found to continue the excellent work MAE has done over many years.</p>
<p>Adult education classes need to remain local and accessible in the Borough of Merton. I not sure the people of Putney and Wandsworth would be prepared to travel to Whatley MAE, so why should I be expected to do the journey to the their "local" adult education classes. Merton Council has a responsibility to maintain and protect the services already in place and not sell them off for profit.</p>
<p>Adult education in Merton has been running for many years. It is very important for our community. We need to invest wisely within it, or face losing it. I thoroughly enjoyed the Makaton course which I took, and am considering further courses. Please Merton Council, do not jeopardise its future!</p>
<p>Adult Education is a very valuable resource in Merton and every effort must be made to ensure it continues. Although I have not attended a course in the last 3 years I am booked on 2 courses in January & February 2014 and greatly appreciate the fact that I have this option.</p>
<p>Adult Education is a vital resource and appreciated very much by many people in the borough. It would be good to see it go from strength to strength and more people taking part in a wider variety of courses offered across the borough at a wider variety of times and venues.</p>
<p>Adult education is a wealth of the community. Culture should not be killed by short sighted economic reasons.</p>
<p>adult education is an extremely important part of the community life of many people.It provides a stepping stone into improving one's life whether that be work, well being, creativity, fun. This is essential to providing quality of life for those who want to make the best of their lives. I don't think merton council have managed to embrace that spirit in adult education, it has lost its way under quality benchmarking, paperwork, and possibly poor direction..It needs to reevaluste what its there to do, and to listen to its teachers about what's wrong, as they are at the coal face too. I couldn't bear the bureaucracy and impersonality of the management when i was a teacher, it took the joy out of the job. There needs to be adeidcated team of adult education organisers who don't work in the day time as well- because adult education seems to get 2nd rate attention and not give it the rpriority it needs.</p>
<p>Adult education is an extremely important part of the community. Close it at your peril - there will be a huge knock on effect. Think about all the mental health issues, depression and low key problems. Think carefully.</p>
<p>Adult education is for people from all walks of life who share a common interest. The centre at Whatley is well attended, especially in arts and crafts. Pottery is well attended and I sincerely hope Merton Council will retain it. It concerns me that, after the decision is made in February, there is no time to implement courses before the next academic year. I sincerely hope the council will keep Whatley, at least for the next year, so the courses there are not lost.</p>
<p>Adult Education is important at many stages of life -preparation for work, enhancing employment skills, developing stimulating interests and being able to take the opportunity to develop new interests throughout life.</p>
<p>Adult education is not an add on luxury service - although many courses are creative these are so important to peoples quality of life. We will all reach pensionable age and to take up a new skill or longed for occupation should remain available; not everything in life should be utilitarian. The council should be striving to make this service better - looking at the university of the 3rd age, classes for adults with learning difficulties, support for parenting etc. It needs to be in venues where people feel safe to come and go and have nearby transport. Whatley ave could do with a bus shuttle to near by stations and tram stops.</p>
<p>Adult education is not just about getting a job. It is about adults learning more than they did before, and that is an end in itself. Merton should not reduce this.</p>
<p>Adult education is very important in an ageing population because it keeps the brain stimulated. If we wish to avoid burdening the National Health Service, we need to keep offering education for adults. From what I have heard, MAE is more or less self-funding, and is prepared to make any necessary savings to keep the courses going.</p>
<p>Adult education is very important to the local peple of Merton. I think if Merton wants to improve their economy they should invest in the education. If their adult population. This is very important for adults who have missed out on education at some point in their lives for one reason or the other and now want to turn their lives round by gaining a qualification or a career to be able to contribute to the economy of Merton.</p>
<p>Adult education must be continued, for the benefit of the individuals and their quality of life, the wider community and the NATION</p>
<p>Adult education needs to be nurtured and cherished it provides the key/solution to so may issues such as: - jobs/careers - well being through hobby/crafts - Physical - through exercise classes. It is the vital glue that allows society to function, recreate and renew itself and prosper. It is a stewardship for now and future generations and is a jewel that should be well-guarded and revered.</p>
<p>Adult Education provides an opportunity for learning, socialising and improving for all over the age of 16 to the very old. This is hugely important and should not be given up lightly for short term gain. The decisions should be very carefully thought</p>

through and evaluated, and the views of local residents taken into account.
Adult education services are used not only for education. For many they are a lifeline to get out and do something with other people (particularly for hobbies and crafts). I feel there is scope for creating facilitated group activities, possibly with partner voluntary sector organisations which could fulfil this need and would be less expensive to deliver.
Adult education should be a priority in Merton, and the way Merton Council has conducted this review about Merton Adult Education feels heavily biased and if you had conducted an open and honest consultation without your misleading "facts" about the service and the council's agenda which is little to do with cost to the council and virtually 100% to do with the Whatley site people would have had time to try find the best way to find a solution to ensuring Merton Adult Education was able to continue to meet the needs of adults in the borough and safeguard the importance of lifelong learning. This process has left me unbelievably disillusioned with the political process on a local and national level and with Merton Council itself.
Adult education should be encouraging and motivating, giving good sense of satisfaction to the students. I had three classmates that were working for Merton Council. They were happy and motivated and their jobs benefit our community. There was another student working for the NHS in a private firm, a working single mother, a very talented student improving his skills to get a new job in the private sector and I was a disabled student trying to find a different path in my working life due to my new limitations. I saw disabled people with mental issues trying to improve their lives and eventhough the institute physical place didn't look nice (Whatley Avenue), it provided enough support for their students to achieve something new and this should continue!
Adult education should enable people's job prospects, however students attend for many reasons. Retirees who wish to remain active, carers who need respite, working people who gain relaxation and those with disabilities whose lives are enhanced. The current venue at Whatley provides all this and more.
Adult education should not just be about getting a qualification. A variety of courses should be offered to suit a wide range of learning needs and interests.
Adult education, especially for the retired, is hugely important for stimulation and challenge - thus promoting well being and lasting independence and new friendship groups. These factors match your community aims for the ageing population of Merton
Again, this depends on economics - a good variety of courses catering for the needs of all people within the borough who are committed to learning and improving their quality of life - to match all abilities and improve career prospects, develop skills.
Although I've not studied at MAE in the past three years I have taken several courses there in the past including Greek, Yoga and Horticulture. I think it is particularly important to cater for people's wider interests as well as providing courses which improve job prospects
any service needs to be accessible to all and value for money and not close halfway through
As a retired social worker, and having lived in Merton for some 34 years, I have found adult education invaluable. In doing British Sign Language Course Stage 1 and 2, it helped me in my career in working with deaf service users. Also doing pottery, learning to play the guitar and learning French all help in developing my creative side. As a widow, these services keep me active.
As long as a range of courses are made available, and are accessible to the demand, then the service can change. Please do not value property over the life chances and development of people.
As people in general are living longer, adult education classes have an important part to play in keeping people healthy and lively and interested in life.
As you've highlighted it's not always a means to an end. Sometimes people choose courses based on better health and lifestyle or to improve themselves. To think only about employability is a narrow view in my opinion.
Change is normality - don't break the eggs, once destroyed never the same. They may/will produce wonderful results, not financial but social, the objects of a civilised society. For the the politicians beware the dangers of an adverse grey vote.
Communal community educational and social services such as MAE are vital to many, many people. They have been vital for many years and must not be degraded or taken for granted. In the scale of things, cut other expenditure before considering closing/relocating/degrading the service - the top quality service - provided by MAE. Once these facilities are gone, they are GONE FOREVER! Don't throw out the baby with the bathwater.
Consolidating premises to save money is likely to be more successful than outsourcing courses to a third party. Consolidating with other public organisations may also be worthwhile
Continue as now, funded by increased council tax and /or reserves and sale of derelict or unused sites.
Courses needed are: first aid; how to use computers (IT); ESOL; useful crafts e.g gift-making, knitting etc; basic DIY; diet and nutrition guidance; essential exercise advice; parenting skills.
Discussion on future of Whatley Ave site and in particular how to provide its specialist facilities or alternatives is missing in consultation documents
Do not cut back on these important services
Don't break what isn't broken. Don't be shortsighted in making this decision.
don't close it!!!!
Don't lose it
Don't put it out to commissioning you only get people that are driven by financial motives that way and then the standards and care drop.

Don't sacrifice the future for short term savings
Don't throw away a facility that is 'as good as it gets'! Merton has plenty of flats now and you only want to save face for the promises you made in order to get elected! No one expected you to keep the promises anyway, so what is your point!!?
Education and further education is an important part of all people's lives. Just because you leave compulsory education, does not mean you should not continue to learn and stimulate one's mind. This has to be available to suit the community's needs to keep a healthy and progressive environment, which in turn helps other local and essential services. Don't just cut it, utilise and develop the service.
Education is not just about jobs, it is about a holistic approach to people and helping them develop whatever skills and talents they have, not just about getting jobs. There are so many people suffering mental health issues who benefit from the arts, and mental health is not something you want to discuss on a job application.
Education is the key to future success in our borough. It helps keep down mental illness especially amongst the ethnic population and it would be very short sighted to cut it.
Education, education, education. Life-long learning, the liberal arts - Merton seems to have forgotten about these.
focus on business related courses
Focus on social services not courses for those who are taking them just for fun/a hobby/out of interest when course is not taken for getting a job or health
For the last 17 years I have always off and on been attending some Merton Adult education course. The quality is far better than the private sector provides. If courses were advertised properly they could be more profitable. Due to the way Merton promotes them (and the location of Whatley) I think classes are dominated by people who pay concessionary rates and therefore it is a costly service to provide.
For the wellbeing of our community in an open and fair society for adults of all abilities, I feel it is crucial to continue with this service.
For years both students and staff have been concerned about the poor leadership of MAE. The current leadership needs to be replaced by people with understanding and experience of education for adults and with good people skills. SCOLA - which receives NO council funding - provides an excellent example of how adult education should be run.
From my limited experience, attendance levels at Whatley Avenue are persuasive evidence of its popularity with a wide demographic.
Go to classes gets me out of the house and meeting other people. It gave me a break when my husband was ill (he died last year) and now I get out and don't get stuck at home and alone.
Hang on to it, a community needs this facility.
Have used MAE facilities on and off for the past 30 years. Would be sad to see it go. I am a senior citizen now wanting to learn new skills and meet like minded people more than ever.
Having adult education facilities in the heart of the community is important to developing the skills, confidence and qualifications levels of local residents and helping their families and wider society. These learners may have serious barriers to accessing education in a large FE college, which is not as welcoming. The staff at MAE know their business and client groups and have created a service rated 'good' by Ofsted. They have changed my life by giving me transferable skills which I have taken to the workplace and increased my earnings
Hope MAE Whatley Avenue will continue to provide wide variety of courses, including availability to people with learning difficulties, disabled and elderly people
I am appreciative that Merton Council is still investing in adult education - and hope that this investment continues.
I am concerned that quality, choice and accessibility particularly for the most disadvantaged in our community will be compromised.
I am concerned that the social benefits of adult education are being overlooked. Not everyone goes to classes to improve their job prospects, sometimes it is to escape and relax away from work. The potential merge of services means that specific facilities, such as kilns for pottery, would be lost. It is possible to merge Maths GCSE classes, this can be taught anywhere, but where could pottery be done?
I am devastated - have no idea how I will socialise and make friends if the facility disappears.
I am lucky to be in employment, but I know many for whom the courses run by Merton, specifically the ones run at MAE have resulted in them obtaining jobs that they love, some in fact at the MAE itself. Many of the courses are hugely worthwhile, many recently retired people find the hobbies that they take up there to enhance their life and health.
I am pleased that the Council has rejected the option of discontinuing adult education in Merton. Adult education is very important for many reasons
I am so shocked at hearing of its closure. Disappointed. Where will we be able to go? Wandsworth? Ewell? Where? Seems to me the council not willing to spend on anything for the public. Cuts, cuts. So where's the money going?
I am strongly under the impression that LEARNING IS FOR LIFE
I am very concerned that this is the beginning of the end for MAE. Once nameless providers or other boroughs get involved I sense that many courses will no longer be available, the cost of courses will skyrocket and also will start to move out of the borough. I fear, as with most of these types of consultations, this may already be a done deal.
I believe it is important to have a facility like the MAE in Merton as adults are never too old to learn new skills in order to improve their lives. A skill or qualification they may not have gained as a school leaver or due to personal reasons the adult education college provides. Adults are able to gain confidence in themselves to feel proud of their achievements and for

employers to see the dividends an adult education brings to their business, employment etc.
I believe strongly that facilities for Lifelong learning are crucial to the health and well being of the residents of Merton, regardless of age and ability.
I believe that education is important at all times of life, it helps in employment but also in mental and physical health for the disabled and elderly.
I believe that it is vital to keep a local service for local people local!
I believe that Merton has an excellent Adult Education service that should be preserved. It provides an excellent service and creates a great sense of community in a totally inclusive way.
I can see that cuts have to be made. Please ring-fence the great work you do for learning disabled people, and perhaps put up the fees for recreational courses. Can means testing be introduced, somehow? (Special rate for those on income support, etc)
I cannot stress how strongly I feel about the dismantling of MAE esp since we now have to pay for FE. The council could easily find the money by shelving certain regeneration projects (turning Wimbledon Library into an evening performance space for example?). Are these pet projects absolutely vital? I think the council needs to examine its priorities. A society is measured by the value it places on Education and the Arts and whether these are now to be the preserve of the rich and privileged few?
I care passionately about adult education. I am most concerned about the Whatley Road site. I am now 69 and have some experience of many sites delivering adult education since leaving school. This small but varied and well-equipped site is an excellent example of how to deliver adult education.
I did not vote Labour for them to close colleges and not do anything about St Helier's Hospital. If that's what I wanted, I would have voted Conservative.
I do not believe that the cost of delivering adult education is anything near a figure that would make a dent in the 32 million needed. It is currently run on a shoestring- it is clear that the only interest the council has is in the net worth of the land MAE sits on. That that is more important to the council than a provision that provides valuable provision to the community just shows how appalling the council's policy making decisions are. Perhaps if the council spent less on consultants, reviews and navel gazing there might be some money left from our council tax to help the Merton residents.
I don't believe adult education can be viewed in isolation without reviewing the strategy for Merton Council and I wish you well in your task.
I don't want it to be closed.. it's playing a very important role for my career. I will try my best to save it.
I fear Merton Council wants to sell Whatley Avenue college buildings for gain and will not replace the courses that operate at present.
I feel it is very short sighted of the council to consider commissioning the service out of borough as it makes it vulnerable to further costs at a later date. Closing the Whatley Avenue will also mean the closure of very specialised courses such as pottery where students are provided with excellent facilities irrespective of their abilities.
I feel strongly that whatever happens Whatley Avenue should continue to be used, considering money already spent on it.
I feel that adult education is very important and that it should receive more funding than it does at the moment. It seems that adult education is the last in the queue when it comes to receiving funding and that it is in danger of being lost altogether. I feel this would be disastrous for many people in the community.
I feel that if adult education is run down Merton would be building itself a great deal of trouble for the future. In the long term mental and physical health would suffer as would behaviour amongst under fulfilled younger people.
I feel that it will be very unlikely that the same range and quality of courses will be able to be provided by other providers in the borough for the same cost. One only has to consider the range of people affected: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who wish to return to part time education to improve their skills e.g. take English, Maths or other GCSEs which they may have failed or not had the opportunity to take earlier in life in order to obtain employment or a better job • Older people who attend courses, especially during the day, which enable them to learn new skills and socialise. For some, their physical health and mental wellbeing is greatly enhanced by having this interaction. The knock on effects and costs to the local health service, should their course be withdrawn, could soon outweigh any savings made. • People who access ESOL classes. Much is made in the press about the number of immigrants who come here and don't try to assimilate with the community. However Merton Adult Education runs excellent courses across the borough to help such people including parents who are then better able to support children's education in our schools. It is unlikely that affordable or subsidised courses would be provided without the council adding a significant amount of funding. • Young school leavers who are not work ready have attended courses to help them with their CVs, presentation, interview technique and general life skills, enabling them to apply for apprenticeships or other work. • Adults with learning disabilities find a safe, welcoming and nurturing environment at Whatley Avenue where they can learn new skills and their carers can be confident that they are safe. Given that, I believe, the council has to make provision for these young people until they are in their mid 20s, is it likely that an external provider will be able to provide as good a service at a lower cost? • There is a huge range of creative courses that I believe are very well attended. Many people, apart from
I feel that site based learning is important as it gives the learner additional benefits. Whilst I appreciate that in this day and age, with busy lives and an increase in unconventional working hours or flexible working it is important to improve access to learning by providing on-line access or on-line components to learning. I believe that some part of a course should be on site. Learning with others gives the learner some perspective on their progress, allows sharing of experience and knowledge. It increases confidence and so provides additional skills valuable in life and also transferable to the work environment. It also

provides companionship and networking opportunities
I feel that the consultation process has not been run fairly. I have attended the council's consultation meeting where I did not feel people's comments were listened to. I also attended the so-called scrutiny panel meeting which was a waste of everyone's time as the four Labour councillors did not scrutinise the decision and would have voted against asking the panel to look again at the decision, no matter what had been said. The process was not fair.
I feel welcomed at Merton Adult Education. All my tutors have been really supportive.
I felt that a great deal of misleading information has been made about the future of Merton Adult Education. This has especially been the case from Stephen Hammond MP and Cllr David Dean who has been spreading all kinds of misleading stories about what is happening. The real reason behind the changes is that thanks to their government, it had led to huge public expenditure cutbacks which they seem to be oblivious to the facts and seek to blame the council for making the necessary changes. Merton faces a hugely challenging financial situation over the next four years and adult education should not be provided at the expense of services to vulnerable people. Also the facilities at South Thames College are far superior to those at Whatley Avenue; sadly I think some see it as a service that should be protected at all costs. I also think that there is an element who see it as serving the 'affluent' west of the borough rather than the east where the challenges are that much greater.
I have accessed Adult Education in both Merton and Sutton (over 3 years ago). While Sutton provided a good level of education I found it impersonal and rather intimidating. Merton Adult Education was friendly, supportive and gave me the confidence to pursue a change in career.
I have attended courses at MAE regularly for the last 7 years. I have learnt many new skills and been inspired by my excellent teachers. The courses offered are wide ranging and encompass a variety of subjects and a student support service. The efficiently run college has a friendly atmosphere, the perfect environment for learning. Not only do they run courses with a qualification, there are services for the vulnerable and needy in our community. Can the council still provide these very important services for the borough without huge disruption and I guess many job losses??
I have been coming to courses in Merton because excellent courses are offered which are either not available or in the same sort of welcoming environment anywhere else in this part of London. It would be a great pity to lose this provision which I see as something of which the council should be proud.
I have been unable to return to MAE since my recent stroke. My granddaughter is helping me with this form. My needs may change in the future. What will happen if you close Whatley Avenue and other providers fail to deliver adequate services? Total withdrawal of adult education in the borough?
I have enjoyed taking many different courses over the last 15 years and hope to continue to do so with Merton. I will be extremely disappointed if this facility is axed by the council in favour of other services less important to me. Merton could do so much more to increase attendance levels by encouraging learners to sign up for another course at the end of one they are attending. Perhaps by offering an 'early bird' discount.
I have found this college to be fantastic in terms of my needs. The staff at the Centre are both very efficient and caring, I love it that I have access to a small local community college that caters for everyone's needs, I did have access to the Canons but that was closed down.
I have really benefited from the French conversation class and would hope to continue for a long time.
I have used Merton Adult Education over the years (less in last few due to having small children!!) but have enjoyed many courses and my father taught a class. It is a wonderful and varied service which Merton should be incredibly proud of and it would be an immense shame if we lost it!
I hope it can continue but more efficiently than before.
I hope Merton Council can find a way to continue providing this service in the borough. However I feel that schools now have the responsibility for ensuring that pupils leave full time education with adequate skills and qualifications to enter the job market rather than being a role undertaken by the adult education service. I see adult education as providing opportunities for developing new interests and skills over and above people's existing education and work qualifications.
I hope the process is transparent.
I just started my course a few months ago and love it! The teaching quality is amazing and the atmosphere within the course too. A lot of people kept coming for the last 30 years and it's an integral part of their lives and gives them much more than just a new hobby. It is life quality and enriches it!
I just wish I could have an education.
I like going to Merton College as I have friends there and it all works for me. (dictated by my daughter)
I passionately believe that it would not be possible to provide anything like the Whatley Road site anywhere else. I have attempted classes at South Thames College and in some schools in the past but did not complete the courses as I did not feel comfortable in such a large, faceless environment. I am a council tax payer in the borough of Merton and I would certainly be happy for my council tax to be increased if it were to enable the council to keep the Whatley Road site as an excellent adult education centre. I do not believe that the small saving made from closing Whatley Road would be in any way worthwhile.
I really hope it continues. My art class is tremendous, not just for the art tuition but also because the class contains a fine mix of people both able bodied and disabled, people from all over the World, different ages, different ethnic origins, but we all get on and are very supportive of each other. If the class stops then this will all be broken up. What a tragedy! For my part, I have friendship plus I gain tremendous peace whilst doing something very creative.
I suffer with ADHD and struggle with most things. If the college shuts there is nowhere else I can go as I don't like and

struggle with having to relocate. It upsets me and affects my mental health.
I think it is a valuable asset and the Borough would be the poorer for its absence
I think it is really important to offer adults the opportunity to learn otherwise people's well being will be affected by loss of confidence and loneliness
I think it is sad that Merton can't balance the budget, and yet manages to find Â£10 million on a brand new swimming pool near the Civic Centre. There wasn't even any debate about the pros and cons of this huge expenditure at the Cabinet Meeting!
I think it is such a great thing that we have the MAE - however, not enough people are aware of it. Course start dates could be more flexible. I am living just around the corner and I didn't realise it was there. As soon as I found out that it is there I enrolled for 3 classes and both got cancelled because there weren't enough people. I think MAE needs some strong marketing support and it could be a great place to learn & have fun.
I think it is such a shame that as you talk about council cuts that it is adult education that has to suffer. My main concern is for the people who attend the class I attend who are older and have learning difficulties - they will be devastated if MAE changes and Whatley closes. It is a cruel reflexion on this country if we can't endeavour to help these people and closing a facility that they rely on is a travesty. I feel very sad that this is even being considered and I feel that this is a sad reflexion on Merton Council.
I think it needs advertising more, e.g. primary schools, clubs, so people are aware of MAE and range of courses on offer. I probably wouldn't have known if I didn't attend library on regular basis. Please advertise more and MAE could be more cost effective with courses being full.
I think it only proper that some of our Labour councillors be asked to attend a few courses as they seem to merit some adult education.
I think it provides a valuable service for the practical improvements of people's skills for work but also for people's positive mental health in a positive and progressive social environment.
I think it would be a crying shame to change things. I would happily pay an extra Â£10 council tax to fund the shortfall. Accessibility is vital and I think the venue of MAE is ideal. If services would move I think it would make a great difference as to whether I did an evening course at all.
I think it would be a sham if the Council closed MAE
I think it would reflect badly on Merton if adult education was to cease. It would appear that continuing education and development is not important to the leaders of the Borough.
I think it's a very useful function that you can't find anywhere else
I think Merton offers some really useful courses with facilities that aren't available across a lot of London and it would be a real shame to lose them.
I think that selling off council property (like Whatley Avenue) is a short term gain with a long term loss and shouldn't be used as a quick fix. This is as bad as closing libraries !
I think that the current arrangements work just fine and help a great number of people.
I think you should think again before closing down Whatley Avenue, as you will upset a lot of people.
I thought MAE's provision was far too bureaucratic, though they said it had to be to maintain funding. Nevertheless, all the form-filling and box-ticking distracted from the course provision. I no longer use the services, though mostly because there are no longer courses I would be interested in attending.
I value being educated by the council over other institutes because it is a public body, truly invested in my education, not just how much money they can make from me.
I will be sad to see it go as it has been very useful for me being local. I hope you make the right choice for the local people as there seems that Merton park residents get a bad deal. Most money is spent in Wimbledon or Mitcham very little here.
I would be concerned with an aging population if courses were reduced or Adult education vanished from our lives
I would be extremely sad to see it go
I would be very disappointed if MAE would disappear as we just moved here knowing that MAE and some evening classes are right around the corner.
I would like it continued and provide more courses and less red tape to filling in forms. We pay a subsidised fee and don't want the hassle of completing unnecessary forms etc we are doing some of these courses for fun and leisure not to be too serious.
I would like the facility to stay as it is as I think it is of great value to the local community.
I would like to learn languages in Merton.
I would like to see more academic courses and less of the 'flower arranging' type. For example, a greater variety of intermediate + language classes, history and politics.
i'd like to see more varied courses that expand interests
If adult education were to remain in Whatley avenue, then someone would need to sort out the parking situation, which is bad enough when parents collect from the primary school.
If it changes other than to improve even more then that will be a terrible loss to the community
If Merton Adult Education were to close, it would be one more less learning facility for people over fifty who need a good and safe environment to be with other people and distract themselves from isolation and loneliness. There is an aging population who is fighting to stay healthy and involved with life and do not like to sit and at home and watch tv all the time.

If services are going to be shared in the future, then perhaps the council could look at providing a wider range of classes/courses in particular languages. Also would like a broader range in the evening. Also there should be encouragement to get young people i.e. under 30 years to take classes.
If the council let Whatley become other than what it is today it will have lost a gem in the community that it will never recover. I know that public transport is limited but people who have a real desire to help themselves will cope with transport issues.
If the management actually had any idea how to market the courses MAE would not have to get together, make a decision, then ask people to complete a survey.
If the process is managed well, we can all benefit from a fresh approach and no one need suffer. But this will require clarity and bravery as well as non-partisan professionalism from all those involved in the process.
If this facility is closed by Merton it will be a very sad loss as it is something that makes a huge difference to peoples lives.
If Whatley does close and if my son can get into another college (SCOLA and Merton) what guarantee have we got that he can do his English for a man of 37 years being told sorry you cannot do English or any other lesson, his confidence would plummet.
if you close whatley you will change the surrounding area for the worse we can not take more flats more car parking .there is the school to consider you can not hem in the children it would be unsafe for there well being
I'm really pleased the council has explicitly ruled out ending adult education provision. This is a reassuringly clear commitment.
In addition to my own personal needs Whatley Ave has a 45% learning support / difficulty base who rely on the college to provide essential life skills for people to live an independent life. Shutting the college would be utterly devastating to these people.
In addition to my remarks about the quality of Merton's services I would like to emphasize the learning from aunty aspect. Bringing aunty or more likely grannies and grandpas nearer to children could be of immense benefit. These generations are increasingly separated in culture and often geographically. Perhaps not too close some would say, I want my space, but getting on with a child is heaven.
In recent years there has been upgrading at Whatley Avenue. i.e. a new purpose-built art block and a new entrance with disabled access. it would be a pity if these resources were wasted.
In the past I have been a student at MAE learning the skill of teaching. I now work as a teacher for them and I am teaching body movement skills to people with disabilities. Their needs are not being considered in this action to close this site. Furthermore, ongoing study and learning is important to the individual and society as a whole. Adult education should be treated as a necessary service and for the well-being for all, as an ideal.
Incredibly important to keep to a higher standard as possible.
It a vital service in the Community, one which needs investment and better marketing. It caters to such a diversity of students and works in tandem with other important council services such as employment, care, the elderly, education, sport and many more.
It brings tears to eyes knowing the Whatley Avenue venue might be closed down. I think it will be a great loss to Merton Borough
It feels very much that the administration has made its mind up already. With issues like this, a change in mindset might be needed. Why not consult first, with a genuinely open mind, and then make the decisions on how to move forward? Instead, the administration makes a decision then seeks whatever validation it can find. Indeed, a different approach could be taken to the question of the whole budget, rather than just asking people on how to make specific pre-determined cuts to a specific service.
It has completely changed my life. I am happily self employed in my new career.
It is a very important service that provides training & support needs in the community to all of its learners
it is a vital resource and merton will be a poorer place without it
It is a vital resource for the people of Merton specifically so keep it and consider funding arrangements in another way
It is a vital service for adults with learning disabilities. Important for the elderly
It is an essential public resource
It is an important service to people living here.
It is crucial for adult education to continue in Merton. Classes in other boroughs are already over-subscribed and if Merton ceases provision it would be more difficult for people to enrol. Vocational courses are essential for those seeking employment and other courses fulfil learning needs of others. The concept of Life Long Learning for everyone is vitally important!
It is essential that it provides a mix to support those wishing to extend their education, gain a new interest/hobby and to support those for whom this is a transition from schooling. It is also essential to provide courses for the "elderly" or unemployed to avoid loneliness and the depression that his brings.
It is essential that the Council to not whitewash over this. They have a bad reputation for making their decision, taking advice/representations and then totally ignoring them and doing what they wish to do. I hope this will not be the case with Adult Education but somehow I doubt it.
It is helping me to change my career at a difficult time. I am very grateful.
It is important for many people who do not have academic skills, that they have an outlet in practical and artistic ones. this

enables them to feel individuals. Computing studies are also important. Physical education - e.g. tai chi - keeps people fit. the social aspects help to keep people happy. Happy people do not suffer from clinical depression.
It is important that the Council continue to take on this responsibility. It would be criminal to sell Whatley Avenue site to potential developers or faith schools as is the current threat. The site is a wonderful place for people from all walks of life and much appreciated. Please do not take the 'easy way out'.
It is important to continue the service so that adults can improve their qualifications, skills and hobbies.
It is important to continue to provide AE in Merton.
It is really crucial to keep the interest in people when they retire. They must not stay at home becoming a vegetable and getting bored.
It is vital for the employment, social and psychological well-being of the community.
It is vital that Merton continues to provide adult education in the future whether it is for those who are keeping their mind occupied or for those that need to learn new skills to enhance their work/life.
It must be maintained, and at all costs, accessible to all.
It must stay and the Council should cease being pathetic and ensure that the much valued adult education is continued. Once destroyed it will not be replaced
It should be continued
It should be kept by the council and not farmed out to organisations whose prime motivation is profit. Merton Council should stop paying lip service to what already exists and should have a great and more intimate knowledge of what is already provided under difficult circumstances (budget cuts, etc.) and properly understand the needs of learning disabled adults. You cannot make decisions if you don't know the implications for them. You have a moral as well as a legal responsibility to take care of the less advantaged. The Council seems to be motivated by selling and developing the land - redistributing the service elsewhere is just a smokescreen. This has been borne out by the fact that The Council had not properly costed the other options and could not demonstrate figures when challenged: this is appalling.
It should be kept in Wimbledon itself where it is and certainly not moved outside Wimbledon.
It should be maintained "in house" otherwise the whole ethos will "fall apart" and the provision be reduced in its effectiveness.
It should continue to provide education for adults!!!!
It should exist and be of good quality.
It should not be decided upon in a rushed manner, but needs careful consideration. If Merton does not provide suitable & appropriate adult education within the borough it will be failing in its obligations to its citizens. If people find other providers, they will not return to Merton.
It should not be undervalued in regard to the social benefit it provides to people who might otherwise not interact with others.
It should stay as it is. It has done and is continuing to do a great job.
It was a facility that I much enjoyed 10 years ago and think it is v important for our community that it should be available today.
It will be a shame if the collage ceased and I will have to look for other places
It will be a very great shame to reduce Adult Education in Merton just because of a short-term shortfall in funding.
It would be a disaster if Merton Adults was to close.
It would be a great loss to shut down MAE it ha offered great opportunities to adults who were vulnerable and those who are disabled
It would be a real shame if Merton Council were to close Whatley Ave (presumably so it could sell the site) and loose this valuable facility that a high number of local people rely on and enjoy.
It would be an absolute tragedy if Merton decided to no longer offer adult ed. courses either for self improvement or for people like me to enjoy doing Pilates classes to get a healthy body, both of these are always being promoted by the government and NHS. CARRY ON THE GOOD WORK. Do not be tempted to "cut and run".
Items like cheese and wine tasting should have a lower priority when focusing on funding - greater emphasis should be made on English and Maths, health and job-related training and improvement.
It's an excellent facility and I hope staff, officers and Councillors will fight hard to retain it.
It's an excellent facility which I've used many times in the past and which I will continue having an interest in. The teachers are a highly influential element of the centre therefore it's extremely important to support & ensure good quality staff are employed to drive the centre & continue attracting interest.
It's my wish to maintain the learning courses at Whatley because am yearning for more courses in future.
It's so important to keep Merton Adult Education going! Education is such a important think, we should not allow to Merton became borough without such facilities.
Keep it in-Borough with a partnership agreement
Keep it as and where it is!
Keep it as it is.
Keep it as it is. Reduce spending on other services
Keep it at Whatley Avenue please
Keep it in Merton - keep a facility in this area.

Keep MAE within Merton Borough control. Outsourcing may cost more long-term and the course quality control would be difficult.
Keep MAE. Don't choose a worse option.
Keep up the quality of good teachers. Do a thorough survey to see where costs be cut in existing set-up. You are offering a quality of life that is vital to preserve. We don't want to lose it.
Keep your pledge and maintain Adult Education as is, in our Borough. It is an investment in the people of this Borough; their health, well-being, economic power, future potential, health and well-being. The value adult education provides to many is huge. The wide variety of students who attend are testament to that; ranging from those with disabilities, carers, those looking to return to work, who are lonely, those in need of new skills or training in order to start, or get back into work etc. These benefits are hard to quantify in terms of financial cost but the cost of not having them in terms of unemployment, community care, loneliness and healthcare probably far outweighs the cost of keeping it going. To break up, move, alter or lose this provision would be such a big mistake.
Learning is our future because we are looking for jobs and it is really helping me and my friends who are learning MAE. After I learn English, I built my confidence and I don't need any one to translate when I go to my GP. I like to continue other courses from MAE.
leave it alone, it is providing an excellent service and you do not have to fix something that is not broke!
Life long learning is v important for everyone. Course fees should enable all residents to access courses, concessions should not rely on receiving Benefits.
Local adult learning forms such an important part of our borough. It enhances the pride in one's own borough and the feeling of community. Having attended various course over the last three decades, the gradual emergence of more and more administration staff and administration requirements have really astounded me. I am convinced that a number of excellent teaching staff feel this burden and are actually leaving. Reducing costs in the admin area should be looked at seriously. Art courses spring to my mind: Most adults who attend do this as a hobby, not to gain a certificate. They do it to meet other people and to widen their horizon without the need for a proof. It is unnecessary and almost makes a mockery for a teacher having to write individual learning reports. Adult learning is not just learning a specific subject but also, importantly, keeping adults open to new ventures and pastimes.
Losing Whatley Avenue would mean losing a trusted and valuable local community base
MAE has a unique delivery of adult education. Going for the commissioning model would only lead to the fragmenting of the provision and loss of control over quality. Even quality assurance processes would not prevent a disjointed approach and the fact that people answering bids are only do so for their own profit making/ income generation.
MAE in Wimbledon is a great place to learn. Teaching is in really high standard, and i'm very happy about it. Also the fact that English course is for free is extremely important for me. I wan't be able to pay for it.
MAE is a full and lively college, people of all ages and abilities are under one roof aiming to learn something they either need or want to learn.
MAE is a good adult learning centre
MAE management needs immediate replacement at senior level. They need an effective and challenging governing body. Talk to SCOLA's principal to see how it's done. Retire Simon Williams.
MAE should continue to provide a range of leisure courses. I am 71 years old and retired, so I am not interested in vocational courses.
Make no change!
Make sure it continues to be just that, Adult Education and in Merton.
Make sure that there is an enthusiastic supporter of local education in an influential position on the council.
Many people take adult courses for social interaction and to have somewhere to go. Loneliness and isolation are huge problems for people and a burden on other services. Maintaining a good selection of adult courses goes far beyond qualifications.
Merton Adult Education is a valuable asset to the Merton community.
Merton Adult education must remain. Just a few years ago a new complex was built for the art section. Why should this go to waste? I have been attending classes for many years and gradually noticed more and more administration creeping in which does not have the slightest benefit to the courses. Savings should be carried out in that area in the first instance. This area is where the hidden costs lie.
Merton adult Education should remain exactly as it is.
Merton needs an Adult Education provider which is hub where people from all communities can come together to learn.
Merton should have adult education centres no matter who the provider is
Merton should NOT let itself down by closing further education lessons, especially for ESN young adults and others with learning difficulties. Inexcusable!!
Modernizing the facilities and quality of teaching staff.
More focus on skills, especially IT.
More job related qualification courses
My middle-aged neighbour suffers from autism and regularly uses your facilities to improve his quality of life i.e. learning to use a computer and socialising. He would be absolutely devastated if access to courses in Whatley Avenue was removed.
n/a

Need to know on a year by year basis what the actual demand is for courses and if there is preference for a particular course
Needs to be cost effective and of a high standard.
No
no courses should be totally free for students as it lessens the incentive to attend and complete the course. likewise none should be prohibitively expensive to exclude.
No point, is there?
Not only is adult education important to develop hobbies interests and skills it also forms a basis to link community in Merton.
On a personal basis I have benefitted considerably by attending MAE courses over several years, ranging from sports, cookery, languages, photography and art. I am impressed by the high standard of teaching and good facilities. From a wider perspective, I strongly feel that it would be particularly disruptive for the students with learning difficulties, disabled students and ESOL students if Whatley Avenue closes. There is concern about other providers having sufficient resources, for example, South Thames College has waiting lists for ESOL students.
Once MAE is gone it can never be replaced. The council seem to have forgotten that Adult Education was set up in more austere times than now. Please be mindful of what you are destroying.
only that the future of adult education in Merton should receive priority.
Our current adult education service in Merton is a fantastic resource that should be saved and built upon.
Our libraries have been closed - put down to build flats - more money to councils. I pay my rates, which is over Â£100 per month. As said this is my only way of socialising and pleasure. Good for my well being.
Over the years I have taken several courses at MAE, some of them have been for relaxation and pleasure and some have improved my career and led directly to employment. All of my experiences have been extremely positive, this has been made possible by the expertise of the tutors and friendliness and knowledge of the non teaching staff. The centre at Whatley provides a supportive and inclusive atmosphere that I have not encountered at other colleges.
Pensioners have paid their taxes and should not be seen as irrelevant apart from voting...
perhaps not revelent, but PLEASE could the classes start on time. If most of the class have arrived on time, why should we give the late commers "just another ten minutes" ? It puts up the price per hour of tuition considerably, and also you lose a couple of hours or so over a term
Please do not close it down. It is a very important part of my life. I have been coming here to do a course for the last 10 years. I am wheelchair-bound and find getting out of my house to learn new techniques very important to my well-being.
Please do not underestimate the value of the classes that are not obviously work related. I have been doing adult education classes for years and started my own business using the skills I learnt there - I still use the techniques today but these were not 'hard' skills or courses with certificates attached. My learning has helped me pay the bills and I have helped others along the way. The value of adult education to the community is hard to measure - not all it's successes are apparent or measurable, but we must protect them before they are starved out of existence.
PLEASE DO YOUR UTMOST TO PRESERVE ADULT EDUCATION AS IT HAS GENERALLY, IN ALL BOROUGHES, BEEN WHITTLED DOWN OVER THE YEARS. IT CAN ASSIST EPOPLE IN WORK AND IS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN MAINTAINING THE EMOTIONAL AND ALSO PHYSICAL HEALTH OF ELDERLY PEOPLE. IN THE LONG TERM IT SAVES MONEY.
please don't destroy adult education centres now as then they will be lost forever. we need to have adult centres throughout our community to keep us united and physically and mentally healthy
Please don't get rid of this facility. It's an amazing place to learn. They don't blow their own trumpets often enough.
Please don't lost this service! You have very committed tutors who go above and beyond for their students. We have a huge amount of experience with a very large range of disabilities who are part of the community.
Please don't underestimate the personal impact the removal or change of the current system will have on students. There are many quality of life measures that are used in healthcare cost analyses that could be applied to this consultation to help with overall cost calculations. This will help make the assessment more objective than subjective. These include values that NICE utilise in appraising medicines and health technologies. I'd be happy to provide further comment on this if you wish as it's related to my profession (caroline.kelly18@gmail.com).
Please ensure that there is a future for Adult Education in Merton.
Please ensure that this continues. Personally as I am in full time employment and able to absorb extra costs in order to maintain quality and diversity of courses available, but would hope that concessionary places could be preserved at similar cost.
Please keep.
Please leave it as is and look elsewhere to make your budget cuts.....
Please make sure this service is continued for the whole of the community. I feel that all ages can benefit from different activities which can connect all members of our borough and encourage understanding.
Please regard it highly
Please remember those who need this most - the people with learning difficulties and disabilities, mental health problems and those who would otherwise be isolated in their homes.
Please retain Whatley Avenue centre - essential to foster local community spirit.
Provide mind-stretching courses aimed at the retired eg. philosophy
Publicising the courses is important.

Quality of teaching is most important but there needs to be some support when new students arrive i.e. someone to direct them to correct room.
Retain and look after your current outstanding language teachers! You won't know the quality of what you've got 'til they're gone. (To paraphrase Joni Mitchell...)
Save MAE - once gone it will be gone forever and local people will lose out.
Should continue
Some courses take too long to come back or the class numbers is too small,so the spaces are limited.
Someone needs to overhaul the current set-up - fast - and recruit a whole new management team to take it over.
South Thames college are not really interested in the sort of classes that MAE offers - these classes would die
Thank you for discounting option 6.
That it should encourage people in the more deprived part of the Borough to participate, instead of just being a subsidised social club for lampshade makers in the village
The availability of support during week to help with the course.
The benefits of adult education include better health, less isolation, improved quality of life and a sense of community.
The Council has a duty to provide adult education- without providing this invaluable service, financial costs on other services such as social care are very likely to increase. The current service is used by a wide range of people including vulnerable and disabled adults as well as carers and the elderly.
The council provides a much needed service, outsourcing has shown to be inefficient, quality decreases almost immediately and the persons who lose out are the ones who need it most.
The current provision is good, but could be better.
The decision to close Merton Adult college is being pushed through in an election year so as the decision can be blamed on the deficit the rest of the country is in. To obscure the fact that the site is to be sold off as so much of the council housing already sold off.
The excellent provision for adult education that we currently have in the borough is something that has been built up through the years. We should value this resource and strive to keep it. Adult education provides a lifeline for many people such as the elderly, people with mental health issues and many others.
The future must not die.
The initial consultation report issued by the council was filled with a number of significant inaccuracies on areas such as ;how MAE is funded, disparities with the deprived areas in the borough and the cost of the service. If the drive to support the commissioning process is based on the desire to sell off the Whatley Avenue site the council should be honest enough to admit it rather than create a veil of lies denigrating MAE in order to justify their decisions.
The lack of a return address on this consultancy form raises questions about its legitimacy. The timing of this consultation is inappropriate given that MAE sites are closed for the festive period and many students will be away.
The merton adult education wimbledon should not be closed
The mix of ages, gender and ability in the same venue is part of the quality of the learning experience.
The overwhelming view of the residents who attended the 2 December meeting was that without Whatley Avenue, MAE would be a far less attractive provider of courses to students and prospective students in the London Borough of Merton and neighbouring areas. It is therefore essential to preserve it as a resource and the officers of Merton should proceed with whichever of the five options that is most likely to achieve this outcome.
The present provision is excellent, and if it makes a small loss, then it should be fined tuned and the charges and some of the operating costs adjusted. It is much more high risk to switch to an untried new arrangement than to refine and adjust the existing one.
The review is an important opportunity to set the best long term path for adult education in Merton. While value for money is important, the key criterion must be securing the right provision for the people of Merton. The chosen path must also be one that has the flexibility to meet future needs. This means ensuring there is enough flexibility in any legal arrangements to adapt the service provision to changing requirements.
The service is a community asset. Whatley Avenue is a community asset. Options 2 to 5 represent a reduction in services by the Council to the community. The Durham Adult Education Service documents on commissioning suggest that the cost of quality assurance and quality control of commissioned services would be prohibitive. I would like to feel proud of my Council's stance on adult education rather than worried that it is going to reduce the service to the community and neglect its (admittedly non-statutory) responsibility for provision
The service is good as its delivered in a small venue , its approachable for those lacking confidence and returning to study
The site is right in front of Joseph Hood Primary School. A school with no street frontage is very vulnerable if the site right at their entrance is sold for commercial or residential use. This should be seriously considered in any planning and the school consulted at every stage.
The teachers that I have come across at MAE on four different courses over the last 10 years have been very dedicated and go above and beyond what would normally be expected. I suspect that they could earn more teaching elsewhere, but choose to provide their services to the Council for Adult Education. They may not choose to work for an outsourced provider and hence the quality of teaching in a Council environment may fall. Any outsourced provider will want to make a profit on the teaching contract as they are in business to do so. MAE is not - it is there to be a non-profit making provider of services (admittedly not to run at a loss) - the two models are in direct conflict.

There has been much talk of bridging the gap between the east and the west of the borough. Whilst this is laudable in principal, it's unfair to use this as an argument now when adult ed facilities in the east of the borough have already been closed by the council.
There has obviously been large sums of money spent on the building and equipment which would have been wasted if the facility were to close. Please try to keep the courses running and cut down on administration staff
There is a lack of interest in this consultation regarding the content of the classes the ability of lecturers. The course "London through the eyes of ten artists" is interesting, with excellent teaching. Will it continue.
There needs to be a provision that is regulated correctly and provides the facilities that are currently available.
They are doing very well. I'm happy about my tutors. I'm happy to study here. I'm totally enjoyed and learn a lot from here.
They are selling off merton property, soon they will be nothing to sell off
This centre has bettered my health, job prospects and has helped me get back into the workforce.
This is a basic necessity available to all but especially for those with a learning disability.
This is a service/facility that once gone will never be replaced and current users will find their lives diminished as a result. It is a service that most users find is a life line at some point in their lives.
This is a vital service that needs continue being offered
This is a well run, stimulating AE college which provides both recreational and vocational courses to a wide ranging number of people. It enriches lives and certainly means a lot to the learners of all ages who attend classes. They come from a wide range of ethnic backgrounds and all ages integrate well with one another.
This is an important service for now & the future. Once lost it would be very difficult to re-establish
This offers a lifeline to people with disabilities, special needs and financially disadvantaged and for those who have missed out on a basic education
To help ease the funding shortfalls, suggest that the better off be invited to pay higher fees for the courses. To avoid applying unavoidably unpopular means testing, a voluntary contribution above the minimum specified fee should be requested.
Too many course seem pitched at a very low level and aimed at non-native speakers of English.
v
Very valuable to the community, not just economically but socially and cultural. Accessibility important - timing of courses, transport options.
Vital that adult education continues. The present format is not a bad model but could be improved by having staff and student input into governance
Vital that the council has its own strong presence in SW London. This is a no-brainer, and how the council can be thinking of outsourcing, downsizing and selling Whatley Ave is a matter of grave concern to any thinking, dare I say, sentient, rate payer in the Borough. IF THEY WERE TOLD. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS HAS BEEN LESS THAN OPEN, HASTY, and thoroughly undemocratic.
Whateley avenue school is a purpose built learning centre with every facility..close to public transport and well thought of and known by locals as far away as Surbiton, Tolworth,Kingston....if i have any comment it should be advertised better and please don,t pull it down and turn it into accommodation.
whatley shutting doesnt stop college courses happening in Merton so will not have a massive impact. However if this stays open it may mean somewhere else has to shut.
Whatley's students and tutors live local and therefore it would be extremely difficult for students to travel a long distance to attend evening classes. ESOL evening classes are mainly for immigrants who work during the day and need to improve their English in order to progress and contribute in the economy.
When making the final discission Cabinet need to consider Customer Service Strategy: Putting our customers at the heart of our business. Is this what your customers want? Providing services that meet our customersâ€™ needs. Will the customers needs be met through the commissioning model? Making services and information accessible to everyone. Understanding our customersâ€™ needs and wants. Communicating clearly and openly. Dealing with complaints proactively. Keeping our customers informed. Treating everyone with dignity, respect and courtesy. Will customers opinions be taken into account or are they following party lines?
Where are the A level courses part-time or evening for adults or intending uni entrants who want to improve their grades. No where for adults to do these in Merton, Sutton, Croydon, Richmond, anywhere. MAE is useless; beauty, childcare, cookery, creative arts etc not serious. And note that IT is just using programmes, and it aint computing - waste of time. There isn't any serious academic qualification based A level study available for adults in Merton, it's a joke. MAE? If only it were.
Whilst it is clearly important to have vocational training available to help people into work there are thousands of people for whom work is less important either because they are caring for others or retired, and probably other reasons. A rich variety of courses is required to enrich the lives of all the residents in a borough.
Why is a proposed new leisure centre more important than Adult Education in Merton Borough Council's Scrutiny and Overview Committee?
With an ageing population Adult Education courses are a vital resource for those who are retired and want to stay active in the community.
Working class people can only survive by gaining education. Please don't close our college!

Would be helpful if teachers did not openly discuss and talk about any student to another student, which is of a personal nature, which does happen within MAE, Whatley Avenue.
Would like to have more GCSE English class and Science class in the future.
Yes KEEP IT. Don't go to commissioning as that will make it something that is only bound by monetary considerations and not the real interests and needs of the people
Yes, it is important to young and old and should be kept local for local people and as broadranging as possible. It is essential to some for jobs, others for company, for skills for personal development. All sorts of things.
You will make money out of Merton AE if you provide courses that private providers make money out of ..such as cooking courses (other than catering)...like Thai, Chinese, Indian, Italian. Or compact refresher courses for parents to help their kids either at 11+ or at GCSE. I could never get a place in the history of Art class...so if its that popular why don't you increase the fees or double the times its run. If you are not making money as you currently are then you need to rethink your client base.

Demographics

Step 3:19.00-1:Gender		
This single response question was answered by 630 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Male	161	25.56%
Female	469	74.44%
Step 3:20.00-1:Age group		
This single response question was answered by 648 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Under 16	1	.15%
16-24	20	3.09%
25-34	73	11.27%
35-44	116	17.9%
45-54	156	24.07%
55-64	135	20.83%
65-74	124	19.14%
75 or over	23	3.55%
Step 3:21.00-1:Ethnicity		
This single response question was answered by 640 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
White – English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	418	65.31%
White – Irish	31	4.84%
White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	2	.31%
White - Any other White background	62	9.69%
Black or Black British - Caribbean	20	3.13%
Black or Black British - African	9	1.41%
Black or Black British - Any other Black background	9	1.41%
Asian or Asian British - Indian	15	2.34%
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	6	.94%
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	2	.31%
Asian or Asian British - Chinese	18	2.81%
Asian or Asian British - Any other Asian background	11	1.72%
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups - White and Black Caribbean	5	.78%

Mixed/multiple ethnic groups - White and Black African	2	.31%
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups - White and Asian	7	1.09%
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups - Any other Mixed background	7	1.09%
Other ethnic group - Arab	1	.16%
Other ethnic group - Any other ethnic group	15	2.34%
Step 3:22.00-1:Disability		
This single response question was answered by 645 respondents.		
Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Yes	96	14.88%
No	549	85.12%

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