

Merton Council

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH ETHNIC MINORITY ORGANISATIONS AGENDA

Membership

Councillors Edith Macaulay (Chair), Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Logie Lohendran and Henry Nelless

Ethnic Minority Organisations

African Educational Cultural & Health Organisation (AECHO)

Deputy

Ahmadiyya Muslim Association

Asian Diabetic Support & Awareness Group

Asian Elderly Group of Merton

Asian Youth Association

Bangladeshi Association of Merton

Deputy

Bengali Association of Merton

Deputy

Bengali Women's Association of Merton

British Muslim Association of Merton

Ethnic Minority Centre

Euro Bangla Federation

Deputy

London South West Chinese Community Association

Merton African Organisation

Merton Somali Community

Merton Unity Network

Mitcham Filipino British Association

Deputy

Morden Citizen's Advice Bureau

Pakistan Cultural Association of Merton & Wandsworth

Pakistan Welfare Association

Deputy

Positive Network

South London Somali Community Association

South London Tamil Welfare Group

Victim Support Merton and Sutton

Wimbledon Mosque

Revd Mrs H Neale

Mr S Ahmad

Mrs N. Shah

Mr M S Sheikh

Mr T Hassan

Mr. N. Islam

Mr J Choudhury

Mr M Rahman

Mrs M Ahmed

Mr I Rizvi

Mr A Savage

Mr Q Anwar

Ms L Saltoon

Mr C J Lusack

Mr A. Ali

Ms P Anderson

Ms A Colquhoun

Ms C Bataillon

Ms J Gillies

Mr M A Shah

Mr S U Sheikh

Mr H Ejaz

Ms G Salmon

Mr A Musse

Dr P Arumugaraasah

Ms D Moseley

Mr I Khan

A meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations will be held on **4 December 2013** commencing at **7.15 pm** at **Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, in the Council Chamber.**

This is a public meeting and attendance by the public is encouraged and welcomed. For more information about the agenda and the decision making process contact the Policy, Strategy and Partnerships Team by email at diversity@merton.gov.uk or telephone 020 8545 3156 / 4637.

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JCC with Ethnic Minority Organisations Agenda

4 December 2013

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Declarations of interest (see note1) Councillors and co-opted members must declare if they have a personal or prejudicial interest in any of the items on this agenda at the start of the meeting, or as soon as the interest becomes apparent to them.	
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Future meeting dates: To be confirmed

Note1: Declarations of interest

Councillors and co-opted members who have a personal or prejudicial interest in relation to any item on this agenda are asked to complete a declaration form and hand it to the Democratic Services Officer. Forms, together with a summary of guidance on making declarations of interest, will be available around the meeting table. If further clarification is needed members are advised to refer to "The Code of Conduct – Guide for members May 2007" issued by Standards for England, which will be available at the meeting if needed.

**JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH ETHNIC MINORITY ORGANISATIONS
2 OCTOBER 2013**

TIME: 7.15 to 9.15

PRESENT: Councillor Laxmi Attawar, Councillor Lohendren,
Mr Sheikh , Mr J Hall, Mr Islam, Mr Rahman, Mr Ejaz, Mr Hadi, Mr Rizvi, Mr Lusack, Dr Arumugaraasah, Mr A Savage

ALSO PRESENT: Evereth Willis, Equality and Community Cohesion Officer,
Councillor Agatha Akyigyina, Mr J Hall, Mr M Coates, David Keppler, Wayne Hainsworth

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Edith Macauley (Chair), Cllr Stan Anderson, Ms A Colquhoun, Rev Mrs Hannah Neale

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 12 June 2013

The minutes were agreed.

4 MATTERS ARISING

Connecting Communities – JCC members were asked to contact Evereth if they would like Bawan Allan from the Alzheimer Society to attend a meeting with their community group.

Correction to be made to page 4 of the minutes, it should be CI Mark Lawrence and not “DI”.

**JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH ETHNIC MINORITY ORGANISATIONS
2 OCTOBER 2013**

5 WELFARE REFORM – update of changes and impact on Merton

David Keppler gave an update of the impact of the Welfare Reform changes that were introduced in April 2013.

Since the introduction of the benefit cap on 15 July approximately 170 families have been affected resulting in the council saving £14,000 per week which will equate to £720 000 annually.

Two Housing Officers have been employed to support families and develop a Housing Support plan. The council has been working in partnership with Job Centre Plus to support residents to find employment.

Claimants living in social housing have had their housing benefit reduced if they have empty bedrooms (pensioners exempt). Merton has introduced its own local scheme to replace council tax benefit from 1 April 2013 with 10% funding reduction.

The Council has absorbed funding reduction and implemented a default scheme for 2013/14 and 14/15 in order to maintain low council tax charges for those on lower incomes and other vulnerable residents.

Merton implemented a Local Welfare Support Scheme on 1 April 2013. The scheme gives support in the form of cash grants (issued via the Post Office), re-conditioned furniture, kitchen appliances and food bank vouchers.

David informed the meeting that claimants are given help with budget management by case workers. Also pensioners are not yet affected by the welfare reform however, the introduction of Universal Credit will affect them.

In response to the question “ What is a Discretionary Payment?” David clarified that it is a payment used to assist claimants who may be experiencing financial difficulties as a result of the changes. Approximately £500 is available and may be used to buy household goods such as a new fridge.

A question was asked about training and David replied informing the meeting that the

**JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH ETHNIC MINORITY ORGANISATIONS
2 OCTOBER 2013**

Welfare Benefits officers were supporting people. Also the Citizens' Advice Bureau is giving training to support the Voluntary sector. David undertook to give Evereth details of available training.

David clarified that under occupation is calculated using the occupancy details submitted on the housing benefit application form.

RESOLVED: David Keppler to provide Evereth Willis with details of available training.

6. Stock investment programme – Merton Priory Homes (MPH)

Wayne Hainsworth the Managing Director of Merton Priory Homes presented details of the Stock Investment Programme.

He outlined that when Merton's housing stock transferred over to MPH in March 2010 the homes were in poor condition, with 64% not reaching the decent homes standard.

MPH made the following commitments:

1. Improve the housing stock to achieve decent homes by the end of 2015
2. £62m invested in homes by March 2013
3. Improvements to sheltered housing blocks
4. New repairs service and contract February 2013

There have been improvements in the day to day repairs and maintenance service and there is also a significant investment programme. The repairs service was re-tendered to implement an improved customer focused service for residents. The residents were involved throughout the process through customer consultation.

There is now a single contract with United House that gives MPH better control over the repairs service and improved communication and the contractor is located at the Priory. The re-tender has also resulted in cost reduction. United House also has to

**JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH ETHNIC MINORITY ORGANISATIONS
2 OCTOBER 2013**

invest in the borough and has taken on an apprentice and buys supplies from businesses in the borough. The Merton Training and Employment Centre has also been established.

Regarding planned works 70% of homes have now reached the decent homes standard with a commitment to achieve 100% at the end of 2014/15. However, MPH is going beyond investment and looking at the sustainable changes to the wider community. An appraisal of the estate properties has been done and as a result social and economic issues are evident.

In July 2013 the consultation process started to make longer term changes in the High Path, Eastfields and Ravensbury areas. The initial consultation closed on 30 September. A decision will be made later in the year whether to continue the decent homes programme or do something else.

When the housing stock was transferred the terms of their tenancy gave tenants the preserved Right to Buy to enable them to purchase their home if they choose. The discount has been extended from £75,000 to £100,000.

In response to a question about property acquisition, Wayne clarified that MPH has a commitment to grow. A development programme is in place, initially the focus was on improving stock but MPH is now looking at development opportunities e.g. garage spaces.

The Development Strategy from 2015 onwards is being developed. The development grant for building new homes has decreased from £100,000 to £30,000. Across the Circle Group Merton is seen as a priority.

In response to a question about ensuring a good standard of work, Wayne explained that there is a defects liability period and the residents have to sign to say they are satisfied with the quality of the work.

Wayne went on to explain that leaseholders have to contribute to development work by paying a proportion of the costs that is why Section 20 Notices are served on them.

A question was asked about whether there is sufficient spare land available to buy to meet the increasing demographics. Wayne replied that Future Merton is looking at opportunities to build. There is commitment to business and enterprise but it is a challenge especially as the borough is so green.

**JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH ETHNIC MINORITY
ORGANISATIONS
2 OCTOBER 2013**

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was suggested that Open Evening be held to increase the JCC membership.

Committee: Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations

Date: 4th December 2013

Agenda item: Equalities Monitoring of Housing Services

Wards: All

Subject: Equalities Monitoring of Housing Services

Lead officer: Simon Williams, Director of Community & Housing

Lead Partner:

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

Forward Plan reference number:

Contact officer: Angela Chu, Housing Strategy Manager

Recommendations:

That the Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations:

- A. Note the findings of this report.
- B. Note the Housing Division will disaggregate data further for future monitoring to enable the analysis of outcomes for the 'White Other' group.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report presents results of an ethnic monitoring exercise that aims to identify any over-representation or under-representation in housing outcomes, and possible reasons behind these differences. Data examined include Census 2011, Housing Register, Lettings, Homelessness, and Rent Deposit Scheme.
- 1.2 Slightly different ethnicity categories are used in the different datasets. The categories are aggregated into 5 main groups, White, Black, Asian, Mixed & Other, to allow comparisons of datasets. As the number of residents from the 'White Other' group had increased significantly between 2001 and 2011, and many are new arrivals in the UK with specific housing needs, it is necessary to further breakdown the 'White' category into 'White' and 'White Other'. This will be undertaken for future analysis.
- 1.3 It should be noted that many different factors can influence housing outcomes, hence differences in outcomes cannot simply be regarded as showing inequality. For example, the council operates a Choice-Based Lettings system, therefore individual choice, along with households' differing level of need, and priorities set out in the council's Allocation Strategy, all have an impact on lettings outcomes.
- 1.4 This analysis shows that Merton residents from the 'Black' community continue to have higher level of housing need than other ethnic groups

and are over-represented on the Housing Register and amongst homeless applicants. Conversely, 'White' residents are less likely than other ethnic groups to be on the Housing Register, although the proportion of homelessness applications from 'White' households had increased between 2011-12 and 2012-13.

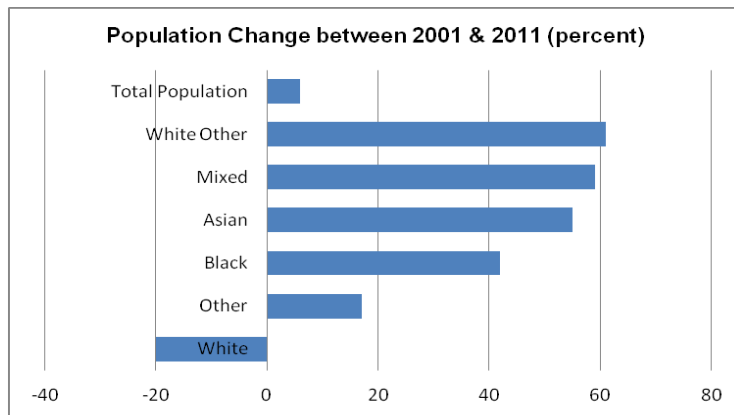
- 1.5 With regards to lettings outcomes, the proportions of lettings that went to 'White' and 'Black' households were higher than their representations on the Housing Register. One possible reason for this is the higher priority given to homeless and transfers applicants in the council's Allocations Strategy. The analysis also shows a lower than expected proportion of 'Asian' and 'Other' households moved into social housing. The shortage of family-sized housing is likely to be the main reason for this, and our Rent Deposit scheme data shows a much higher than expected proportion of 'Asian' and 'Other' households moved into the private rented sector, where it is possible for them to access suitable sized housing sooner.

2 DETAILS

2.1 BME Communities in Merton

	Population 2001	% Population 2001	Population 2011	% Population 2011	Difference
White	120,378	64%	96,658	48%	-23,720
White Other	20,505	11%	32,948	16%	12,443
Black	14,626	8%	20,811	10%	6,185
Asian	23,292	12%	36,143	18%	12,851
Mixed	5,869	3%	9,334	5%	3,465
Other	3,238	2%	3,799	2%	561
Total	187,908	100%	199,693	100%	11,785

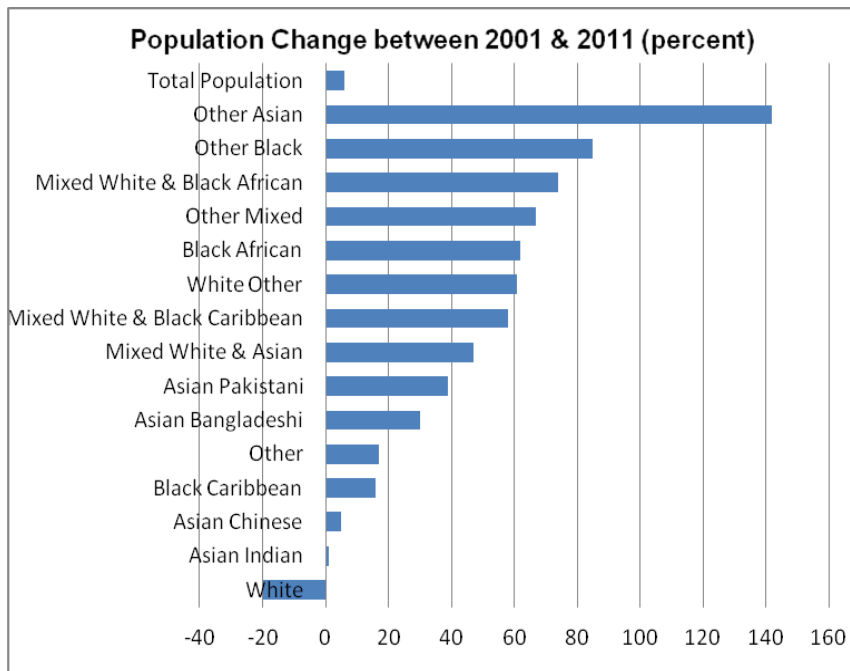
- 2.1.1 In 2001, BME communities made up a total of 25% of Merton's population. This did not include the 'White Other' group (Irish, Gypsies & Travellers, Europeans etc.), although many members of these communities are likely to consider themselves ethnic minorities. This has increased to 35% in 2011 but if the 'White Other' is included in the calculation, then more than half (52%) of Merton's population in 2011 were from ethnic minority communities, compared to 36% in 2001.
- 2.1.2 The chart below shows that percentage increase in population between 2001 and 2011 broken down by the main ethnic groups. It shows that the 'White Other' group had the biggest increase, at 61%, followed by a 59% increase in the 'Mixed' group and 55% increase in the 'Asian' group. Conversely, the 'White' group had decreased by 20%.



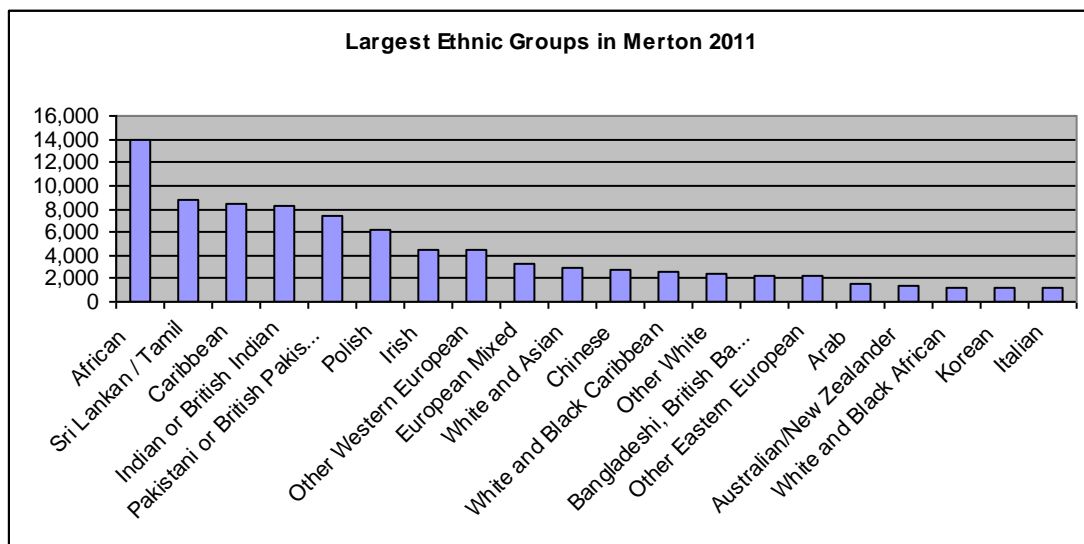
2.1.3 The table below shows population changes broken own further into more detailed ethnic categories. This reveals huge differences in the rate of change within the main ethnic groups. For instance, while the number of 'Asian Indian' had increased by only 63, the 'Other Asian' group had increased by 9,300 and the 'Pakistani' group by 2,833. The increase in the number of 'Black African' was also notably higher than that of 'Black Caribbean'.

	Population 2001	Population 2011	Difference
White	120,378	96,658	-23,720
White Other	20,505	32,948	12,443
Black African	6,438	10,442	4,004
Black Caribbean	6,976	8,126	1,150
Other Black	1,212	2,243	1,031
Asian Indian	8,043	8,106	63
Asian Pakistani	4,504	7,337	2,833
Asian Bangladeshi	1,702	2,216	514
Asian Chinese	2,485	2,618	133
Other Asian	6,558	15,866	9,308
Mixed White & Black African	734	1,279	545
Mixed White & Black Caribbean	1,630	2,579	949
Mixed White & Asian	1,918	2,829	911
Other Mixed	1,587	2,647	1,060
Other	3,238	3,799	561
Total	187,908	199,693	11,785

2.1.4 The chart below shows the percentage increase in population between 2001 and 2011 of these ethnic groups.



2.1.5 The chart below shows the largest 20 BME groups in Merton in 2011, with the 'Black African' community being the largest BME group in Merton, followed by the 'Sri Lankan/Tamil' group and the Black Caribbean' group. The 'Pakistani' community made up the 4th largest ethnic group, with the 'Polish' community being the 5th largest.

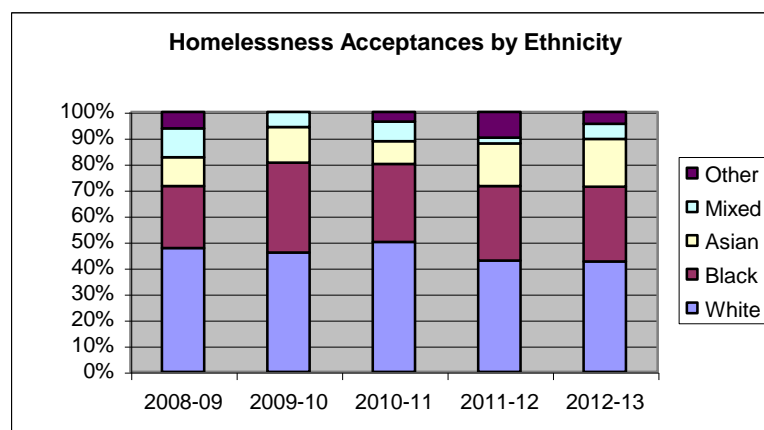
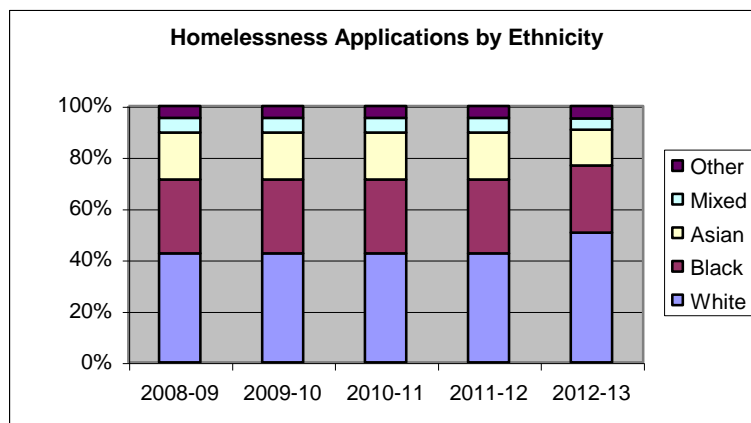


2.2 Homelessness

2.2.1 The table below shows that the ethnicity profiles of homelessness applications compared to Census population data. This shows that 'Black' households are far more likely to make a homelessness application than any other ethnic groups. In 2011-12, all other groups were under-represented in homeless applications. In 2012-13, the proportion of homeless applications from 'White' households had notably increased from 47% to 51%,

	Census 2011	Homelessness Applications 2011-12	Homelessness Applications 2012-13
White	48.4%	47%	51%
Black	10.4%	27%	26.2%
Asian	16.8%	14.7%	14%
Mixed	4.7%	4.4%	4.4%
Other	19.7%	6.8%	4.8%
Total	199,693	279	255

2.2.2 The 2 charts below compare the ethnicity profiles of homelessness applications and acceptances.



- Ethnic minority households are over-represented amongst homeless applicants. The increase in the proportion of applications from 'White' households in 2012-13 is likely to involve mainly 'White Other'

households, but further work to disaggregate data will be necessary to verify this

- Homeless applicants from all BME groups are more likely to be accepted as homeless. The proportion BME households amongst homelessness acceptances had decreased in 2010-11, but has since been on the increase again.

2.3 Lettings

2011-12

	Census 2011	All Applicants 2011-12	Lettings Outcomes 2011-12	Needs vs Population	Outcomes vs Needs	Difference
White	48.4%	34.5%	45.2%	<	>	+10.7
Black	10.4%	29.4%	29.3%	>	=	-0.1
Asian	16.8%	16.2%	11.8%	=	<	-4.4
Mixed	4.7%	4.9%	6.4%	=	>	+1.5
Other	19.7%	15%	7.3%	<	<	-7.7
Total	199,693	7,607	463			

2012-13

	Census 2011	All Applicants 2012-13	Reasonable Preference	Lettings Outcomes 2012-13	Needs vs Population	Outcomes vs Needs	Difference
White	48.4%	33.5%	34.9%	45.1%	<	>	+11.6
Black	10.4%	29.3%	28.5%	30.6%	>	>	+1.3
Asian	16.8%	16.2%	16.9%	11.2%	=	<	-5
Mixed	4.7%	4.7%	4.5%	6.4%	=	>	+1.9
Other	19.7%	16.3%	15.2%	6.7%	<	<	-8.5
Total	199,693	8,196	2,534	592			

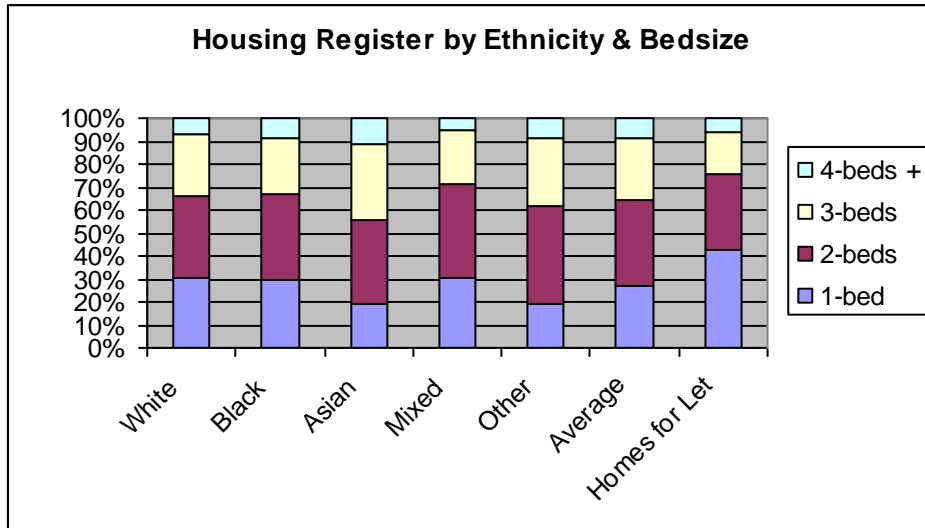
2.1.1 Key findings of the analysis are shown below:

- 'Black' residents are significantly more likely to be in housing need while 'White' residents are much less likely to be in housing need in both 2011-12 and 2012-13. 'Other' residents are also less likely to be in housing need
- Comparing the ethnicity profiles of all Housing Register applicants in 2012-13 with those who have 'reasonable preference' does not show any significant difference
- Proportions of lettings made to 'Asian' and 'Other' applicants are much lower than their representations in the Housing Register
- Lettings outcomes for 'Black' applicants improved between 2011-12 and 2012-13.

2.1.2 Possible reasons for the differences in outcomes

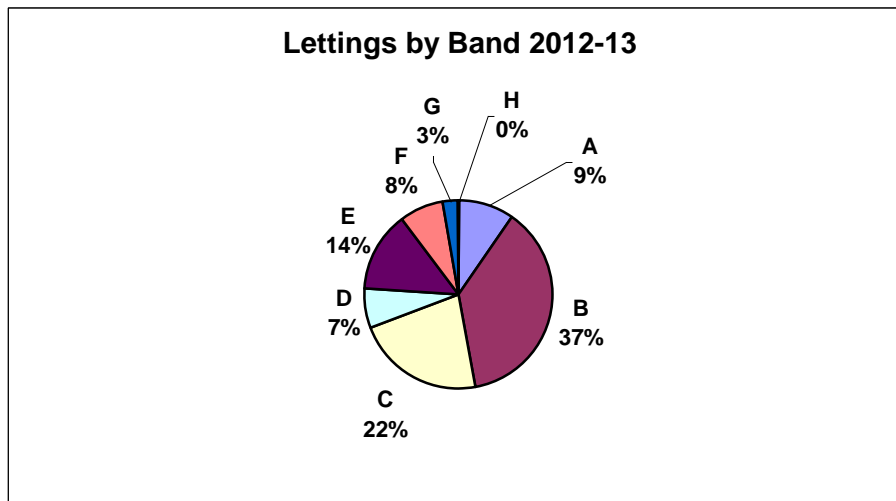
- 36% of Housing Register applicants require homes with 3 bedrooms or more, but only 24% of homes available for let in 2012-13 were larger homes. This is likely to be a contributing factor to the 'difference' in lettings outcomes amongst different ethnic groups, as 'Asian' applicants are more likely to require larger homes and the proportion of 'Other' households needing larger homes is also above average (see Chart 1 below)

Chart 1



- As our Allocations Strategy prioritises homeless applicants on Bands B & E, as well as transfers applicants on Band C, it is likely that our Allocations Strategy has influenced lettings outcomes for different ethnic groups
- Chart 2 below shows the proportion of lettings that went to each Band in 2012-13, with Band B applicants (homelessness prevention) receiving the highest proportion of lettings, followed by Band C (transfers) & Band E applicants (accepted homeless).

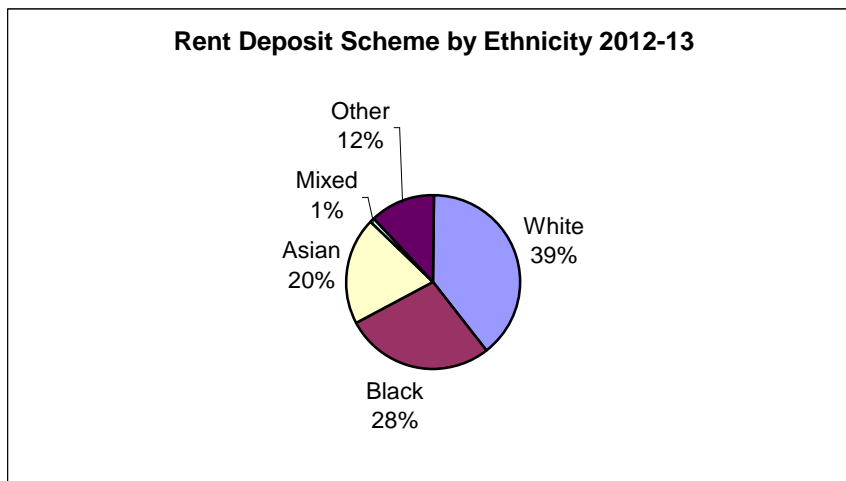
Chart 2



- Lettings to applicants on Band B & E made up more than half of all lettings at 51%. As 'Black' households are more likely to be accepted as homeless (see section 2.2 above), this may explain why 'Black' households receive a higher proportion of lettings than their representations on the Housing Register.
- Band C applicants are more likely to be from the 'White' group. As lettings to Band C made up 22% of lettings in 2012-13, this partly explains why the 'White' group received a higher than expected proportion of lettings.
- Other possible reasons for the differences in outcomes for different ethnic groups could include bidding patterns. Previous reports found that 'Black' applicants more likely to bid (what about 'Mixed' group). This may explain why they got more than the 'expected' proportion of lettings (i.e. proportion that is equal to representation on the Housing Register).

2.3. Rent Deposit Scheme

2.3.1 The chart below shows the ethnic breakdown of households assisted through the Rent Deposit Scheme in 2012-13, with ethnic minority households making up 61% of all households.



2.3.2 The table below shows that in 2012-13, with the exception of 'Mixed' households, ethnic minority groups are more likely to have accessed the private rented sector through the Rent Deposit Scheme when compared to their share amongst homeless applicants. 'White' & 'Mixed' households are less likely to benefit from the scheme.

	Census 2011	Homelessness Applications	Rent Deposit Scheme
White	48.4%	47%	39.3%
Black	10.4%	27%	28.2%
Asian	16.8%	14.7%	19.7%
Mixed	4.7%	4.4%	0.9%
Other	19.7%	6.8%	12%
Total	199,693	279	123

2.3.3 This suggests that 'Asian' and 'Other' households on the Housing Register are more likely to have to rely on the private rented sector to meet their housing need, where it is possible for them to access suitable sized housing sooner, as just over three-quarters (76%) of social housing available for let in 2012-13 were 1-bed or 2-bed homes.

2.3.4 Trend data for the scheme since 2007-08 shows that the proportion of households from ethnic minority groups assisted through the scheme has steadily increased over the last 6 years. In 2012-13, 61% of households assisted by the Rent Deposit Scheme were from ethnic minority communities, compared to 47% in 2007-08.

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
White	47	61	79	71	50	46
Black	28	28	39	34	33	33
Asian	6	13	19	15	26	23
Mixed	3	3	19	3	5	1
Other	5	13	27	15	10	14
Not Known	15	88	39	12	4	6
Total	104	206	222	150	128	123
Proportion BME	47%	48%	57%	49%	60%	61%
Missing Ethnicity	14%	43%	18%	8%	3%	5%

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1 Not Applicable.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1. As part of a BME Housing Delivery Plan currently being developed in partnership with a number of BME organisations, there are plans to consult various BME groups on their housing need.

5 TIMETABLE

5.1 Not applicable.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Equality Act 2010 which came into force in October 2010 contains a public sector duty to tackle discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and encourage good community relations. Monitoring of social housing lettings outcomes by ethnicity helps inform housing policy to ensure fair outcomes for all sections of Merton's community.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Information on social housing lettings and other housing outcomes by ethnicity provides the transparency needed to help dispel 'myths' and misconception that certain sections of the community have unfair advantage

over others in accessing social housing, and will help promote community cohesion.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. None.

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

11.1 None.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 None.

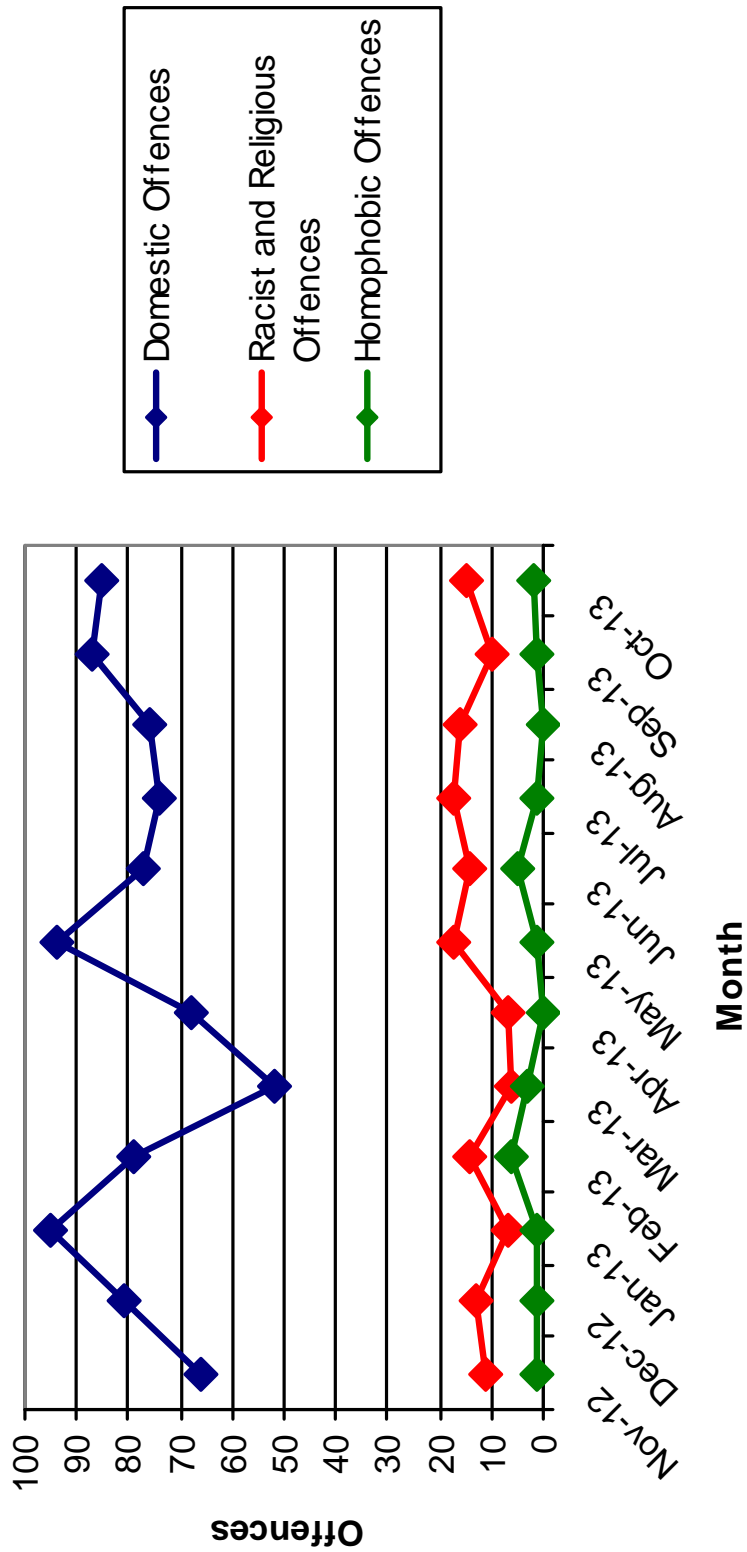
13 CONTACTS

• REPORT AUTHOR

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Merton JCC Hate Crime Data Nov 2013

Hate Crime in Merton November 2012 - October 2013



Merton JCC Hate Crime Data Nov 2013

Month-Year	Domestic Offences	Racist and Religious Offences	Homophobic Offences
Nov 2012	66	11	1
Dec 2012	81	13	1
Jan 2013	95	7	1
Feb 2013	79	14	6
Mar 2013	52	6	3
Apr 2013	68	7	0
May 2013	94	17	1
Jun 2013	77	14	5
Jul 2013	74	17	1
Aug 2013	76	16	0
Sep 2013	87	10	1
Oct 2013	85	15	2
Total	934	147	22
Previous 12 months	866	144	17
Change from previous 12 months	8%	2%	29%

Introducing Healthwatch Merton

Adele Williams

2013

What is Healthwatch ?

Healthwatch is the new independent consumer champion created to gather and represent the views of the public.

Nationwide Network

153 local Healthwatch's

Consumer champion

Health and social care - children, young people and adults

Link between people and service commissioners



What isn't Healthwatch ?

A provider of health or social care services

The NHS, Social Services, the Government, the Department of Health or the Police

Complaints forum or advocacy programme

Voiceability
NHS Complaints Advocacy
0300 330 5454

www.voiceability.org
nhscomplaints@voiceability.org



How does it work ?

Reach out

Listen

Gather

Compile

Analyse

Report

Influence

Feedback



Who will we listen to ?

You!

Any local resident who uses health or social
care services within Merton



How do I speak out?

www.healthwatchmerton.co.uk
visit the your say page

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call and speak to us

Info@healthwatchmerton.co.uk
Email us

Healthwatch Merton Vestry Hall, London Road, Mitcham CR4 3UD
Send us a letter

Attend events
Speak out verbally, in person





Your Voice Counts

www.healthwatchmerton.co.uk

info@healthwatchmerton.co.uk

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