

Merton Council

Sustainable Communities

Overview and Scrutiny

Panel



Date: 4 July 2017

Time: 7.15 pm

Venue: Committee Rooms C, D & E, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, SM4 5DX

AGENDA

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2	Declarations of pecuniary interest	
3	Minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 8
4	<p>Merton's response to the Grenfell Tower fire - update report</p> <p>Simon Williams, Director of Housing and Community, will provide a verbal update at the meeting.</p>	
5	<p>Cabinet Member priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Draper, Cabinet Member for Community and Culture • Councillor Whelton, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing 	
6	Performance monitoring	9 - 12
7	Facilities for physical activity in children's playgrounds - update report	13 - 28
8	<p>South London Waste Partnership: Phase C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update report • Veolia ride-along - verbal report back 	29 - 34
9	<p>Setting the scrutiny work programme for 2017/18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the work programme for 2017/18: agree items for inclusion • Consider the methods to be used • Identify a lead member for performance monitoring • Identify a lead member for budget scrutiny • Consider the appointment of co-opted 	35 - 70

- members (Panel/task group)
- Consider the use of local visits
- Identify training/support needs

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Task group - scoping

A paper will be tabled at the meeting.

**This is a public meeting – members of the public are very welcome to attend.
The meeting room will be open to members of the public from 7.00 p.m.**

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Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel Membership

Councillors:

Abigail Jones (Chair)
Daniel Holden (Vice-Chair)
Stan Anderson
Michael Bull
David Chung
Russell Makin
John Sargeant
Vacancy

Substitute Members:

Laxmi Attawar
Mike Brunt
Edward Foley
Janice Howard
Abdul Latif

Note on declarations of interest

Members are advised to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared they should withdraw from the meeting room during the whole of the consideration of that matter and must not participate in any vote on that matter. If members consider they should not participate because of a non-pecuniary interest which may give rise to a perception of bias, they should declare this, withdraw and not participate in consideration of the item. For further advice please speak with the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance.

What is Overview and Scrutiny?

Overview and Scrutiny describes the way Merton's scrutiny councillors hold the Council's Executive (the Cabinet) to account to make sure that they take the right decisions for the Borough. Scrutiny panels also carry out reviews of Council services or issues to identify ways the Council can improve or develop new policy to meet the needs of local people. From May 2008, the Overview & Scrutiny Commission and Panels have been restructured and the Panels renamed to reflect the Local Area Agreement strategic themes.

Scrutiny's work falls into four broad areas:

- ⇒ **Call-in:** If three (non-executive) councillors feel that a decision made by the Cabinet is inappropriate they can 'call the decision in' after it has been made to prevent the decision taking immediate effect. They can then interview the Cabinet Member or Council Officers and make recommendations to the decision-maker suggesting improvements.
- ⇒ **Policy Reviews:** The panels carry out detailed, evidence-based assessments of Council services or issues that affect the lives of local people. At the end of the review the panels issue a report setting out their findings and recommendations for improvement and present it to Cabinet and other partner agencies. During the reviews, panels will gather information, evidence and opinions from Council officers, external bodies and organisations and members of the public to help them understand the key issues relating to the review topic.
- ⇒ **One-Off Reviews:** Panels often want to have a quick, one-off review of a topic and will ask Council officers to come and speak to them about a particular service or issue before making recommendations to the Cabinet.
- ⇒ **Scrutiny of Council Documents:** Panels also examine key Council documents, such as the budget, the Business Plan and the Best Value Performance Plan.

Scrutiny panels need the help of local people, partners and community groups to make sure that Merton delivers effective services. If you think there is something that scrutiny should look at, or have views on current reviews being carried out by scrutiny, let us know.

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Agenda Item 3

All minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the committee/panel. To find out the date of the next meeting please check the calendar of events at your local library or online at www.merton.gov.uk/committee.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

15 MARCH 2017

(7.15 pm - 9.35 pm)

PRESENT: Councillors Abigail Jones (in the Chair), Daniel Holden, Stan Anderson, Michael Bull, David Chung, Russell Makin, John Sargeant, Imran Uddin and Stephen Crowe

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Abdul Latif, Nick Draper (Cabinet member for Community and Culture), Ross Garrod (Cabinet Member for Street Cleanliness and Parking), Martin Whelton (Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing) and officers Jason Andrews (Environmental Health Pollution Manager), Mitra Dubet (Future Merton Commissioning Manager), Paul Foster (Head of the Regulatory Services Partnership), John Hill (Head of Public Protection and Development, ENVR), Anthony Hopkins (Head of Library and Heritage Services), Chris Lee (Director of Environment and Regeneration), Paul Walshe (Parking Services Manager), Kris Witherington (Consultation & Community Engagement Manager) and Annette Wiles (Scrutiny Officer)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Councillor Holden gave his apologies for agenda item 4 (Call-in: Emissions Levy – Statutory Consultation). Councillor Crowe substituted for this item only with Councillor Holden returning to the Panel for the remainder of the meeting.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

Councillor Makin declared a pecuniary interest as Chair of Merton Community Transport.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and an accurate record.

4 CALL-IN: EMISSIONS LEVY - STATUTORY CONSULTATION (Agenda Item 4)

Councillor Jones, as Chair of the Panel, reminded members that the monitoring officer has determined the scope of the call-in to be exclusively:

- How the statutory consultation was conducted (including older and disabled residents);
- The due notice given to the views received as part of the consultation;
- Teachers' permits; and
- The electric vehicle reduction for business and trade permits.

Introduction of the call-in

Councillors Holden and Abdul Latif introduced the call-in to the Panel.

Councillor Holden believes the process followed has not been fair:

- Application of the diesel surcharge to teacher parking permits was not mentioned as part of Cabinet's policy decision in November 2016. Rather teachers are an addition to the application of this policy decision which had not previously been considered;
- The statutory consultation received 141 responses with all but nine in opposition to the surcharge. It was highlighted that Wimbledon residents reported not knowing this was happening with the Council not having written to existing resident parking permit holders;
- No consideration had been given to older and/or disabled residents with the application of a flat rate surcharge disproportionately affecting residents on low incomes; and
- Whilst the £40 reduction on electric trade and business vehicles was welcomed, it was noted that this is the same value as for electric cars and insufficient to generate business investment in new, cleaner fleet vehicles.

Councillor Abdul Latif spoke more broadly on the diesel surcharge. As such his comments are outside of the scope of the call-in.

In response to member questions, Councillor Holden reported that no questions, comments or complaints had been received from teachers in Merton about the diesel surcharge although it has been mentioned to him by some at the school where he is a governor. Councillor Crowe noted he has received a complaint from the Headteacher at Hollymount School who highlighted the impact this will have on school funds and as a result sees it as an unfair imposition.

Representations from Witnesses

Colin Francis, of the Federation of Small Businesses, informed members that the organisation's policy is supportive of efforts to improve air quality and remove diesel vehicles from roads. However, there is a concern about how this is being achieved and the effect it is having on business. This is seen as an additional form of taxation with 11 out of 30 London boroughs being in the process of applying similar surcharges on diesel vehicles. Mr Francis called on the Council to lobby government to bring in a diesel scrappage scheme to support businesses that are locked into expensive leasing arrangements.

In response to member questions, Mr Francis provided an illustration of one local business that faces a cost of £200K to exit early its contract for a diesel fleet of around 20 vehicles. It was noted that these contracts will come to an end in three years at which point any additional early end costs will be avoided.

Sara Sharp, a local resident, addressed the Panel highlighting the inadequacy of the consultation process which she regards as minimal considering the surcharge is projected to achieve an annual income of £500K. Noted that of the 141 responses

received to the consultation only nine were in support of the surcharge and that diesel car owners are being penalised for believing in good faith the previous advice from government that stated these were better for the environment. Believes the surcharge will result in more residents installing off-street parking on their properties.

In response to member questions, Ms Sharp stated that there is a difference between new and older diesel vehicles with those in the Euro5 emission category and above much less polluting. Highlighted that Kensington and Chelsea applies a £10 levy dependent on specific car pollution levels which reflects that some diesel cars now have pollution levels very similar to those of petrol vehicles. Stated that the surcharge is about the Council demonstrating to the Mayor of London that action is being taken. Thinks it is unfair that carers who own diesel cars will be penalised as any exemption will only apply to those who have disabled parking permits.

Officer response

Chris Lee, Director of Environment & Regeneration, provided the officer response to those introducing the call-in and the witnesses:

- Teacher permits: these weren't included in the scope of the policy initially however they were highlighted through the statutory consultation which resulted in them now being considered. This shows how the consultation has influenced the application of the policy. There are potentially approx. 77 teachers who will be affected by this change. They are adding to air pollution in the borough and therefore it is legitimate that they are included in the policy;
- Consultation: this has complied with the Council's statutory duty. The level of negative responses received is towards the lower end of what might have been expected;
- Lower income: this is not a protected characteristic but it should be noted that no one who has a disabled parking permit will be subject to the surcharge;
- Business and trade: welcomed the suggestion that the Council lobby Government for a diesel scrappage scheme and recognised that the ability of businesses to cease their use of diesel vehicles depends on a suitable alternative vehicle being available which currently isn't always the case. Noted that the surcharge value is the same as for residential parking and therefore is proportionally lower for business vehicles based on the current value of business and trade parking permits. The intention is to review this going forward. Highlighted that there is no intention to disadvantage Merton's businesses. Noted that for a fleet of 20 vehicles the cost of covering the diesel surcharge would be max £3,000 per annum for three years until the end of existing leasing arrangements;
- Council car fleet: this is already being decreased in size and with the move to electric vehicles being made;
- Legality: the diesel surcharge is designed around the Council's existing powers to allow it to affect use of diesel vehicles which are the most polluting. The legal power for the Council to impose this policy absolutely exists;
- Vehicle idling: an approach to improve air quality through a policy to reduce vehicle idling is already being explored with discussions happening with other boroughs that have this in place. This would be enforced through Fixed Penalty

Notices. This isn't seen as an alternative to the diesel surcharge but an additional measure. This is being pursued as fast as possible; and

- Emissions: as demonstrated by the diagram on page 75 of the agenda pack, it is clear that even newer, Euro6 emission category diesel vehicles pollute beyond the limit allowed. The diesel surcharge is a proportionate response given growing awareness of the health impact. Noted that the UK is facing legal action from Europe over air quality especially in London.

Cabinet member response

This was provided by Councillor Martin Whelton, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing who highlighted that he had read all representations made through the consultation. However, in the light of the significant health issues being caused by air pollution he noted the Council would be failing in its duties if it did not act; these factors overrode the consultation responses received. With regard to the application of the surcharge to teachers' permits, noted it is right for action to be taken across the borough. He stated that he is satisfied that the Council has consulted widely, fulfilled its statutory duties in doing so and is confident that the consultation complies with legal requirements.

Member questions

In response to member questions, officers clarified:

- The objective of this policy is to change behaviours rather than to generate income. There is potential for this to raise £500K per annum if it doesn't result in behaviour change. Funds raised have to be used for transport purposes. This includes a multitude of costs such as *Freedom Passes*;
- It is not known whether or not email addresses are captured as part of paying for resident parking permits online. This will be clarified and explored as a way of providing notifications about relevant consultations by email; and
- The suggestion that diesel vehicles receive an additional charge every time they use Council car parks across the borough was welcomed. This is something the department would like to bring forward. However, this would require all parking payments to be made electronically (to go cashless); this system is underpinned by the parking payment system having a direct link to the DVLA database to check vehicle fuel types to determine the price of parking.

Panel member comments

Councillor Bull: believes it is more appropriate that this is dealt with nationally. This is at odds with the treatment of diesel vehicles through road taxation. Expressed his sorrow for residents and suggested a different approach be explored that would do more to encourage residents to switch to hybrid and petrol cars;

Councillor Uddin: highlighted this policy is one part of a wider strategy being developed to address the clear and present danger of air pollution. This is being addressed by the air quality task group;

Councillor Sargeant: believes it would be better to be announcing this policy and not introducing it for a year to allow residents to act. Due to the way it is being introduced it looks like a revenue raising measure;

Councillor Chung: highlighted the potential to ban cars around schools to achieve a health improvement. Recommended the need to educate residents about the health implications of air pollution to ensure they are making informed decisions; and

Councillor Crowe: recommended a bigger reduction in the cost of parking permits for electric vehicles.

Councillor Bull proposed and Councillor Crowe seconded the motion to refer the decision back to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing for reconsideration. Two Councillors voted for the motion (Bull and Crowe) with five voting against (Anderson, Chung, Sargeant, Makin and Uddin). As a result the motion fell.

Councillor Uddin proposed and Councillor Chung seconded the motion not to refer the matter back to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing. Four Councillors voted for the motion (Anderson, Chung, Makin and Uddin) and three voting against (Crowe, Bull and Sargeant). The motion was resolved.

RESOLVED: not to refer the matter back to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing in which case the decision took effect immediately.

5 PERFORMANCE MONITORING: MERTON ADULT EDUCATION (Agenda Item 5)

Anthony Hopkins, Head of Library, Heritage & Adult Education Service, introduced the item in line with the information provided in the officer report.

In response to member questions, the officer clarified:

- The *Prevent* programme was identified as an area of service good practice by Ofsted. This is achieved by weaving information supporting British values into classes and through providing dedicated training for tutors. This is an increasing area of focus for Ofsted so the service is currently looking at good practice by other colleges around the country;
- Support for more vulnerable students starts at pre-screening when objectives and learning levels are established with next steps identified. Suitable courses are identified which provide access to the development of functional skills. Better tracking of progression is a key change in the service;
- Outreach and community engagement is on-going to ensure performance targets are achieved. Some difficulties with venues have been experienced in the first term. These have delayed progress but work is happening now to get to know residents and plan effectively. An example of the type of provision being used to engage new learners is a family learning event happening at Wimbledon Library;
- Funding from the Skills Funding Agency for next year isn't yet confirmed although it is anticipated that no reduction will be received. Student numbers for this year will effect funding for the subsequent year; and

- There has been a drop in demand for community learning opportunities such as modern foreign languages and arts and crafts (with an increase in demand for functional skills courses). This reflects the drop in demand nationally for this provision although it was acknowledged this might also reflect that there was a particular attachment to the old site despite South Thames College having a far superior offer. It was noted the College is working on learner engagement, offering a wider breath of courses (for example, hair dressing and construction).
- 6 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, TRADING STANDARDS AND LICENSING SHARED SERVICE EXPANSION (Agenda Item 6)

John Hill, Assistant Director – Public Protection, introduced the item in line with the information provided in the officer report.

In response to member questions, John Hill clarified:

- There is clear benefit to an expanded shared service as this brings a greater skills base and resilience. This reflects the same principles as when the shared service was initially set-up. Merton will remain as the lead and host authority;
- The expansion of the shared service from preparation of business case through to final implementation is expected to take 18 months. Any authority wishing to withdraw from the RSP needs to give 12 months notice;
- It is intended that all back office support will be provided by either existing RSP staff or staff who will be TUPE transferred to Merton and based at the Civic Centre. It will also be necessary to retain some physical presence in each of the partner boroughs. How this will look has yet to be determined. There is confidence about arrangements for TUPE given this was dealt with successfully when the shared services was initially established between Merton and Richmond;
- Sufficient floor space is available within the Civic Centre first floor to accommodate the expanded shared service;
- Confidence in being able to successfully expand the shared service to include a further borough is based on having already done this in the past and having been working with counterparts in Wandsworth for the past nine months. With an enlarged service comes the opportunity to offer staff career development as well as an improved customer offer based on having a workforce with a widened skill-set; and
- A gradual approach to IT integration is proposed (and this has worked successfully when the shared service was initially established) although it was acknowledged that eventually a single IT platform is expected.

John Hill Introduced Raj Patel, Interim Project Manager for expansion of the shared service and thanked him for his hard work in developing the business case together with Paul Foster, the Head of the RSP.

- 7 PERFORMANCE MONITORING (Agenda Item 7)

Chris Lee, Director for Environment and Regeneration, introduced the item highlighting three measures:

- CRP044 Parking services estimated revenue: the improving performance since the last report supports the position taken at the last meeting about how the performance of the new Automatic Number Plate Recognition system is being optimised;
- CRP049/SP059 Number of fly tips reported in streets and parks: highlighted as below the annual target demonstrating the Council's efficiency in dealing with these before they are reported; and
- SP046 Total income from commercial waste: this is a better performance than was being reported at the last meeting. This shows what looked like previous underperformance was the result of how the billing is phased. This is now ahead of the monthly and year-to-date targets.

In response to member questions, it was clarified:

- February shows a better performance in terms of staff sickness. It was highlighted that in the run-up to the transfer of the green infrastructure and parks maintenance contract staff sickness worsened due to genuine health issues and falling morale. However, with the first transfer of staff these issues are for the contractor to address. This position will further improve with the transfer of waste services.

8 UPDATE REPORT: EXTERNALISATION OF THE SOUTH LONDON WASTE PARTNERSHIP PHASE C (Agenda Item 8)

Chris Lee, Director for Environment & Regeneration, provided a verbal update on the externalisation of the South London Waste Partnership (Phase C) in line with the resolved motion to Full Council in September 2016:

- The transfer of Lot 2 of Phase C (green infrastructure and parks maintenance) came into effect on 1 February 2017. Performance data received since is healthy and there has been little negative comment received. This is a good time of year for the transfer because the horticultural pressures are low;
- The transfer of Lot 1 of Phase C (waste management services) will come into effect on 1 April 2017. Work is currently on-going to finalise TUPE transfers successfully with resulting changes to terms and conditions. Neighbourhood client officers have been appointed with the new team starting before the end of March 2017;
- There will be an 18 month process of service change for waste management services. This will bring in a flexible system as a one size fits all approach isn't feasible. Service design will be based on what is consistent with our waste and street cleanliness objectives and is reasonable;
- Veolia, the waste management services contractor, is developing a timetable for resident engagement supported by a £150K investment. This will be the focus of detailed discussions with comprehensive press and publicity anticipated in order

to raise resident awareness. Based on what has been achieved in Sutton, it is anticipated that this will be very positive;

- Engagement with park friends groups is happening now through individual meetings. Funding bids are being prepared in order to develop Friends groups further; and
- Savings resulting from Phase C are anticipated to meet or exceed those stated in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. For Lot 1 these start at £1.6m for 2017/18, rise to £2.2m in 2018/19 and exceed this annually thereafter. This is against a current annual overspend of £400K. For Lot 2 the immediate saving is anticipated at £300K initially and rising to £390K per annum. This is against a current overspend of £80K per annum and doesn't include other anticipated minor cost savings.

Councillor Garrod, Cabinet Member for Cleanliness and Parking, welcomed the officer's report and expressed his pleasure in the flexibility offered by the service.

Councillor Sargeant requested a ride along with Veolia in Sutton to experience the service first hand as it is being established and to see what can be learned for when the same happens in Merton. **Action:** Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer, to set-up with officers.

RESOLVED: The members of the Panel collective expressed their thanks to Cormac Stokes, out going Head of Street Scene and Waste, for all his work in supporting the Panel and in the externalisation of Phase C.

9 SCRUTINY TOPIC SUGGESTIONS (Agenda Item 9)

Panel members expressed their interest in using one of their meetings to focus in depth on one specific issue and to look at this in much greater detail than this year's work programme has allowed. Traffic congestion was suggested as a possible subject area (with the involvement of Transport for London).

RESOLVED: to take the deferred item on facilities for physical activity in children's playgrounds at its meeting on 8 June 2017.

E&R Public Protection performance report May Dashboard

PI Code & Description	May 2017					2017/18					YTD Result	Annual YTD Target	YTD Status
	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend			
Parking													
Parking services estimated revenue	1,678,885	1,053,285	✔	↑	↑	2,861,160	2,087,738	✔	↓	↓	2,861,160	2,087,738	✔
% Parking permits issued within 5 working days	40%	90%	⊘	↑	↓	37.5%	90%	⊘	↓	↓	37.5%	90%	⊘
Sickness- No of days per FTE from snapshot report (parking)	1.31	0.66	⊘	↑	↑	2.92	1.32	⊘	↑	↑	2.92	1.32	⊘
% Cases won at PATAS	61.9%	54%	✔	↑	↑	61.84%	54%	✔	↑	↑	61.84%	54%	✔
% Cases lost at PATAS	28.57%	21%	⊘	↑	↓	30.92%	21%	⊘	↓	↓	30.92%	21%	⊘
% Cases where council does not contest at PATAS	14.29%	25%	✔	↓	↑	9.21%	25%	✔	↑	↑	9.21%	25%	✔
% Public Spaces CCTV cameras working	97.99%	95%	✔	↑	↓	97.66%	95%	✔	↓	↓	97.66%	95%	✔

Regulatory Service													
% Service requests replied to in 5 working days (Regulatory Services)	DNR	96%	?	?	?	DNR	96%	N/A	↓	↓	92.81%	96%	?
Income generation by Regulatory Services	DNR	£16,000	?	?	?	£79,333	£76,000	✔	↓	↓	£79,333	£76,000	✔
No. of underage sales test purchases	Measured quarterly					N/A	100	N/A	?	?	N/A	100	?
% licensing apps. determined within 21 days	Measured quarterly					N/A	95%	N/A	?	?	N/A	95%	?
% Inspection category A,B & C food premises	Measured quarterly					N/A	98%	N/A	?	?	N/A	98%	?
Annual average amount of Nitrogen Dioxide per m3	Measured Annually					N/A	40	N/A	?	?	N/A	40	?
Days Nitrogen Dioxide levels exceed 200 micrograms per m3	Measured quarterly					N/A	18	N/A	?	?	N/A	18	?
Annual average amount of Particulates per m3	Measured Annually					N/A	40	N/A	?	?	N/A	40	?
Days particulate levels exceed 50 micrograms per m3	Measured quarterly					N/A	35	N/A	?	?	N/A	35	?
% Food premises rated 2* or below	Measured quarterly					N/A	15%	N/A	?	?	N/A	15%	?

E&R Public Spaces

PI Code & Description	May 2017					2017/18					YTD Result	Annual YTD Target	YTD Status
	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend			
Waste													
No. of refuse collections including recycling and kitchen waste missed per 100,000	DNR	50.00	?	?	?	DNR	50.00	?	?	?	DNR	50.00	?
% Residents satisfied with refuse collection	Measured Annually					N/A	72%	?	?	?	N/A	74%	?
% Household waste recycled and composted	36.64%	42%	⊘	↑	↑	36.49%	42%	⊘	↑	↑	36.49%	42%	⊘
Residual waste kg per household	49.66	45	⊘	↓	↓	92.78	90	⊘	↑	↑	92.78	90	⊘
% Municipal solid waste sent to landfill	62%	59%	⚠	↓	↓	59%	59%	⊘	↓	↑	59%	59%	⊘
% Residents satisfied with recycling facilities	Measured Annually					N/A	70%	?	?	?	N/A	74%	?
Total waste arising per households (KGs)	78.38	75	⚠	↓	↓	146.09	150	✔	↑	↑	146.09	150	✔
% FPN's issued that have been paid	75%	68%	✔	↑	↑	72.5%	68%	✔	↓	↑	72.5%	68%	✔
% of flytips removed within 24 hours	DNR	90%	?	?	?	DNR	90%	?	?	?	DNR	90%	?

Street Cleaning													
% of sites surveyed on local street inspections for litter that are below standard	10.91%	8.5%	⊘	↑	↓	11.02%	8.5%	⊘	↓	↓	11.02%	8.5%	⊘
No. of fly tips reported in streets and parks	575	300	⊘	↑	↓	1,236	600	⊘	↑	↑	1,236	600	⊘
% Sites surveyed on street inspections for litter	Measured quarterly					N/A	8.5%	?	?	?	N/A	9%	?
% Sites surveyed below standard for graffiti	Measured quarterly					N/A	5%	?	?	?	N/A	5.5%	?
% Sites surveyed below standard for flyposting	Measured quarterly					N/A	1%	?	?	?	N/A	1%	?
% Sites surveyed below standard for weeds	Measured quarterly					N/A	12%	?	?	?	N/A	13%	?
% Sites surveyed below standard for Detritus	Measured quarterly					N/A	13%	?	?	?	N/A	14%	?
% Residents satisfied with street cleanliness	Measured Annually					N/A	57%	?	?	?	N/A	57%	?

Parks													
Residents % satisfaction with parks & green spaces	Measured Annually					N/A	75%	?	?	?	N/A	74%	?
Young peoples % satisfaction with parks & green spaces	Measured Annually					N/A	74%	?	?	?	N/A	73%	?
No. of Green Flags	Measured Annually					N/A	5	?	?	?	N/A	5	?

No. of outdoor events in parks	13	10				25	15				25	15	
Transport													
Average % time passenger vehicles in use	Measured Annually					N/A	85%				N/A	85%	
% User satisfaction survey	Measured Annually					N/A	97%				N/A	97%	
In-house journey that meet timescales	Measured Annually					N/A	85%				N/A	85%	
Sickness measure for Transport	0.33	0.92				1.77	1.84				1.77	1.84	
Leisure													
Income from Watersports Centre	£27,415	£20,260				£46,175	£30,260				£46,175	£30,260	
% Residents rating Leisure & Sports facilities Good to Excellent	Measured Annually					N/A	45.5%				N/A	45.5%	
14 to 25 year old fitness centre participation at leisure centres	10,429	8,456				20,354	17,146				20,354	17,146	
No. of Leisure Centre users	96,644	80,105				177,516	155,105				177,516	155,105	
No. of Polka Theatre users	Measured quarterly					N/A	94,600				N/A	94,600	

E&R Sustainable Communities

PI Code & Description	May 2017					2017/18					YTD Result	Annual YTD Target	YTD Status
	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend	Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend			
Development and Building Control													
Income (Development and Building Control)	DNR	175,000				DNR	350,000				DNR	350,000	
% Major applications processed within 13 weeks	0%	67%				75%	67%				75%	67%	
% of minor planning applications determined within 8 weeks	83.87%	66%				72.88%	66%				72.88%	66%	
% of 'other' planning applications determined within 8 weeks (Development Control)	72.17%	85%				80.93%	85%				80.93%	85%	
% Market share retained by LA (Building Control)	44.91%	54%				47.35%	54%				47.35%	54%	
No. of enforcement cases closed	16	38				31	75				31	75	
% appeals lost (Development & Building Control)	Measured quarterly					N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	35%	
No. of backlog enforcement cases	592	650				592	650				592	650	
Volume of planning applications	369	370				744	740				744	740	

Future Merton

New Homes	Measured Annually					N/A	411	N/A			N/A	411	
% Streetworks inspections completed	Measured quarterly					N/A	36%	N/A			N/A	38%	
% Emergency callouts attended within 2 hours (traffic & highways)	100%	100%				99.08%	100%				99.08%	100%	
% Streetworks permitting determined	99.72%	98%				99.8%	98%				99.8%	98%	
No. of new businesses created through the Economic Development Strategy	Measured Annually					N/A	300	N/A			N/A	300	
Average number of days taken to repair an out of light street light	Measured quarterly					N/A	3	N/A			N/A	3	
No. of new jobs created through the Economic Development Strategy	Measured Annually					N/A	450	N/A			N/A	600	
Footway & Carriageway condition - unclassified roads non-principal defectiveness condition indicator	Measured Annually					N/A	95%	N/A			N/A	95%	

Property

% Vacancy rate of property owned by the council	Measured quarterly					N/A	3.3%	N/A			N/A	3.3%	
% Debt owed to LBM by tenants inc businesses	Measured quarterly					N/A	8%	N/A			N/A	8%	
Property asset valuations	Measured Annually					N/A	150	N/A			N/A	150	

Key

	Red signifies that current YTD performance is below target by more than the specified target deviation.
	Amber signifies that current YTD performance is below target, but remains within the specified target deviation.
	Green signifies that the current YTD target has been met, or exceeded.
DNR	DNR signifies that data was not received by deadline.
NMTP	NMTP signifies not measured this period.
Short trend arrows	Show whether performance for the period is improving (up) or deteriorating (down) compared to last month.
Long trend arrows	Show whether performance for the period is improving (up) or deteriorating (down) compared to the average past two years performance (where available)

Performance Monitoring Report - Community & Housing – May 2017

Dept.	PI Code & Description	Polarity	May 2017					YTD Result	Annual YTD Target	YTD Status
			Value	Target	Status	Short Trend	Long Trend			
Libraries	CRP 059 / SP 008 No. of people accessing the library by borrowing an item or using a peoples network terminal at least once in the previous 12 months (Monthly)	High	68,663	56,000				68,663	56,000	
Libraries	CRP 060 / SP 009 No. of visitors accessing the library service on line (Monthly)	High	39,808	30,975				39,808	30,975	
Housing Needs & Enabling	CRP 061 / SP 036 No. of households in temporary accommodation (Monthly)	Low	198	230				194.5	230	
Housing Needs & Enabling	CRP 062 / SP 035 No. of homelessness preventions (Monthly)	High	97	75				97	75	
Housing Needs & Enabling	SP 037 Highest No. of families in Bed and Breakfast accommodation during the year (Monthly)	Low	4	10				4	10	
Housing Needs & Enabling	SP 038 Highest No. of adults in Bed and Breakfast accommodation (Monthly)	Low	1	10				0.5	10	
Libraries	SP 279 % Self-service usage for stock transactions (libraries) (Monthly)	High	98%	97%				98%	97%	
Libraries	SP 280 No. of active volunteers in libraries (Rolling 12 Month) (Monthly)	High	283	220				283	220	
Libraries	SP 282 Partnership numbers (Libraries) (Monthly)	High	43	30				43	30	
Libraries	SP 287 Maintain Library Income (Monthly)	High	£34,239	£36,133				£34,239	£36,133	

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Committee: Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Date: 4 July 2017

Wards: All

Subject: Children's Play & Health Provisions in Merton - Children's playgrounds & other play & health facilities in Merton's public parks

Lead officer: Chris Lee, Director of Environment & Regeneration

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

Contact officer: Doug Napier, Greenspaces Manager
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Hilina Asrress, Senior Public Health Principal
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RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) note and comment upon the current provisions for children's playgrounds and facilities in Merton's public parks.
- B. O&S note and comment upon the clear links to the childhood obesity programme of work taking place to reduce childhood obesity in the borough and objectives to increase utilisation of open and green spaces.
- C. O&S to note and comment upon the development of recommendations to increase utilisation of children's playgrounds and open spaces in Merton based on evidence and best practice as well as resident feedback from the Great Weight Debate Merton (resident engagement on childhood obesity). This is to be developed in collaboration between Public Health and Environment and Regeneration. This work will:
 - i. Build upon the Sustainable Communities and Transport chapter of Merton's Local Community Plan 2013. This work will provide valuable data/information that would support the development of new Merton's Open Spaces Strategy (MOSS).
 - ii. Inform council contractors maintaining Merton's parks and open spaces.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report summarises the provision of play and health-related facilities provided and managed by the London Borough of Merton within its parks and open spaces, whose target audience is principally children and young people.
- 1.2. The report also draws on the Health and Well-being priority to reduce childhood obesity in the borough and the links with utilisation and access to parks, green

and open spaces for physical activity for children and young people and families. The report highlights the Director of Public Health's Annual Public Health Report 2016/17 titled 'Tackling Childhood Obesity Together' and Merton's Child Healthy Weight Action Plan with recommendations for taking this work forward.

2. DETAILS

2.1. Background

2.1.1. LBM's Greenspaces portfolio encompasses over 570ha of open space. The portfolio includes various play and sporting opportunities, some of general appeal and other specifically targeted at youngsters.

2.1.2. In general terms, these facilities are considered to be popular places for recreational fun and enjoyment, most especially those located within our larger, high-profile parks.

2.1.3. Accessible, safe green space is shown to reduce mental distress, depression and Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) symptoms in children. Access to a garden or living a short distance to/from green areas, as well as having the potential to lead to improvements in the environment, are associated with a general improvement in mental health and wellbeing¹. Open space provides a platform for community activities, social interaction, physical activity and recreation, as well as reducing social isolation, improving community cohesion and positively affecting the wider determinants of health².

2.1.4. The Marmot Review and NICE (National Institute of Health Care and Clinical Excellence) show evidence that the presence of good quality outdoor green spaces encourages physical activity³ which is key to living a healthy lifestyle reducing the risk of a wide range of health issues such as cardiovascular diseases, obesity, type 2 diabetes and mental/physical health.

2.1.5. Good physical activity habits in childhood and adolescence are more likely to be carried into adulthood. Local open green spaces are a key asset which can be utilised by people for physical activity. In Merton, a national survey of 15-year-olds showed:

- Only 11.8% of 15-year-olds in Merton meet the World Health Organization's guideline of an hour of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity per day.
- 71.2% of 15-year-olds spend an average of seven hours a day on sedentary activities, including time watching television and using computers.

Both of these are similar levels to London and England levels.

2.1.5 Just over 1 in 4 Merton adults are physically inactive in Merton. More than half of adults participate in walking at least 5 times a week and only 1 in 25 take part in cycling 3 times a week as part of physical activity in the borough.

¹ Use of small public urban green spaces and health benefits, Peschardt, K. K., Schipperijn, J., & Stigsdotter, U. K. (2012) Use of small public urban green spaces (SPUGS). *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 11 (3), 235-244

² CABE. Future health: sustainable places for health and wellbeing - Summary 2009. Available from: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110118095336/http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/future-health.pdf>

2.2 Current Greenspace Provisions

2.2.1 Merton is one of the greenest boroughs in London. There are more than 115 separate parks and open spaces and 18% of the borough is open space overall, compared to 10% London average (See Map 1 for distribution of green space across borough). The Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) includes an indicator which measures the utilisation of outdoor space for health and exercise reasons based on survey responses. Even though trends show that utilisation of outdoor space for health and exercise reasons have been at their highest in 2015/16 (16.5%) since 2011 (4.7%), Merton ranks as 17th lowest in London. Merton's utilisation of outdoor space for health and exercise purposes is lower than the London (18%) and England (17.9%) averages.

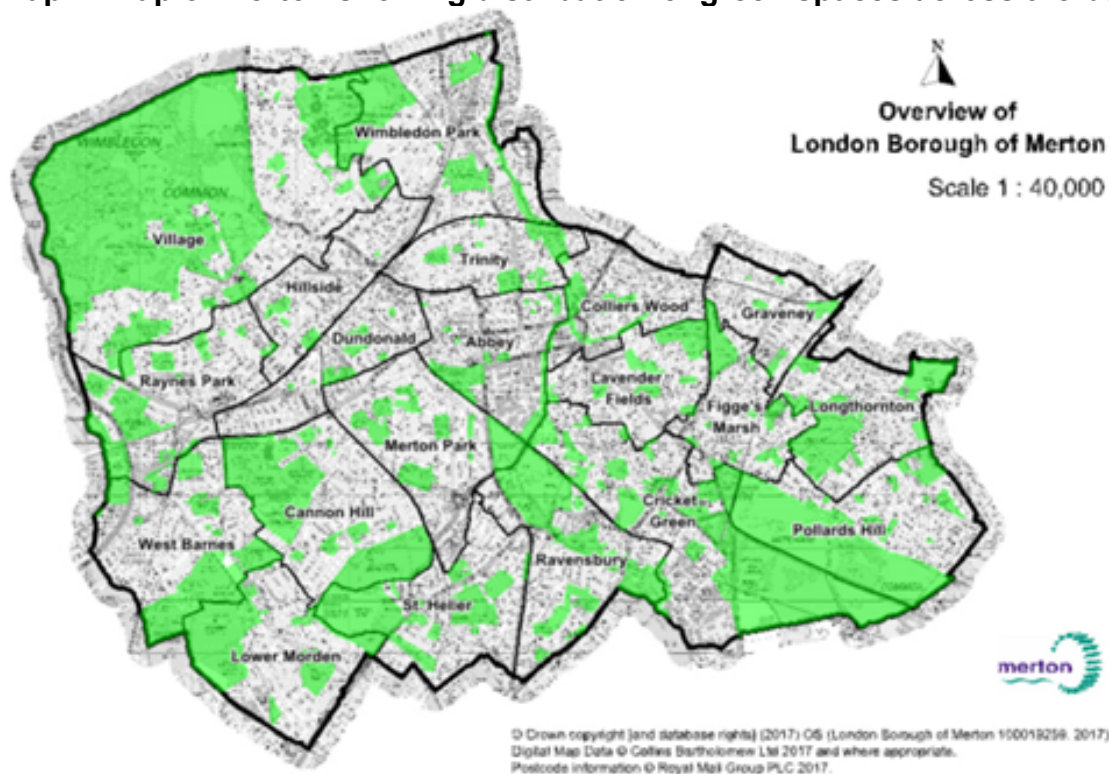
2.2.2 More than half (57.8%) of households have access to open spaces (within 400 metres), more than a third (38.8%) of households have access to local parks (within 400 metres) and two thirds (66.9%) have access to regional parks (within 5km).

Table 1: Merton ward level data on percentage of households with access to different types of green spaces

GLA 2015	Percentage of households with access to*:				
Ward name	Open Space (400m)	Local Parks (400m)	District Parks (1.2km)	Metropolitan Parks (2.4km)	Regional Parks (5km)
Abbey	75.6	43.5	37.5	0.0	100.0
Cannon Hill	33.0	36.3	100.0	0.0	100.0
Colliers Wood	56.6	66.4	0.0	67.8	88.4
Cricket Green	72.4	35.3	17.3	99.8	20.9
Dundonald	81.4	28.0	3.0	0.0	100.0
Figge's Marsh	74.3	45.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Graveney	37.7	32.5	0.0	100.0	0.0
Hillside	59.5	0.8	5.6	0.0	100.0
Lavender Fields	52.1	44.1	1.9	84.7	70.9
Longthornton	48.4	18.4	0.0	100.0	0.0
Lower Morden	63.1	43.2	82.2	10.3	81.4
Merton Park	59.7	44.2	77.9	0.0	100.0
Pollards Hill	39.8	36.5	0.0	100.0	0.0
Ravensbury	83.0	82.0	92.5	63.5	30.3
Raynes Park	49.4	31.5	3.1	0.0	100.0
St. Helier	74.4	55.2	93.3	0.0	45.7
Trinity	39.3	82.8	0.0	0.0	100.0
Village	49.6	19.2	22.9	0.0	100.0
West Barnes	58.5	6.5	59.7	0.0	100.0
Wimbledon Park	47.5	25.1	62.4	20.4	100.0

*Percentage of residential households within wards, with access to at least one open space by specified type of space.

Map 1: Map of Merton showing distribution of green spaces across the borough



2.2.3 Work to create environments where families choose to walk, cycle, be active and visit open space as part of everyday life will have a positive impact at individual and population levels to health.

2.3 Play Facilities

2.3.1 Children's playgrounds are located within 17 out of the 20 wards in the borough and number 42 separate play facilities, with some sites enjoying more than one playground. (See Appendix A). There are additional children's playgrounds within housing estates, on schools/educational establishments and in private open spaces, for example, Morden Hall Park, that are not included within this number.

2.3.2 The Greenspaces team periodically carries out a comprehensive overview of the borough's play facilities and this is done in the form of a Play Value Assessment (PVA). (See Appendix B).

2.3.3 Play value is an industry-standard and accepted way of recording the play opportunities on offer to the borough's young people and evaluates such dynamics as spinning, rotating, rocking, etc. - roughly equating to the inherent fun to be enjoyed at any site. Neither the size, layout nor the capacity of any individual playground is assessed as part of the PVA process in itself, but larger playgrounds generally enjoy more items of equipment and therefore, generally score higher.

2.3.4 The opportunity to invest large capital sums into play and recreational facilities is limited by a number of competing demands across the service for capital funds. The capital and revenue budgets allocated to Greenspaces have been the subject of savings pressures over a number of years and the focus in recent years has, therefore, been one of replacing older play items and developing existing playgrounds.

- 2.3.5 Since 2014, however, new playgrounds have been acquired through new local housing developments provided by developers as part of a planning agreement; Brenley Park & more recently at Rowan Park, both in Mitcham, are examples.
- 2.3.6 Greenspaces' annual revenue budget for play has in recent times been in the region of £40k, which equates to less than £1k per site per annum. *(Note: since February 2017 this cost is borne by idverde as an integral part of the Phase C grounds maintenance contract, but the recent historical figure is provided here by way of a reference point).*
- 2.3.7 Capital investment in playgrounds in the last financial year, 2016/17, was approximately £80k, with investments undertaken at Wimbledon Park and Collier's Wood Recreation Ground. Other locations that have benefitted from capital investment in playgrounds in recent years include: Pollards Hill Recreation Ground, Cottenham Park, King George's Playing Fields and Dundonald Recreation Ground.
- 2.3.8 A new playground, dependent on size and specification can cost in the region of £65k for a small, basic playground; up to several hundreds of thousands of pounds for a comprehensive, high specification version.
- 2.3.9 To give some examples: at Wimbledon Park the Greenspaces team recently replaced a double timber multi-play unit that had reached the end of its serviceable life at a cost of £40k; and at Colliers Wood Recreation Ground, a similar item was replaced at a cost of £30k.

2.4 Sports & Recreation Facilities

- 2.4.1 In addition to our playgrounds, there are a number of parks-based outdoor gyms, 11 in total, comprising a least 4 separate items of equipment. These are free to use and have proven to be a very popular additional to the Greenspaces recreational portfolio, most especially amongst young people, since they were first introduced to the borough in 2009. Naturally, health and fitness benefits are intrinsic to this equipment and not incidental to it as is the case with some of the other features highlighted within this report.
- 2.4.2 The provision of outdoor table tennis tables at various venues around the borough has been a relatively recent development but one that has met with mixed success: some tables are used relatively commonly and others hardly at all. There are currently no plans to install any further such tables.
- 2.4.3 Water play is another child-focused service offered within our open spaces. We currently have 6 traditional-style paddling pools and two interactive water play areas (one in Wimbledon Park; the other at Tamworth Rec in Mitcham). The latter was installed at a cost of £200k and completed in 2014. These operate on a seasonal basis during the core summer period when school holidays and more favourable weather factors ensure that their benefits and enjoyment are maximised. The total cost of providing this service is typically in the region of £65k per annum, including annual operational, commissioning and de-commissioning requirements.
- 2.4.4 The other child-focused facility of note is the skate park at Pollards Hill Recreation Ground. This is another popular facility with people travelling from

other parts of the South London area to utilise the facility. Completed in 2010, it is widely regarded as a destination facility by the wheeled-sport community in the region.

- 2.4.5 Appendix C summarises the main sports and recreational facilities within the borough's parks and open spaces, many of which are targeted at and enjoyed by children and young people.

3 CHILDHOOD OBESITY

3.1 Context

- 3.1.1 Tackling childhood obesity is a national and local priority. Merton includes reducing childhood obesity as one of the outcomes of the health and wellbeing (H&W) strategy 2016-18.

- 3.1.2 In Merton an estimated 4,500 children aged 4-11 years are overweight or obese - equivalent to 150 primary school classes. One in five children entering reception year are overweight or obese and this increases to one in three children leaving primary school in year 6. Childhood obesity contributes to health inequalities - the gap in obesity between the east and west of the borough is widening in both reception and year 6 and is nearly 10% in year 6.

- 3.1.3 Childhood obesity is a complex problem and there is no single solution. The evidence is clear that a preventative, whole systems approach to tackling obesity is needed. This approach recognises the major influence of 'place' (where we live, work and play) on health and wellbeing, as well as individual behaviours and choices.

3.2 The Annual Public Health report on Child Healthy Weight Action Plan

- 3.2.1 The Director of Public Health's independent Annual Public Health Report (APHR) 2016/17 ('Tackling Childhood Obesity Together') provides the facts and figures about childhood obesity in Merton and the evidence about what works as an easy local reference and resource to support joint efforts (see section 13 for link to document).

- 3.2.2 The APHR 2016/17 complements the Child Healthy Weight Action Plan which has been developed with partners. The plan sets out commitments on childhood obesity from the council and its partners and has been endorsed by Cabinet, Health and Well-being Board, Children's Trust Board and Merton CCG. The four key themes include:

- i) Leadership, communication and engagement
- ii) Food environments – increasing availability of healthy food
- iii) *Physical environment – increasing levels of physical activity and health promoting physical environments*
- iv) Early Years and school aged settings and pathways

3.2.3 The third of these themes above directly relates to the provisions, access and use of open green spaces including parks. The following objectives and tasks form part of the plan and related to physical activity and/or use of open spaces:

- Increase opportunities for active travel and physical activity through the use of existing and best practice and guidance by exploring opportunities to audit Merton's compliance against best practice guidance (to increase physical activity)
- Increase the number of children and young people (and their families) who are regular users of parks, open spaces, leisure centres, informal recreational spaces, allotments and outdoor activities
- Ensure that existing and new open spaces are accessible and safe to use for Merton's diverse community by reviewing Merton's Open Spaces Strategy
- Explore opportunities to develop a community 'Merton Mile' in parks which will allow the community to easily run/walk a mile with marked out 1 mile routes e.g. in parks
- Support the "Get Active Wandle Valley" physical activity programme

As part of taking this forward, Public Health and Environment and Regeneration will develop a report with information, data and recommendations to increasing utilisation of children's playgrounds and green spaces in Merton based on evidence and best practice as well as resident feedback from the Great Weight Debate Merton (resident engagement on childhood obesity – See 4.2 below).

This report will:

- i. Build upon the Sustainable Communities and Transport chapter of Merton's Local Community Plan 2013. This work will provide valuable data and information that would support the development of the new Merton's Open Spaces Strategy.
- ii. Inform council contractors maintaining Merton's parks and open green spaces

A task and finish group will be established to bring this work together. The report will be available by April 2018 which will align to the timescales and inform the development of the new Merton Open Spaces Strategy (MOSS).

3.2.4 The Public Health England (PHE) report on increasing utilisation of open spaces³ highlights a number of case studies and ideas which have increased utilisation of open green spaces in other areas. For example:

- Walking for Health/Health Walks – Programme to encourage increased physical activity through the uptake of regular short walks within local community

³ Improving access to open spaces. PHE 2014 available on this link
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/357411/Review8_Green_spaces_health_inequalities.pdf

- Green Gyms – Aim of encouraging people to "work out" in the open air, while at the same time improving their surroundings e.g. planting, food growing, allotments etc. It can be seen as enabling people to get fit who would not normally attend a conventional gym or sports centre
- Creating new recreation areas during redevelopment of sites
- Restoration of parks to include a wide range of amenities e.g. multi use games areas, café/function area, children's play area, table tennis tables, toilets, food growing area. An example of this is Clissold Park in Hackney where investment significantly increased visits to the park
- Green exercise programmes – programmes designed and organised to target people who were disconnected with green space and who did not take regular physical activity. Programmes included conservation tasks and outdoor activities including cycling, walking and woodland games

PHE evidence and guidance will inform the report to be developed.

3.3 **Great Weight Debate Merton**

3.3.1 A pan London 'Great Weight Debate' (GWD) was undertaken lead by the Healthier London Partnership (HLP) between October–December 2016. Merton actively participated in the debate and had the highest number of responses (311) of any borough to the London 'Great Weight Debate' survey. The debate was to engage with residents through a survey on the issue of childhood obesity and understand what changes they think will help children and families lead healthier lives.

3.3.2 Although Merton had the highest number of responses, there were low number of participants from BAME communities, people from the East of the borough and children and young people. Therefore Public Health has commissioned a Merton Great Weight debate which is currently taking place to engage with residents and stakeholders on what we need to do as a borough. Part of the engagement is about how we can increase physical activity/ create health promoting physical environments. A second part of the GWD Merton is to disseminate key messages and signpost and link people into services and facilities available for them to lead healthier lifestyles.

3.3.3 The report on the engagement work will be available in September 2017. This will inform the child healthy weight action plan and actions from partners to tackle childhood obesity through a whole systems approach.

3.3.4 Responses from Merton residents to the London GWD related to physical activity showed that 87% of respondents think childhood obesity is a 'Top priority' or a 'High priority'.

3.3.5 Top areas that make it harder for children to lead healthy lifestyles included (in order of priority):

- Too many cheap/unhealthy food & drink options
- Safety concerns for children (not letting them play outside)

- Too many fast food shops

3.3.6 The top three things that already exist in Merton to encourage a healthy lifestyle included:

- Parks
- Local leisure facilities
- Local sports & youth clubs

3.3.7 It is envisaged with the Merton GWD that more detailed responses and solutions to getting children and young people and families more physically active and the use of open green spaces to do this will form part of the Merton GWD report. Together with evidence and best practice of what works to increase utilisation of open green spaces, the resident feedback from Merton GWD will inform the recommendations report. Building on the strong relationships between voluntary, community, public sector and business partners in Merton, there is a need to work together to co-produce the approaches to tackling childhood obesity.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1 N/A

5 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

5.1 This report has been produced in conjunction with those key Council services that contribute to supporting play and health services in the borough.

6 TIMETABLE

6.1 N/A

7 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None for the purposes of this report

8 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None for the purposes of this report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the legal and statutory implications of the topic being scrutinised.

9 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

9.1 It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engaging with local partnerws in scrutiny reviews. Furthermore, the outcomes of review are intended to benefit all sections of the local community.

10 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATION

10.1 None for the purposes of this report. Scrutiny work involves consideration if the crime and disorder implications of the topics being scrutinised.

11 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None for the purposes of this report.

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

12.1 Appendix A: Number of playgrounds per ward

12.2 Appendix B: Site play value

12.3 Appendix C: summary of sports & recreation facilities in merton's parks

13 BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 Merton's Annual Public Health Report 2016/17 - Tackling Childhood Obesity Together: http://www2.merton.gov.uk/annual_public_health_report_2016.17.pdf

13.2 Child Healthy Weight Action Plan Summary 2016 – 18:
http://www2.merton.gov.uk/annual_public_health_report_2016.17.pdf

13.3 Merton Local Community Plan 2013:
http://www2.merton.gov.uk/merton_community_plan__single_pages_.pdf

APPENDIX A - NUMBER OF PLAYGROUNDS PER WARD

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Number of play sites</i>
Abbey	1
Cannon Hill	4 (2 shared with St Helier)
Colliers Wood	3
Cricket Green	6
Dundonald	1
Figge's Marsh	2
Graveney	1
Hilside	0
lavender Fields	3
Longthornton	4
Lower Morden	1
Merton Park	1
Pollards Hill	4
Ravensbury	1
Raynes Park	1
St Helier	3 (2 shared with Cannon Hill)
Trinity	3
Village	0
West Barnes	0
Wimbledon Park	4

APPENDIX B - SITE PLAY VALUE

Site Name	Number of play items	Play Value Score (Out of 77)	Ward
Abbey Rec	9	33	Abbey
All Saints Rec	10	35	Trinity
Armfield Crescent	9	42	Figges Marsh
Brenley PF	4	26	Cricket Green
Canons Rec	7	40	Cricket Green
Colliers Wood Rec 1	12	48	Colliers Wood
Colliers Wood 2	4	19	Colliers Wood
Cottenham Park	16	50	Raynes Park
Donnelly Green	18	51	Pollards Hill
Dundonald Rec	13	58	Dundonald
Durnsford Rec	10	36	Wimbledon Park
Edenvale Open Space	14	45	Graveney
Garfield Rec	12	43	Trinity
Haydons Road Rec	11	44	Trinity
Joseph Hood Rec 1	7	26	Cannon Hill
Joseph Hood Rec 2	13	37	Cannon Hill
King Georges PF	14	50	Lower Morden
Lavender Park 1	7	40	Lavender Fields
Lavender Park 2	9	44	Lavender Fields
Lewis Road Rec	10	45	Lavender Fields
Long Bolstead Rec	11	43	Longthornton
London Road PF	7	27	Cricket Green
Miles Road	6	21	Cricket Green
Morden Park 1	7	33	St Helier / Cannon Hill
Morden Park 2	5	29	St Helier / Cannon Hill
Morden Rec	17	40	St Helier
Moreton Green	6	31	Ravensbury
Mostyn Gardens	17	51	Merton Park
Oakleigh Way	12	37	Longthornton
Pitt Crescent	4	18	Wimbledon Park
Pollards Hill Rec 1	5	30	Pollards Hill
Pollards Hill Rec 2	6	39	Pollards Hill
Ravensbury Park	12	59	Ravensbury
Rock Terrace	20	50	Cricket Green
Rowan Road Rec	12	47	Longthornton
Sherwood Rec	5	25	Pollards Hill
Sir Joseph Hood MPF	13	57	West Barnes
Stanford Road	9	36	Longthornton
Tamworth Rec	12	56	Figge's Marsh
Wandle Park	10	38	Colliers Wood
Wimbledon Park 1	10	51	Wimbledon Park
Wimbledon Park 2	8	40	Wimbledon Park

APPENDIX C - SUMMARY OF SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES IN MERTON'S PARKS

Site Name	MUGA	Tennis	Table Tennis	Bowls	Paddling Pool	Outdoor Gym	Crazy Golf	Other	Pitches	Area
Abbey Rec	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	x1 Cricket & x2 Football	Morden
Brenley PF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Trim Trail items	N/A	Mitcham
Cannizaro Park	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Bird Aviary, Artist Studios	N/A	Wimbledon
Canons Rec	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	Separate leisure centre on site & historical house	x3 Little League Football	Mitcham
Colliers Wood Rec	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	N/A	x2 Little League Football, Softball	Mitcham
Commons Extension	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	x9 Football	Wimbledon
Cottenham Park	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	x1 Cricket	Wimbledon
Donnelly Green	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	N/A	N/A	Mitcham
Dundonald Rec	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	N/A	x2 Cricket & x3 Football	Wimbledon
Durnsford Rec	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	Wimbledon
Edenvale Open Space	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	Mitcham
Figges Marsh	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	N/A	N/A	Mitcham
Garfield Rec	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	Wimbledon
Haydons Road Rec	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	N/A	x1 Cricket & x1 Lacrosse	Wimbledon
Holland Gardens	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	Wimbledon
John Innes Park	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	Croquet Green	N/A	Morden
John Innes Rec	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	Cricket	Morden
Joseph Hood Rec	1	3	1	1	1	0	0	N/A	x1 Cricket & x3 Football, x5 Little League Football	Morden
King Georges PF	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	N/A	x3 Football, x1 Cricket, x8 Little League Football	Morden

Lavender Park	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	x1 Football	Mitcham
Lewis Road Rec	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	Mitcham
Morden Park	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	N/A	N/A	Morden
Morden Park Sports Ground	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	x1 Cricket	Morden
Morden Rec	1	3	1	0	0	1	0	N/A	x3 Rugby, x3Football x1 cricket	Morden
Mostyn Gardens	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	N/A	N/A	Morden
Nelson Gardens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	Community Garden	Morden
Nursery Road PF	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	x1 Cricket, x3 Football	Morden
Oakleigh Way	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	N/A	N/A	Mitcham
Pollards Hill Rec	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	Skate Park	N/A	Mitcham
Ravensbury Park	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	N/A	N/A	Mitcham
Raynes Park Sports Ground	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	N/A	x1 Badminton, x3 Cricket, x3 Rugby x1 Football	Wimbledon
Rock Terrace	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	Mitcham
Rowan Road Rec	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	N/A	N/A	Mitcham
Sherwood Rec	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	N/A	Mitcham
Sir Joseph Hood MPF	1	4	1	0	1	1	1	N/A	x1 Australian Rules Football, x4 Football & x4 Little League Football	Morden
Tamworth Rec	1	5	0	0	1	0	0	N/A	N/A	Mitcham
Three Kings Piece & Pond	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	x3 Football	Mitcham
Wimbledon Park	0	20	0	1	1	0	1	Volleyball, Sailing & Water sports, Running Track,	x1 Athletics track, x2 Touch Rugby & x1 Football	Wimbledon
	22	64	8	6	8	11	2			

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Committee: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 4th July 2017

Wards: All

Subject: Update report on Phase C contract (waste, street cleaning and grounds maintenance)

Lead officer: Graeme Kane, Assistant Director, Public Space

Lead member: Cllr Ross Garrod and Cllr Nick Draper

Contact officer: Graeme Kane, Assistant Director, Public Space

Recommendations:

A. Members are asked discuss and comment on the contents of the update report.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report is to update Members on the start of the new contracts procured by Waste Services through the South London Waste Partnership (SLWP). The procurement was commonly known as Phase C and included two lots. Lot 1 for waste collection and street cleaning services. Lot 2 for greenspaces and grounds maintenance. Lot was awarded to Veolia whilst Lot 2 was awarded to iDVerde.
- 1.2. The contracts have started successfully with little disruption for residents and customers. There have been some isolated issues relating to missed collections and street cleaning but these are being managed by the client team in conjunction with the contractors. A further, more detailed report, is intended for the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel in November 2017. It can also be arranged for either contractor to attend future Panel meetings to provide updates on contract performance.
- 1.3. Further work is being undertaken to prepare for the roll out of the new waste collection service in October 2018. The intention is for these plans to be the subject of scrutiny by the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel in February 2018.

2 DETAILS

2.1. Mobilisation

- 2.2. The new waste collection and street cleaning services delivered by Veolia began on 3rd April. Over the previous weekend Veolia implemented their operational model including: new uniforms; training; some new vehicles; livery for new and existing vehicles; installing ICT to the depot and in-cab technology; and preparing the depot for their operations. The service was delivered from the first day without any delays or disruptions to normal waste collection and street cleaning operations. Both the LBM Waste Contracting and Commissioning Manager and Assistant Director for Public Space were

at the depot from 5am to support the roll-out and demonstrate LBM's continued commitment and interest in the service.

2.3. iDVerde began delivering the new grounds maintenance contract on 1st February. This roll out went equally well with the new provider delivering their services without disruption.

2.4. **Contract Management**

2.5. Ahead of 1st April, a new division called Public Space, led by a new Assistant Director, was created to provide the client function which manages and monitors the new contracts.

2.6. Given the contracts were successfully procured in partnership through the South London Waste Partnership (SLWP), formal contract management is carried out by the SLWP with the close involvement of the individual borough teams. Regular contract meetings are held together with daily liaison by the client teams to resolve specific issues and continually improve working practices. There is a strong ethos of partnership working between the client and contract teams to deliver high quality services for our residents. The commitment and approach of the Veolia and iDVerde Contract Managers and their teams has been encouraging for a successful partnership and contract.

2.7. **Neighbourhood Client Officers (NCOs)**

2.8. A new team of three Neighbourhood Client Officers (NCOs) forms part of the Public Space division. The NCOs are responsible for monitoring and managing the new contracts on a daily basis. Each NCO is responsible for monitoring performance and resolving issues in their allocated wards. The NCO team have settled in very well and have become familiar with their wards and the local issues within them. They are also getting to know their ward Members, resident's groups and other stakeholders through regular communication and site visits. They are also building strong relationships with their counterparts within Veolia and iDVerde so they can resolve issues in partnership.

2.9. **Summary of performance: Veolia**

2.10. **Residential waste collection:** There have been no major service disruptions since the new operation began and on the whole, residential waste collections have gone well. The crews are operating to the same routes and the collection schedules have not changed. Owing to the new in-cab technology, together with the new reporting function on the LBM website, more accurate data is becoming available. This will enable missed collections and households not presenting waste on the day or time of collection to be identified more easily. This information is being used to target any failures to collect waste and continually improve the service.

2.11. The garden waste service has been operating well for the circa 8,000 customers and the number of members continues to rise. However, there is evidence of missed collections, some of which are repeat misses, which, once reported by the resident, are investigated to rectify the immediate error and resolve any underlying problem. This remains a focus for the team and in-depth analysis of repeated missed collections is being carried out to identify issues before they escalate.

- 2.12. **Street cleaning:** The contract is based on a required standard of cleanliness across the borough rather than on a required frequency. The contract requires all streets to be maintained to the required level and for Veolia to return any failing streets to this level within 2 hours of notification in a town centre and 24 hours in a residential road.
- 2.13. Monitoring and inspections, together with reports from residents and Members, indicate that the standard of street cleanliness in the town centres has improved since the new contract. Some residential streets are also looking better but there are some pockets where concern remains. These streets are under close monitoring and the focus of attention for the NCO team. Veolia are responding well to these concerns.
- 2.14. Following some initial teething problems with litter bins being emptied regularly, they are now being emptied according to the required specification. The contract requires a full or overflowing litter bin to be emptied within two hours of being reported. Cleansing of the town centre litter bins (required quarterly) began at the end of June, specifically ahead of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships.
- 2.15. Green street cleaning sacks were causing some concern when they were being left out overnight, which should not be the case. This was raised with Veolia and improvements have been noted.
- 2.16. The number of recorded fly-tips across the borough has increased significantly since March. This is unlikely to reflect a significant increase in incidents and is much more likely to be a result of improved reporting and data capture by the new in-cab technology. Monitoring of fly tip clearance has indicated that the majority are being cleared within the required 24-hour response period. However, there have been some disappointing instances where this has not been the case. This is being addressed with Veolia. The NCOs are also working closely with the LBM Environmental Enforcement Team to address fly-tipping through communication with residents, in-depth investigation of fly-tipped material and issuing of enforcement notices.
- 2.17. **Commercial Waste Service:** The commercial waste service delivered by Veolia is operated by a separate team to the residential service. All administration and customer service for the service should be carried out directly by Veolia. The contract is structured in such a way that LBM should have little or no involvement in the delivery of this service.
- 2.18. Of the circa 8000 customers, the vast majority have received their scheduled service. However, there has been some disruption to this service owing to a change of crew and driver personnel which has left gaps in knowledge about the collection rounds and location of bins at individual businesses. Following the Easter holidays, nine of the 108 schools on the service experienced difficulties together with some community centres. This was rectified with significant involvement of the client team. Disappointingly, there are some isolated incidents of repeated missed collections which the client team is resolving with the Veolia Commercial Manager and liaising with the businesses or organisations affected. Some customers have also raised concerns about the difficulty in contacting the commercial service contact centre operated by Veolia which has been raised through formal contract

management channels. This continues to be a focus of monitoring and management by the client team.

- 2.19. **Integration with Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system:**
The contract with Veolia provides the opportunity to integrate their operational management system (Echo) with LBM's CRM. The client team have access to all the data in Echo, which is updated in real time by the collection and street cleaning team as well as the office-based supervisors. For example, a report of a missed bin entered by a resident through LBM's website can be delivered to a driver within minutes and they can return to the missed bin before returning to the depot. This speeds up response times and reduces administrative overheads.
- 2.20. The system also enables easier and more accurate reporting by the crews and by residents which generates useful data for monitoring and management purposes.
- 2.21. **Summary of performance: iDVerde**
- 2.22. The summer is a demanding time for parks maintenance and grass cutting. However, iDVerde have successfully delivered a high quality of parks and grounds maintenance across the borough. There are very few concerns reported in relation to grass cutting or litter in the borough's parks.
- 2.23. Work is on-going to fully integrate the ICT systems related to booking pitches and park's venues as well as enabling residents to report park related issues through the LBM website. In the meantime, residents are able to make bookings and to report issues through the existing channels.
- 2.24. **Ways for the public to report incidents**
- 2.25. Residents, and Members, are able to report incidents or service failures in a range of ways.
- 2.26. They can use the Report It function on the LBM website:
<http://www.merton.gov.uk/doitonline/report-it.htm>
- 2.27. The website enables residents to report easily a range of service requests including:
- Missed recycling or waste collection
 - Litter and street cleaning problems
 - Abandoned cars
 - Graffiti
 - Fly-tipping
- 2.28. Residents can also telephone the Merton Council Contact Centre: 020 8274 4901.
- 2.29. By using these channels, the reports reach the contractor and client team as quickly as possible so problems can be solved as efficiently and effectively as possible. This also ensures all resident reports are logged in CRM and any repeat issues can be identified before they become bigger problems.
- 2.30. **New waste collection service roll-out in October 2018**

2.31. Plans to roll out the new waste collection service will begin in earnest in the coming weeks. This will be a project that is developed in partnership with Veolia and LBM. It will include a stakeholder engagement plan together with a robust communication plan together with the usual rigour associated with good project management. There is a great deal to consider including the different housing types across the borough which will influence the type of waste collection solution to be offered. The delivery of bins and any phasing of the start dates will be carefully considered by the project team. It is the intention for the roll out plans to be the subject of scrutiny by the Environment Scrutiny Panel in March 2018. It can be arranged for a representative of Veolia to attend the meeting to present their plans for the roll out.

2.32. **Lessons from London Borough of Sutton**

2.33. The roll out of the service in Sutton has attracted a great deal of attention. Their experience was a result of their specific situation which included: the need to deliver new boxes to all households; introduction of a food waste service; and the timing of the roll out which coincided with the mobilisation of a new contract and the integration of the new ICT systems. Whilst the situation in LBM will be very different, lessons from Sutton's experience are being gathered and analysed through the SLWP and will inform LBM's plans.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1. No decisions are required as a result of this report.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1. No formal consultation was undertaken to produce this report.

5 TIMETABLE

5.1. Further updates on the contracts are within the proposed Forward Plan for the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. There are no implications as a result of this update report. Any financial, resource and property implications are managed as part of the usual contract management procedures already in place.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. There are no implications as a result of this update report. Any legal and statutory implications are managed as part of the usual contract management procedures already in place.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1. There are no implications as a result of this update report. Implications for equalities and diversity are considered as part of the usual operation and delivery of the waste and street cleaning services.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. There are no implications as a result of this update report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. There are no implications as a result of this update report. Health and safety considerations and risks managed as part of the usual operation and delivery of the waste and street cleaning services.

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

11.1. No appendices are included.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1. No specific background papers relate to this report.

Committee: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 4 July 2017

Wards: All

Subject: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2017/18

Lead officer: Annette Wiles, Scrutiny Officer

Lead member: Cllr Abigail Jones, Chair of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Contact officer: Annette Wiles: annette.wiles@merton.gov.uk, 020 8545 4035

Recommendations:

That members of Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

- i. Consider their work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year, and agree issues and items for inclusion (see draft in Appendix 1);
 - ii. Consider the methods by which the Panel would like to scrutinise the issues/items agreed;
 - iii. Identify a Member to lead on performance monitoring on behalf of the Panel;
 - iv. Identify a Member to lead on budget scrutiny on behalf of the Panel;
 - v. Agree on an issue for scrutiny by a task group and appoint members to the Task Group;
 - vi. Consider the appointment of co-opted members for the 2017/18 municipal year, to sit on the Panel and/or on the Task Group;
 - vii. Consider whether they wish to make visits to local sites; and
 - viii. Identify any training and support needs.
-

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to support and advise Members to determine their work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year.
- 1.2 This report sets out the following information to assist Members in this process:
 - a) The principles of effective scrutiny and the criteria against which work programme items should be considered;
 - b) The roles and responsibilities of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel;
 - c) The findings of the consultation programme undertaken with councillors and co-opted members, Council senior management, voluntary and community sector organisations, partner organisations and Merton residents;
 - d) A summary of discussion by councillors and co-opted members at a topic selection workshop held on 20 June 2017; and

e) Support available to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel to determine, develop and deliver its 2017/18 work programme.

2. **Determining the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel Annual Work Programme**

- 2.1 Members are required to determine their work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year to give focus and structure to scrutiny activity to ensure that it effectively and efficiently supports and challenges the decision-making processes of the Council, and partner organisations, for the benefit of the people of Merton.
- 2.2 The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel has a specific role relating to housing, environmental sustainability, culture, enterprise and skills, libraries and transport scrutiny and to performance monitoring that should automatically be built into their work programmes.
- 2.3 The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel may choose to scrutinise a range of issues through a combination of pre-decision scrutiny items, policy development, performance monitoring, information updates and follow up to previous scrutiny work. Any call-in work will be programmed into the corporate calendar as required.
- 2.4 The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel has six scheduled meetings over the course of 2017/18, including the scheduled budget meeting (representing a maximum of 18 hours of scrutiny per year – assuming 3 hours per meeting). Members will therefore need to be selective in their choice of items for the work programme.

Principles guiding the development of the scrutiny work programme

- 2.5 The following key principles of effective scrutiny should be considered when the Commission determines its work programme:
- **Be selective** – There is a need to prioritise so that high priority issues are scrutinised given the limited number of scheduled meetings and time available. Members should consider what can realistically and properly be reviewed at each meeting, taking into account the time needed to scrutinise each item and what the session is intended to achieve.
 - **Add value with scrutiny** – Items should have the potential to ‘add value’ to the work of the council and its partners. If it is not clear what the intended outcomes or impact of a review will be then Members should consider if there are issues of a higher priority that could be scrutinised instead.
 - **Be ambitious** – The Panel should not shy away from carrying out scrutiny of issues that are of local concern, whether or not they are the primary responsibility of the council. The Local Government Act 2000 gave local authorities the power to do anything to promote economic, social and environmental well being of local communities. Subsequent Acts have conferred specific powers to scrutinise health services, crime and disorder issues and to hold partner organisations to account.

- **Be flexible** – Members are reminded that there needs to be a degree of flexibility in their work programme to respond to unforeseen issues/items for consideration/comment during the year and accommodate any developmental or additional work that falls within the remit of this Panel. For example Members may wish to question officers regarding the declining performance of a service or may choose to respond to a Councillor Call for Action request.
- **Think about the timing** – Members should ensure that the scrutiny activity is timely and that, where appropriate, their findings and recommendations inform wider corporate developments or policy development cycles at a time when they can have most impact. Members should seek to avoid duplication of work carried out elsewhere.

Models for carrying out scrutiny work

2.6 There are a number of means by which the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel can deliver its work programme. Members should consider which of the following options is most appropriate to undertake each of the items they have selected for inclusion in the work programme:

Item on a scheduled meeting agenda/ hold an extra meeting of the Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Panel can agree to add an item to the agenda for a meeting and call Cabinet Members/ Officers/Partners to the meeting to respond to questioning on the matter ■ A variation of this model could be a one-day seminar-scrutiny of issues that, although important, do not merit setting up a 'task-and-finish' group.
Task Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A small group of Members meet outside of the scheduled meetings to gather information on the subject area, visit other local authorities/sites, and speak to service users, expert witnesses and/or Officers/Partners. The Task Group can then report back to the Commission with their findings to endorse the submission of their recommendations to Cabinet/Council ■ This is the method usually used to carry out policy reviews
The Panel asks for a report then takes a view on action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Panel may need more information before taking a view on whether to carry out a full review so asks for a report – either from the service department or from the Scrutiny Team – to give them more details.
Meeting with service Officer/Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A Member (or small group of Members) has a meeting with service officers/Partners to discuss concerns or raise queries. ■ If the Member is not satisfied with the outcome or believes that the Panel needs to have a more in-depth review of the matter they take it back to the Panel for discussion
Individual Members doing some initial research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A member with a specific concern carries out some research to gain more information on the matter and then brings his/her findings to the attention of the Panel if s/he still has concerns. ■ A new model of scrutiny review has recently been developed and trialled; a rapporteur review where an individual member undertakes a review with the

2.7 Note that, in order to keep agendas to a manageable size, and to focus on items to which the Panel can make a direct contribution, the Panel may choose to take some “information only” items outside of Panel meetings, for example by email.

Support available for scrutiny activity

2.8 The Overview and Scrutiny function has dedicated scrutiny support from the Scrutiny Team to:

- Work with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Panel to manage the work programme and coordinate the agenda, including advising officers and partner organisations on information required and guidance for witnesses submitting evidence to a scrutiny review;
- Provide support for scrutiny members through briefing papers, background material, training and development seminars, etc;
- Facilitate and manage the work of the task and finish groups, including research, arranging site visits, inviting and briefing witnesses and drafting review reports on behalf on the Chair; and
- Promote the scrutiny function across the organisation and externally.

2.9 The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel will need to assess how it can best utilise the available support from the Scrutiny Team to deliver its work programme for 2017/18.

2.10 The Panel is also invited to comment on any briefing, training and support that is needed to enable Members to undertake their work programme. Members may also wish to undertake visits to local services in order to familiarise themselves with these. Such visits should be made with the knowledge of the Chair and will be organised by the Scrutiny Team.

2.11 The Scrutiny Team will take the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel’s views on board in developing the support that is provided.

2.12 This year, in response to the results of the scrutiny annual survey, the Scrutiny Team will also explore with chairs and vice chairs the use of external experts and the quality of evidence provided to Panels to understand what else might be done to improve the use of both. This will be done as part of the work programme process.

3. Selecting items for the Scrutiny Work Programme

3.1 The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel sets its own agenda within the scope of its terms of reference. It has the following remit:

- Housing, including housing need, affordable housing and private sector housing;
- Environmental sustainability, including energy, waste management, parks and open spaces and the built environment;
- Culture, including tourism, museums, arts, sports and leisure;
- Enterprise and skills, including regeneration, employment, adult education and libraries; and

- Transport.

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Team has undertaken a campaign to gather suggestions for issues to scrutinise either as agenda items or task group reviews. Suggestions have been received from members of the public, councillors and partner organisations including the police, NHS and Merton Voluntary Service Council. Issues that have been raised repeatedly at Community Forums have also been included. The Scrutiny Team has consulted departmental management teams in order to identify forthcoming issues on which the Panel could contribute to the policymaking process.
- 3.2 A description of all the suggestions received is set out in Appendix 2.
- 3.3 The councillors who attended a “topic selection” workshop on 20 June 2017 discussed these suggestions. Suggestions were prioritised at the workshop using the criteria listed in Appendix 3. In particular, participants sought to identify issues that related to the Council’s strategic priorities or where there was underperformance; issues of public interest or concern and issues where scrutiny could make a difference.
- 3.4 A note of the workshop discussion relating to the remit of the Panel is set out in Appendix 4.
- 3.5 Appendix 1 contains a draft work programme that has been drawn up, taking the workshop discussion into account, for the consideration of the Panel. The Panel is requested to discuss this draft and agree any changes that it wishes to make.
- 4. Task group reviews**
- 4.1 The Panel is invited to select an issue for in-depth scrutiny and establish a task group.
- 5. Co-option to the Panel membership**
- 5.1 Scrutiny Panels can consider whether to appoint non-statutory (non-voting) co-optees to the membership, in order to add to the specific knowledge, expertise and understanding of key issues to aid the scrutiny function. Panels may also wish to consider whether it may be helpful to co-opt people from “seldom heard” groups.
- 6. Public involvement**
- 6.1 Scrutiny provides extensive opportunities for community involvement and democratic accountability. Engagement with service users and with the general public can help to improve the quality, legitimacy and long-term viability of recommendations made by the Panel.
- 6.2 Service users and the public bring different perspectives, experiences and solutions to scrutiny, particularly if “seldom heard” groups such as young people, disabled people, people from black and minority ethnic communities and people from lesbian gay bisexual and transgender communities are included.

- 6.3 This engagement will help the Panel to understand the service user's perspective on individual services and on co-ordination between services. Views can be heard directly through written or oral evidence or heard indirectly through making use of existing sources of information, for example from surveys. From time to time the Panel/Task Group may wish to carry out engagement activities of its own, by holding discussion groups or sending questionnaires on particular issues of interest.
- 6.4 Much can be learnt from best practice already developed in Merton and elsewhere. The Scrutiny Team will be able to help the Panel to identify the range of stakeholders from which it may wish to seek views and the best way to engage with particular groups within the community.

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 7.1 A number of issues highlighted in this report recommend that Panel members take into account certain considerations when setting their work programme for 2017/18. The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel is free to determine its work programme as it sees fit. Members may therefore choose to identify a work programme that does not take into account these considerations. This is not advised as ignoring the issues raised would either conflict with good practice and/or principles endorsed in the Review of Scrutiny, or could mean that adequate support would not be available to carry out the work identified for the work programme.
- 7.2 A range of suggestions from the public, partner organisations, officers and Members for inclusion in the scrutiny work programme are set out in the appendices, together with a suggested approach to determining which to include in the work programme. Members may choose to respond differently. However, in doing so, Members should be clear about expected outcomes, how realistic expectations are and the impact of their decision on their wider work programme and support time. Members are also free to incorporate into their work programme any other issues they think should be subject to scrutiny over the course of the year, with the same considerations in mind.

8. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 8.1 To assist Members to identify priorities for inclusion in the Panel's work programme, the Scrutiny Team has undertaken a campaign to gather suggestions for possible scrutiny reviews from a number of sources:
- a. Members of the public have been approached using the following tools: articles in the local press, My Merton and Merton Together, request for suggestions from all councillors and co-opted members, letters to partner organisations and to a range of local voluntary and community organisations, including those involved in the Inter-Faith Forum and members of the Lesbian Gay and Transgender Forum;
 - b. Councillors have put forward suggestions by raising issues in scrutiny meetings, via the Overview and Scrutiny Member Survey 2017, and by contacting the Scrutiny Team direct; and
 - c. Officers have been consulted via discussion at departmental management team meetings.

9. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are none specific to this report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the financial, resource and property issues relating to the topic being scrutinised. Furthermore, scrutiny work will also need to assess the implications of any recommendations made to Cabinet, including specific financial, resource and property implications.

10. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Overview and scrutiny bodies operate within the provisions set out in the Local Government Act 2000, the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 10.2 Scrutiny work involves consideration of the legal and statutory issues relating to the topic being scrutinised. Furthermore, scrutiny work will also need to assess the implications of any recommendations made to Cabinet, including specific legal and statutory implications.

11. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engagement. The reviews will involve work to consult local residents, community and voluntary sector groups, businesses, hard to reach groups, partner organisations etc and the views gathered will be fed into the review.
- 11.2 Scrutiny work involves consideration of the human rights, equalities and community cohesion issues relating to the topic being scrutinised. Furthermore, scrutiny work will also need to assess the implications of any recommendations made to Cabinet, including specific human rights, equalities and community cohesion implications.

12. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 In line with the requirements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Police and Justice Act 2006, all Council departments must have regard to the impact of services on crime, including anti-social behaviour and drugs. Scrutiny review reports will therefore highlight any implications arising from the reviews relating to crime and disorder as necessary.

13. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 There are none specific to this report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the risk management and health and safety issues relating to the topic being scrutinised. Furthermore, scrutiny work will also need to assess the implications of any recommendations made to Cabinet, including specific risk management and health and safety implications.

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

- 14.1 Appendix I – Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel draft work programme 2017/18

- 14.2 Appendix 2 – Summary of topics relating to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel’s remit suggested for inclusion in the scrutiny work programme
 - 14.3 Appendix 3 – Selecting a Scrutiny Topic – criteria used at the workshop on 20 June 2017
 - 14.4 Appendix 4 – Notes from discussion of topics relating to the remit of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel, Scrutiny Topic Selection Workshop on 20 June 2017
- 15. BACKGROUND PAPERS**
- 15.1 None

Draft work programme 2017/18

Meeting date – 4 July 2017

Item/Issue
Merton's response to the Grenfell Tower fire – update report
Cabinet Member priorities (Community and Culture/Regeneration, Environment and Housing)
Performance monitoring
Facilities for physical activity in children's playgrounds – update report
South London Waste Partnership: Phase C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update report • Ride-along report back
Setting the scrutiny work programme 2017/18
Task group - scoping

Meeting date – 5 September 2017

Cabinet Member priorities (Street Cleanliness and Parking)
Performance monitoring
Public space protection orders - briefing
Commercialisation task group – action plan review
Housing deep dive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision for care leavers and homeless in borough • Progress against the housing supply task group recommendations • Safety issues (Clarion Housing Group) • Local Authority Property Co presentation
Work programme

PTLC: scheduled for 17 October 2017

Meeting date – 2 November 2017

Performance monitoring
Budget/business planning - round 1
South London Waste Partnership – Phase C performance monitoring
Local plan – pre-decision scrutiny
Morden re-development – pre-decision scrutiny
Air quality task group – draft final report
Work programme

Meeting date - 10 January 2018

Performance monitoring
Budget/business planning - round 2
Clarion Housing Group – Q&A with Clarion representatives
Adult education - annual report
Work programme

Meeting date - 21 February 2018

Performance monitoring
Libraries and heritage - annual report
South London Waste Partnership – Phase C new service provision
Walking and cycling routes – update report/consultation feedback
Development and planning control – update report
New task group - draft final report
Work programme

Meeting date – 20 March 2018

Performance monitoring
Highways and maintenance – pre-decision scrutiny of contract renewal
Town centre regeneration - presentation
Commercialisation task group - action plan review
Air quality task group – Cabinet response and action plan
Diesel levy implementation – update report
Merton Abbey Mills – update report
Work programme

TBC (as required):

- Leisure centres
- Wimbledon and Crossrail2

Topic suggestions received in relation to the remit of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel 2017/18

The following topics have been suggested by residents, members and officers:

- Budget/business planning
- Cabinet Member priorities
- Performance monitoring
- Mayor of London's plans
- Implementation of the recommendations of the Commercialisation task group
- Air quality
- Congestion/traffic hot spots
- Diesel levy implementation
- Walking/cycling routes
- Care leavers and young people accommodation
- Clarion Housing Group
- Housing and homelessness
- Crossovers
- Parking
- Library and Heritage Service annual report
- Merton Adult Education update report
- Facilities for physical activity in children's playgrounds
- Leisure centres
- Public space protection plans
- Public toilets
- South London Waste Partnership
- Development and planning control
- Highways contract
- Local Plan
- Tourism
- Town centre regeneration
- Wimbledon and Crossrail2
- WimbleTech
- Environmental health, trading standards and licensing shared service

BUDGET/BUSINESS PLANNING	
Who suggested it?	This is a standing, annually returning item.
Summary	<p>Members are asked to consider all aspects of the budget that relate to the appropriate elements of the departmental budgets for Community & Housing and Environment & Regeneration. This can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to previously agreed savings; • New departmental saving proposals; • Budget growth proposals; • The resulting impact on the Medium Term Financial Strategy; and • Relevant service plans.

Scrutiny type	Pre-decision scrutiny
Timing	This takes place in two rounds; <u>2 November 2017 and 10 January 2018</u> (agreed)
Guidance	<p>Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services, will provide training before the January meeting giving a detailed guide to the Medium Term Financial Strategy. <u>All members are encouraged to attend.</u> This includes those who have attended previously as guidance is provided on the current financial position.</p> <p>Guidance is also available produced by the Local Government Association: Scrutiny of finance – Councillor workbook.</p>
Expert(s)	Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services, will attend both meetings.

CABINET MEMBER PRIORITIES	
Who suggested it?	This is a standing annual (possibly bi-annual) item.
Summary	<p>The Cabinet Members for Community and Culture, Regeneration, Environment and Housing and Cleanliness and Parking to present their priorities and progress against these to the Panel and provide the opportunity for Panel members to ask questions.</p>
Scrutiny type	Executive oversight
Timing	<u>4 July 2017</u> (agreed) - also possibly at 10 January 2018 meeting for an update

PERFORMANCE MONITORING	
Who suggested it?	This is a standing item, taken at every meeting.
Summary	<p>The performance report features a range of key performance indicators from the Environment & Regeneration and Community & Housing Departments. This therefore acts as a health check for the Panel and as such is over and above the more detailed thematic reports scheduled to the Panel.</p> <p><u>In accordance with the accepted recommendations contained in the commercialisation task group report, the Panel should receive performance reports from the Environment and Regeneration Department following large scale events.</u></p>
Scrutiny type	Performance monitoring
Timing	<u>Taken every meeting (agreed).</u>
Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting financial and performance management information to good use (Centre for Public Scrutiny) • Performance management – councillor workbook (Local Government Association) • Using evidence in scrutiny: Centre for Public Scrutiny

Expert(s)	Every year the Panel can decide to appoint a lead member for monitoring performance data who will work closely with officers to build their understanding of the data and drive the effectiveness of performance monitoring. It is within the Panel's gift to determine whether or not to appoint a performance lead for this year and then for them to determine how they may wish to work in order to support the Panel in this aspect of its work.
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MAYOR OF LONDON'S PLANS	
Who suggested it?	Members of the Environment & Regeneration Departmental Management Team
Summary	<p>The Mayor of London sets the overall vision for London including creating plans and policies for the capital that relate to the remit of the Panel including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business and economy; • Environment; • Housing and land; • Planning; • Regeneration; and • Transport <p>It has been recommended by members of the Environment & Regeneration Departmental Management Team that the Panel review these to understand more about how they affect Merton and its strategic direction and policies. Panel members could request an update report from officers to make this possible or include these where relevant in other agreed agenda items.</p>
Scrutiny type	Scrutiny review/update report
Timing	TBC
Expert(s)	Leonie Cooper, London Assembly Member for Merton and Wandsworth.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMERCIALISATION TASK GROUP	
Who suggested it?	This is the completion of an item from last year's work programme.
Summary	The task group's report was accepted by Cabinet (December 2016) and a departmental action plan on how to achieve the recommendations was received by the Panel in February 2017 (here – item 8). A report of progress against the action plan is due during this municipal year (one of the recommendations of the task group is for the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel to have a focus on commercial activity annually). Many of the recommendations

	need to be actioned before April 2018 and therefore it may be appropriate to review progress against the action plan twice during this municipal year.
Scrutiny type	Scrutiny review (task group)
Timing	<u>5 September 2017 (agreed)</u> and possibly on one further occasion before the end of the municipal year.

AIR QUALITY	
Who suggested it?	This is the completion of an item from last year's work programme.
Summary	<p>In September 2016, the Panel commissioned a task group to look at how to improve air quality in Merton. This is very timely as it coincides with the review of the Merton Air Quality Action Plan. The task group is focusing on the role of the planning system, reducing pollution at construction sites as well as how to make effective use of monitoring and enforcement. It is also considering strategic leadership to improve air quality across south west London. The draft final task group report will be presented to the Panel at its meeting in September 2017 for approval. This will then go to Cabinet for approval and/or comment after which an action plan to deliver any recommendations in the report will be presented to the Panel in March 2018.</p> <p>Several representations have been received about air quality from both residents and members as part of this year's topic suggestion process. These focus on how traffic management may be making air quality worse. These have been forwarded to the task group for its consideration and are also picked-up under the congestion item below. However, given the number of representations, including from members, the Panel will need to consider if the work of the task group is sufficient for this issue for this municipal year.</p>
Scrutiny type	Task group
Timing	<u>5 September 2017</u> – final report (agreed) and <u>20 March 2018</u> – action plan.

CONGESTION/TRAFFIC HOT SPOTS	
Who suggested it?	Panel members
Summary	<p>Congestion on Merton's roads can have a negative impact in terms of both economic and social costs. These costs can damage the competitiveness and attractiveness of Merton as a place to live. It also affects air quality which has been established as a factor in thousands of deaths each year in the UK.</p> <p>Whilst the Air Quality Task Group is looking at this with regard to the impact of congestion on public health, Panel members</p>

	<p>feel there is a need to look at this more broadly.</p> <p>Members could request an update paper to be provided by officers to establish the extent of congestion in the borough and what action is being taken by the Council to address and lessen the impact. This might also lend itself to a deep-dive activity.</p>
Scrutiny type	Executive oversight (potentially a scrutiny review through a deep-dive)
Guidance	None provided
Guest(s)	Representatives of Transport for London which is responsible for red routes through the borough.
Expert(s)	Caroline Pidgeon MBE, London Assembly Member and Chair of the Assembly Transport Committee. This undertook an enquiry into the future of road congestion in London in 2011.

DIESEL LEVY IMPLEMENTATION	
Who suggested it?	This is a continuation of the Panel's previous work on the diesel levy which includes pre-decision scrutiny and a call-in.
Summary	<p>A levy charge for all diesel vehicles that have a Resident, Business or Trade parking permit will be implemented through a three year phased programme starting in 2017/18. The objective of the scheme is to improve local air quality and consequently improve health outcomes. During the last municipal year, the Sustainable Communities Panel undertook pre-decision scrutiny of this policy, with the Panel's input resulting in a phased approach to the implementation of the policy. An initial call-in of the decision was heard by the Commission and a subsequent call-in was heard by the Panel.</p> <p>Minutes of the Panel's pre-decision scrutiny of the levy can be found here. Minutes of the two call-ins can respectively be found here and here.</p> <p>The Panel's on-going involvement will be to monitor the implementation and consider whether there is any evidence to demonstrate that the policy is beginning to have an impact on desired outcomes.</p>
Scrutiny type	Executive oversight/performance monitoring
Timing	TBC
Guidance	Using evidence in scrutiny : Centre for Public Scrutiny

WALKING/CYCLING ROUTES	
Who suggested it?	A Panel member through the scrutiny topic suggestion process.
Summary	The member has requested a review of cycling and walking options in Merton in order to understand what can be done to

	<p>improve take-up of these transport options and to encourage a modal shift in behaviours.</p> <p>This would provide the opportunity to address a resident representation made through the scrutiny topic suggestion process on road traffic accident hotspots for pedestrians and cyclist.</p> <p>The public health team might also be consulted on this item to provide the Panel with an overview of its work on encouraging use of other methods of travel that have health benefits.</p>
Scrutiny type	Scrutiny review (task group or individual rapporteur review)
Timing	TBC
Guest(s)	Representative from Brake, the road safety charity.
Expert(s)	Gavin Baxter, Programme Manager Cycle Blackpool (this initiative established that low levels of cycling in Blackpool weren't to do with road safety issues by low levels of bike ownership and ill-health/injuries. The Council leveraged in external funding to establish Cycle Blackpool and address these issues).

CARE LEAVERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE ACCOMMODATION	
Who suggested it?	Members of the Children and Young People Panel resolved at their meeting in March 2017 to consider accommodation for care leavers in partnership with the Sustainable Communities Panel supported by officers from the Children, Schools & Families, Community & Housing and Environment & Regeneration Departments either as a deep dive session at a Panel meeting or through a task group.
Summary	Members of the Children and Young People Panel received a joint report from the Children, Schools & Families and Community & Housing departments on accommodation for care leavers at their meeting in March 2017. This highlighted that existing housing provision isn't sufficient given current and growing numbers of care leavers. The need to work in partnership with the Community & Housing Department and <i>futureMerton</i> to generate supply was highlighted including options such as reconfiguring existing stock, larger shared accommodation and use of the private rented sector (minutes of this discussion are here). (It has been noted that access to accommodation isn't just an issue for care leavers and that this issues might be considered more broadly – see the more general item on housing below.)
Scrutiny type	Scrutiny review (ie: deep dive or task group) in partnership with the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel.
Timing	TBC
Guidance	A guide with key questions for councillors on care leavers'

	accommodation (Barnardo's).
Guest(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative from Circle Housing, the leading social housing provider in the borough. • Possibly other social landlords. • Representatives of private landlords (ie: National Landlords Association).
Expert(s)	Someone who can provide the Panel with a national perspective on accommodation for care leavers including new and innovative solutions. Barnardo's might be able to provide such an expert.
Visit	The Children in Care Council could be consulted in advance. Delegated members may attend a meeting of the Council to gather views. Alternatively, representatives of the Children in Care Council may be invited to attend the Panel and provide first hand insight/make a direct representation.

CLARION HOUSING GROUP (FORMALLY CIRCLE HOUSING)	
Who suggested it?	Continuation of the Panel's interest in scrutinising the borough's leading social housing provider. Members have also requested this through the topic suggestion process.
Summary	<p>Throughout the last municipal year, the Panel spent time looking at Circle Housing's performance (before it merged with Affinity Sutton to become Clarion). (Minutes of these discussions are here and here). This was under the provisions of the transfer agreement. Despite this agreement having expired, Councillors retain their interest in both repairs of existing stock and the regeneration of estates. Members couldn't take their scrutiny of Circle further during the last municipal year because the merger was seen as instrumental to improving the service provided. Now the merger has happened members have the opportunity to scrutinise what effect it has had on services provided to residents. <u>However, it should be noted that now the transfer agreement has expired, the Panel's ability to gain Clarion's attendance/participation may be limited.</u></p> <p>Additionally, it has been suggested by a resident that there is a need to look at the quality of the accommodation provided by another social landlord - Wandle Houses (on Colliers Wood High Street). This may lend itself to a session where other local social housing providers are also invited.</p> <p><u>Given this scrutiny will be of external bodies, the Panel may find it useful to jointly plan its scrutiny.</u></p> <p>Last year's approach of collating and preparing questions for the provider in advance for responses to be printed as part of the agenda worked well.</p>
Scrutiny type	Performance monitoring of an external provider
Timing	TBC

Guest(s)	<p>Representatives from Clarion Housing Group. The Panel may want to consider inviting other social landlords operating in the borough.</p> <p>Additionally, representatives from tenant scrutiny panels and tenant associations to provide direct representations based on their knowledge of Clarion's service. There are examples of scrutiny panels that work very closely with tenant scrutiny panels.</p>
Expert(s)	Potentially from the National Housing Federation to provide context on the social housing market.
Visit	To High Path to look at the proposed regeneration.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS	
Who suggested it?	<p>Whilst not mentioned last year, homelessness has been recommended four times by residents for inclusion in this year's topic suggestion pack. They all report concern at the noticeable increase in rough sleepers in the borough (with Wimbledon specifically mentioned).</p>
Summary	<p>The Panel undertook a scrutiny review of housing supply (through a task group) reporting in September 2015 (here). Since this time, the Panel has reviewed progress against the recommendations of the task group (here). However, provision of sufficient housing in the borough remains one of the most pressing issues. This is exemplified by the issues faced providing sufficient accommodation for care leavers but applies much more broadly (including other vulnerable groups).</p> <p>Members, through the scrutiny topic suggestion process, have specifically requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all Panels to consider housing and homelessness and report up to the Commission on their findings; • Consideration of social housing eligibility criteria for women in domestic violence shelters; • A review of the impact of welfare changes on housing and homelessness; and • Consideration of house shares as a way of alleviating housing needs. <p>In response, the Panel could choose to make this the subject of a scrutiny review. This could bring together a range of interested and involved parties (both internal and external) to look at this issue in depth. This would provide the opportunity to look at the issue of accommodation for care leavers in context as well as to examine progress against the recommendations of the housing supply group in detail. <u>Additionally, a presentation on the Housing Company could be provided (including the business case alongside the new estates plan) in accordance with the recommendations of the commercialisation task group.</u> (If this item isn't included in the work programme, the Panel should still receive a presentation on the</p>

	Housing Company.)
Scrutiny type	Scrutiny review (deep dive or task group)
Timing	<u>TBC</u>
Guest(s)	Clarion Housing Group and other registered providers (reflecting recommendation 12 of the housing supply task group - that the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel invites all Registered Providers in operation in the borough to a future meeting to gather information on their overcrowding strategies and to make any recommendations, as appropriate).
Expert(s)	Andrew Boff, London Assembly Member and the Chair of the Assembly's Housing Committee Stephen Hills, Director of Housing, South Cambridgeshire district Council to talk about the Council's housing company (Ermine Street Housing) – here .
Visit	To YCube for the Panel to experience first hand this innovative housing solution.

CROSSOVERS	
Who suggested it?	Panel members and members of the Environment & Regeneration Departmental Management Team
Summary	<p>Crossovers are the technical term for a dropped curb, allowing residents to drive across the pavement and access a property or off-street parking. Information about Merton's crossovers policy can be found here.</p> <p>The growing use of crossovers was raised by Panel members during the last municipal year in connection with the growing number of <i>Controlled Parking Zones</i> (CPZs) and the implementation of a diesel levy (through an increased charge for resident parking permits for diesel vehicles in CPZs). It was suggested that crossovers are increasing as a way to avoid the costs of residents' parking in CPZ areas. Also, that these are being installed without the correct permissions and not to the correct dimensions. Increased use of off street parking means that more gardens are being paved over having an impact on drainage and flooding.</p> <p>Members might request a report from officers to understand the implications of CPZs on crossovers and the extent to which these are being installed without the correct permissions and/or incorrectly.</p> <p>Given crossovers are strongly correlated with issues caused by resident parking, it might be beneficial to consider these with the Panel's oversight of parking in general (see below).</p>
Scrutiny type	Executive oversight/performance management
Timing	TBC

Guest(s)	Appropriate resident groups
Visit	Councillor Chung has invited officers to see the impact of crossovers in his ward (Longthorne). If this visit is undertaken, the Councillor and officers could report back to the Panel on their findings.

PARKING	
Who suggested it?	A continuation of the Panel's existing interest in parking which in the last municipal year comprised a general update with a focus on the operation of ANPR following its implementation.
Summary	<p>The Panel could again take a general update on parking operations including a further review of ANPR to consider performance following the optimisation of the service. This might also be timed to look at how to optimise the benefit provided from the free Christmas parking scheme as was initially suggested during discussion of the budget for 2017/18. Advice will need to be provided by officers on whether the review of the RINGO contract, prior to this being renewed, will be subject pre-decision scrutiny in this municipal year. Resident representations have also been received through the scrutiny topic suggestion process highlighting concerns regarding difficulties with resident parking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasing parking regulations; • the perceived increase in double yellow lines; and • resident parking around stations in the borough.
Scrutiny type	Executive oversight/performance management (possible pre-decision scrutiny)
Timing	TBC (possibly timed in order to inform Christmas parking recommendations in the budget for 2018/19)
Guest(s)	Residents groups from the worst effected areas in the borough.

LIBRARY AND HERITAGE SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT	
Who suggested it?	This is a standing item.
Summary	The Panel will take its usual annual report on library and heritage services. This provides the Panel with the opportunity to review progress made with the service in the last financial year, examine performance and discuss key projects. The minutes of the Panel's previous review of library and heritage services are here .
Scrutiny type	Executive oversight/performance monitoring
Timing	<u>21 February 2018</u> (suggested – to occur a full year after the last report was received by the Panel)
Visit	The Colliers Wood Library. This would allow members to see the service in action, talk to staff and volunteers and gain

	feedback from service users. A visit could be organised for Panel members to the site. Alternatively, a Panel meeting could be held at the library rather than the Civic Centre.
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MERTON ADULT EDUCATION UPDATE REPORT	
Who suggested it?	This is a standing item. It has also been suggested by a resident through the scrutiny topic suggestion process.
Summary	Cabinet agreed in February 2016 to move to a commissioning approach for adult education. One annual report has been received by the Panel since this change but given the timing, this couldn't provide statistics for the first full year of operation. It is therefore recommended that this is taken again in the new municipal year but earlier to provide full data for the first full year of operation under the new approach and to better fit with the academic year. The minutes of the Panel's previous review of adult education are here . A representation has been received from a resident through the scrutiny topic suggestion process highlighting their concerns about how changes in the adult education sector may affect provision in Merton.
Scrutiny type	Executive oversight/performance monitoring
Timing	<u>10 January 2018</u> (suggested by the Department) - to allow time for performance data to become available and for the next report back to happen after the planned Ofsted inspection.
Visit	South Thames College to see provision first hand and interact with staff and students. A visit could be organised for Panel members to the site. Alternatively, a Panel meeting could be held at the college rather than the Civic Centre.

FACILITIES FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IN CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS	
Who suggested it?	This is a remaining item from the Panel's work programme from last year.
Summary	<p>The aim of this item is to understand how the borough's green space infrastructure lends itself to and is being utilised for children's physical activity, linked to efforts to address childhood obesity. It is suggested that this item will look at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What playground facilities exist in Merton's public parks; • Any improvements made to these recently or that are being planned; • How the public health strategy to increase the number of children and young people, and their families, who are regular users of parks, open spaces, informal recreation space and allotments is being achieved and what impact this has already had; and • Parental views of Morden's facilities in parks for children's physical activity.

Scrutiny type	Scrutiny review/update report
Timing	<u>4 July 2017 (agreed)</u>
Guidance	None given
Guest(s)	Invites have been issued to local parent groups to attend the meeting and give their views of Merton's facilities for physical activity in children's playgrounds.

LEISURE CENTRES	
Who suggested it?	Members of the Environment & Regeneration Departmental Management Team in addition to residents through the scrutiny topic suggestion process.
Summary	The Panel has provided considerable oversight of the development of the new leisure centre. It last came to the Panel at its meeting in June 2016 (here). A report to Full Council in April 2017 highlighted that construction works will commence in early July 2017 to be completed in August 2018 with the facility opening to the public in September 2018. The Panel will need to determine what scrutiny it wishes to have of the development during this period. Additionally, any item on the leisure centre may want to take the opportunity to look at this within the context of a wider report on the performance of all leisure centres in the borough. This would provide the opportunity to pick-up residents' concerns about how the affordability of access to these services can impact on the health of residents as well as concerns about retaining popular family services.
Scrutiny type	Executive oversight/performance management
Timing	TBC
Guest(s)	All Merton's current leisure centres are, and the new development will be, managed by Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL). It may therefore be appropriate to have a member of GLL's senior management team attend the Panel meeting at which leisure services are discussed to provide insight into its management of the facilities, plans for the new site and to answer member questions.

PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS	
Who suggested it?	Members of the Environment & Regeneration Departmental Management Team
Summary	To brief members and consult on the transfer of dog control orders to a public space protection order. These give the Council the power to prohibit behaviour within a geographical area. The issue of dog fouling has again been raised through the topic suggestion process (on this occasion by one resident).

Scrutiny type	Pre-decision scrutiny
Timing	<u>5 September 2017</u> (suggested by the Department)
Guidance	None suggested
Guest(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives of various Friends groups associated with Merton's parks and other greenspaces. • Representatives of Idverde, the new ground maintenance contractor.

PUBLIC TOILETS	
Who suggested it?	Residents (as they did last year) through the topic suggestion process.
Summary	<p>The council has a community toilet scheme which was launched in 2009. The Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel considered the scheme as part of their 2009/10 work programme.</p> <p>The scheme enables the public to use toilets in facilities in the borough such as those in shops, pubs, restaurants etc. where that business has signed up to the scheme. Public toilets that the council previously ran were closed due to funding issues some time ago and there are no proposals to reinstate them.</p> <p>Currently, the community toilet scheme has seven members across the whole of the borough comprising a number of restaurants and the Council's Civic Centre premises.</p> <p>This topic was suggested for at least the last two years. This year residents have highlighted the need for public toilets to be available to the public including disabled residents. Also, that if the aspiration of 'Rediscover Mitcham' is to be achieved and extra shoppers attracted to the borough, additional toilet facilities will be required.</p> <p>Members may wish to receive an update on the Community Toilet Scheme. Alternatively, (or possibly in addition) Panel members may want to undertake a survey of the scheme in their wards to understand if it is being adequately advertised to residents and if there are other local premises owners who are willing to participate.</p>
Scrutiny type	Scrutiny review (this would lend itself to an individual rapporteur scrutiny review).
Timing	TBC

SOUTH LONDON WASTE PARTNERSHIP	
Who suggested it?	Members of the Environment & Regeneration Departmental Management Team in addition to residents and members through the topic suggestion process. NB: this is the most suggested topic this year. This is a continuation of the Panel's work in providing pre-decision scrutiny of the new contracts for

	waste (including street cleansing) and grounds maintenance as well as early performance monitoring.
Summary	<p>New contracts for grounds maintenance and waste (including street cleansing) have now been let (respectively on 1 February and 3 April 2017). The Panel has expressed its interest in continuing to monitor the performance of the services under their new contractors. This will provide the opportunity to address the representations raised by residents through the scrutiny topic suggestion process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-going concerns expressed about wheeled bins including whether or not appropriate adaptations will be made to the service to cater for the needs of all residents, and whether there is sufficient space to accommodate the new arrangements on people’s properties (although at least two representations called for wheeled bins and larger receptacles for recycling to be introduced to address street litter); • Concerns about fly-tipping with reported increases (North Mitcham is specifically highlighted); • Concerns about street-cleanliness; • The provision of sufficient street bins where foot traffic is high in the borough; • How greenspaces can be run to ensure a better relationship between these and local residents in order to benefit health and wellbeing; and • Better funding for Merton’s greenspaces (with Mitcham Common specifically mentioned). <p>Additionally, the Panel has highlighted falling levels of recycling throughout 2016/17 to which it might want to provide a focus.</p> <p><u>Given this scrutiny will be of external bodies, the Panel may find it useful to jointly plan its scrutiny of the contractors.</u></p> <p>It should also be noted that the Panel may wish to structure its ongoing scrutiny of these contracts in order to respond to the motion agreed by full Cabinet in September 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Provide details on what choices and flexibility will be available to residents given the Council’s stated commitment not to impose a ‘one size fits all’ waste collection service;</u> • <u>Publish a clear timeline of the engagement planned with residents and businesses across Merton on the proposed changes to their waste collection service;</u> • <u>Deliver a comprehensive strategy for engaging with Friends of Parks groups, including clarifying how they will be involved in decision making on local parks and green spaces under the new contract; and</u> • <u>Report back to the Sustainable Communities Overview and</u>

	<u>Scrutiny panel on the outcomes of the 'fine tuning exercise', including more robust savings commitments where possible.</u>
Scrutiny type	Performance monitoring of an external provider.
Timing	<u>2 November 2017</u> (performance monitoring) and <u>21 February 2018</u> (mobilisation of the new service provision). Both dates suggested by the Department.
Guest(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from both Veolia (waste and street cleansing) and Idverde (grounds maintenance). • Representatives from resident groups/associations, to receive direct feedback on the quality of the service. • Friends/parks groups.
Visit	Councillor Sargeant has participated in a ride-along with Veolia, the contractor for waste and street-cleansing (early June) and will report back at the Panel's first meeting (4 July 2017). The ride-along took place in Kingston where the contract has been in place for longer.

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING CONTROL	
Who suggested it?	Raised by residents through the topic suggestion process (as they did last year). A representation has also been made by Stephen Hammond, MP for Wimbledon, Raynes Park, Morden and Motspur Park.
Summary	<p>Members last year provided scrutiny of the initial consideration of a planning shared service. The due diligence phase highlighted a range of issues that challenged the viability of a planning shared service and therefore further development was suspended (minutes of the discussion are here – item 6). Prior to the general election being called, the Government has also proposed some further changes to the planning system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • giving local authorities the opportunity to have their housing land supply agreed on an annual basis and fixed for a one year period; • further consultation on introducing a standardised approach for local authorities in assessing housing requirements; • changing the NPPF to introduce a housing delivery test which will highlight whether the number of homes being built is on target; • increasing nationally set planning fees; and • further consultation on introducing a fee for making a planning appeal. <p>Members could request officers provide a further briefing on the planning system including examining proposed changes and the implications for Merton. This would also provide an opportunity for the issues raised through the topic suggestion process to be considered. These focus on:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quality of planning applications posted on the Council website (including: missing or inadequate drawings, missing location plans and requests for basement extensions submitted without an accompanying hydrology report); • The time taken by the planning process even when paying for pre-application advice; • The quality of oversight of planning conditions; • Ensuring developments are sympathetic to their surrounding area; and • the impact on infrastructure (ie: water supplies, rubbish and the general demands on services) caused by increasing property and people numbers.
Scrutiny type	Scrutiny review/update report. Officers feel this might work well as a task group.
Timing	TBC
Expert(s)	A representative from the National Confederation of Builders to provide an overview of what a streamlined planning system might look like.

HIGHWAYS CONTRACT	
Who suggested it?	Members of the Environment & Regeneration Departmental Management Team
Summary	<p>The Highways Works and Services Term Contract is currently held by F M Conway. During the last municipal year, the Panel was consulted on extending the contract for up to a further two years. This was unanimously supported by the Panel with the contract extended until 31 August 2019 (minutes of the discussion are here – item 7).</p> <p>Officers have indicated that work on re-letting the contract will need to begin in September 2018 and therefore any pre-decision scrutiny by the Panel will need to happen before this date.</p>
Scrutiny type	Pre-decision scrutiny.
Timing	20 March 2018 (suggested by the Department)

LOCAL PLAN	
Who suggested it?	Members of the Environment & Regeneration Departmental Management Team
Summary	<p>Merton's local plan comprises the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core planning strategy • Sites and policy plan and policies map • South London Waste Partnership Plan • Local development scheme • Estates local plan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement of community involvement • Sustainability appraisal • Supplementary planning documents • Annual monitoring report • Sustainable transport strategy and local implementation plan <p>It has been suggested that this be reviewed especially in the light of the car park disposal programme. Officers will consult the Borough Plan Advisory Committee on the detail but have indicated they would also like to consult with the Panel.</p>
Scrutiny type	Pre-decision scrutiny
Timing	<u>2 November 2017</u> (suggested by the Department)

TOURISM	
Who suggested it?	A Panel member through the scrutiny topic suggestion process.
Summary	The request is to look at the promotion of tourism across the borough with a specific focus on the theatre offer.
Scrutiny type	Scrutiny review (this might lend itself well to an individual rapporteur scrutiny review).
Timing	TBC
Guest(s)	Representatives from the Wimbledon Theatre
Visit	Possibly to Wimbledon Theatre.

TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION	
Who suggested it?	Continuation of the Panel's interest in scrutinising the on-going town centre regeneration. Additionally, various aspects of this have been raised by residents and members through the scrutiny topic suggestion process.
Summary	<p>The Panel has taken (at least annually) updates on the on-going town centre regeneration in Wimbledon, Raynes Park, Morden, Mitcham and Colliers Wood and it is suggested that this continue during this municipal year. This has previously taken the form of a presentation by officers which it is proposed be repeated as this seems to have worked well (see here for the minutes of the last presentation – item 7). This would also provide the opportunity to address the representations received during the scrutiny topic suggestion process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will the Mitcham town centre regeneration have the desired outcome in terms of improvements in footfall, commerce and quality of life; and • There remain too many empty pubs and shops in the borough.

	<p><u>Additionally, the commercial services task group recommended a joint venture be developed in relation to the regeneration of Morden town centre and officers have flagged the need for pre-decision scrutiny of the on-going Morden development.</u></p> <p>It is therefore suggested that the Panel take another presentation from officers providing an update on the whole regeneration programme and that this also focus on the outcomes the programme is beginning to achieve. The Panel might want to take a focus on Morden as a separate item providing the opportunity to look at the suggested joint venture and pre-decision scrutiny.</p> <p>This item will consider the Wimbledon Masterplan. However, given the issues involved in the regeneration of Wimbledon town centre (Crossrail2), this is also considered as a separate item (see below – Wimbledon and Crossrail2).</p>
Scrutiny type	Performance monitoring and/or pre-decision scrutiny
Timing	<u>2 November 2017</u> (paper focusing on Morden development for pre-decision scrutiny) and <u>20 March 2018</u> (for an update presentation). Both dates suggested by the Department.
Guest(s)	Local resident groups to talk first hand about what has been achieved as a result of the regeneration of their local area.
Visit	Panel members may want to visit one (or more) of the town centres that have benefitted from regeneration to see this first hand.

WIMBLEDON AND CROSSRAIL2	
Who suggested it?	Members of the Environment & Regeneration Departmental Management Team and by members and residents through the scrutiny topic suggestion process.
Summary	<p>The development of Crossrail2 is proposed to significantly affect Wimbledon Town Centre and as a result the town centre regeneration is being planned taking this into account. This is to be realised through a Wimbledon Masterplan. Officers briefed Panel members during the last municipal year on how they have already been consulting with the local community to feed into this development (see the minutes here – item 7).</p> <p>It is thought Crossrail2 will hold a further consultation during this municipal year which will reflect the Council's previous submissions to the consultation in 2016. When and if it happens, the Panel will need to determine what input it wants to have to the Council's involvement in this consultation. This might reflect representations received from residents that focus on concerns regarding the likely disruption resulting from the Crossrail2 development (how this will affect disabled</p>

	residents is specifically mentioned as well as disruption in surrounding areas such as Raynes Park and Motspur Park) as well as the request to preserve Wimbledon's community and arts facilities.
Scrutiny type	Pre-decision scrutiny
Timing	TBC (dependent on the next round of Crossrail2 consultation)
Guest(s)	Representatives from The Wimbledon Society and LoveWimbledon.
Expert(s)	Representatives from London Boroughs of Bexley and Royal Borough of Greenwich that are working with Crossrail to develop and enhance the public spaces around stations affected by the Crossrail development.

WIMBLETECH	
Who suggested it?	A Panel member through the scrutiny topic suggestion process.
Summary	To look at ways to further encourage the development of the tech industry. This might be taken as part of the Wimbledon Town Centre regeneration.
Scrutiny type	Scrutiny review (this might lend itself well to an individual rapporteur scrutiny review).
Timing	TBC
Guest(s)	Representatives from WimbleTech
Visit	Possibly to WimbleTech

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, TRADING STANDARDS AND LICENSING SHARED SERVICE	
Who suggested it?	This is a continuation of the Panel's previous work looking at the shared service expansion.
Summary	Since 2014, the Regulatory Services Partnership (RSP) has delivered shared regulatory services on behalf of Merton and Richmond councils. Expansion of the shared service to include Wandsworth is currently being explored. The Panel has already subjected this to pre-decision scrutiny through the provision of an update report in March 2017, the minutes from which can be reviewed here .
Scrutiny type	Pre-decision scrutiny prior to the final decision to proceed with expansion of the service to include Wandsworth.
Timing	<u>2 November 2017</u> (suggested by officers)
Guidance	Guidance might be provided by the Shared Services Task Group and its 2015 report .

Selecting a Scrutiny Topic – criteria used at the workshop on 20 June 2017

The purpose of the workshop is to identify priority issues for consideration as agenda items or in-depth reviews by the Panel. The final decision on this will then be made by the Panel at its first meeting on 4 July 2017.

All the issues that have been suggested to date by councillors, officers, partner organisations and residents are outlined in the supporting papers.

Further suggestions may emerge from discussion at the workshop.

Points to consider when selecting a topic:

- Is the issue strategic, significant and specific?
- Is it an area of underperformance?
- Will the scrutiny activity add value to the Council's and/or its partners' overall performance?
- Is it likely to lead to effective, tangible outcomes?
- Is it an issue of community concern and will it engage the public?
- Does this issue have a potential impact for one or more section(s) of the population?
- Will this work duplicate other work already underway, planned or done recently?
- Is it an issue of concern to partners and stakeholders?
- Are there adequate resources available to do the activity well?

Note of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel topic selection meeting on 20 June 2017

Attendees:

Councillor Abigail Jones (Chair)
Councillors Michael Bull, David Chung, Daniel Holden, Janice Howard, Najeeb Latif and John Sargeant.
Chris Lee, Director of Environment and Regeneration
Graeme Kane, Assistant Director - Public Space Contracting & Commissioning
John Hill, Assistant Director - Public Protection
Steve Langley, Head of Housing Needs and Strategy
Anthony Hopkins, Head of Library & Heritage Services
Alisha Muhmood, Graduate Management Trainee
Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services (note taker)

Apologies:

Councillors Russell Makin and Nick Draper.

Budget/business planning

AGREED to continue to consider the budget and business plan and to make full use of the two stages in November and January.

Cabinet Member priorities

AGREED to invite the Cabinet Members to the July meeting and to ask them to make a short presentation with a single slide per Cabinet Member to maximise time for questions and discussion.

AGREED that Cabinet Members would be invited to subsequent meetings for specific items as and when needed.

Performance monitoring

AGREED to retain as a standing item to be taken at each meeting. Members asked that the Director continue to highlight three items of particular note.

Noted the request for performance reports following large scale events.

Mayor of London's Plans

The Director said that he was anticipating receipt of a number of draft plans in the autumn that could be shared for comment. Members noted that these would have a huge impact on Merton and London-wide and were keen to have an opportunity to discuss and input.

AGREED that the Chair and Scrutiny Officer, in discussion with the Director, should keep scrutiny of the Plans under review - possibly initially to be shared by email and then by prioritising one or two as agenda items or having an additional meeting of the Panel if necessary.

Commercialisation task group

AGREED to receive six monthly updates on progress with the implementation of the task group's recommendations.

Air quality task group

AGREED to receive the task group's draft report for approval at the Panel meeting on 2 November and Cabinet's response and action plan on 20 March 2018.

Congestion/traffic hotspots

Councillor Holden reported that, although the main focus of the air quality task group was on planning issues, it would also be considering some aspects relating to traffic.

AGREED that this was not a priority for inclusion in the 2017/18 work programme but should be kept under review and inclusion re-considered once the recommendations of the air quality task group have been received by the Panel.

Diesel levy implementation

AGREED to receive a report at the Panel's meeting on 20 March 2018. This date was chosen to allow time to collect sufficient data to be able to draw conclusions regarding the impact of the levy.

Walking and cycling routes

AGREED to receive a report focussing on work being done to develop cycle routes – this is not time sensitive and could be presented to any meeting of the Panel. Depending on timing and availability of information, this could include results of consultation being undertaken by LB Kingston.

Accommodation for care leavers and young people

and

Housing and homelessness

Noted that a new law on homelessness received royal assent in April and is likely to be enacted later in the year.

AGREED to use the September meeting for a deep dive on housing, encompassing provision for care leavers, homelessness in the borough and progress made against the recommendations of the housing supply task group. Include information on safety issues. Acknowledged that these are huge issues and there will be a need to focus the objectives for the meeting.

AGREED to receive a presentation on the Local Authority Property Company at the September meeting if there is time, otherwise at another meeting of the Panel.

Clarion Housing Group (formerly Circle Housing)

Noted that although there is no longer a requirement for Clarion to attend scrutiny meetings they have agreed to do so.

AGREED to invite the main providers of social housing in Merton to attend a meeting of the Panel. Questions would be sent to providers in advance and written responses included in the agenda pack. AGREED that Panel members would have a pre-meeting to agree and allocate follow up questions.

Crossovers

Members said that this was an area of resident concern and a cause of conflict in relation to parking space. The Director said that some scrutiny of this issue would be helpful, particularly in relation to the impact on CPZs.

AGREED to either receive a report on the issue or carry out a task group review.

ACTION: Draft terms of reference for a task group review to be brought to the July meeting of the Panel.

Parking

Members expressed interest in carrying out a task group review of parking. Issues that could be included were an update on ANPR performance, the free Christmas parking scheme, options for raising revenue from parking, promotion of greener alternatives (for example through electric charging points in car parks), parking availability in town centres.

ACTION: Draft terms of reference for a task group review to be brought to the July meeting of the Panel.

Library and Heritage Service annual report

AGREED to receive the annual report at the Panel's meeting on 21 February 2018.

Merton Adult Education update report

AGREED to receive a report at meeting on 10 January 2018 containing data for the first full year of operation plus an analysis of information provided through student feedback.

Members expressed interest in visiting South Thames College and the community venues that provide courses for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Facilities for physical activity in children's playgrounds

NOTED that the Panel would receive a report at its meeting on 4 July 2017.

Leisure centres

AGREED to continue to receive progress updates as and when needed.

Public space protection orders

AGREED to receive a briefing at the Panel's meeting on 5 September 2017.

Public toilets

Noted that Morden underground station is one of a small number of termini without public toilets and discussed ways of lobbying Transport for London in relation to this through the Public Transport Liaison Committee and the Morden town centre regeneration programme.

AGREED that the issue is not a priority for inclusion in the Panel's 2017-18 work programme.

South London Waste Partnership

AGREED to receive a performance report at the Panel's meeting on 2 November 2017 and an update on service provision at the meeting on 21 February 2018. It was suggested

that it would be helpful to invite a scrutiny councillor from LB Sutton as they have also been scrutinising the SLWP.

At the Director's suggestion it was also AGREED to receive a short report at the Panel's meeting on 4 July 2017 to provide an update on the idVerde and Veolia contracts.

NOTED that Councillor Sargeant will report back on his recent "ride-along" with Kingston refuse collectors.

Development and planning control

Members have ongoing concerns regarding staffing levels in the enforcement team. The Director said that he could bring a report on operational capacity, performance and challenges facing the service.

AGREED to receive a report in January or February 2018 once government proposals on fees have been received.

Highways contract

AGREED to receive a report at the Panel's meeting on 20 March 2018 so that the Panel would have an opportunity for pre-decision scrutiny.

Local Plan

The Director explained that there would be a refresh of the core strategy around the end of the year, in parallel with the Mayor's Plan.

AGREED to receive a report so that the Panel would have an opportunity for pre-decision scrutiny.

Tourism

Members said that it would be difficult for scrutiny to add value in relation to the work already being done by Love Wimbledon, local theatres and the All England Lawn Tennis Association. They had some concerns regarding progress with the redevelopment of Merton Abbey Mills.

AGREED to receive an update report on the redevelopment of Merton Abbey Mills

Town centre regeneration

AGREED to continue to receive six-monthly updates on the on-going town centre regeneration programmes.

Wimbledon and Crossrail 2

AGREED that the Panel would want to scrutinise the plans for Crossrail2 and the Wimbledon Masterplan. Noted that Crossrail2 would be discussed by the Public Transport Liaison Committee.

AGREED that the Director would advise when it would be the appropriate time to receive a report on Crossrail2 – noted that this may not be during the 2017/18 municipal year.

ACTION: Draft terms of reference for a task group review to be brought to the July meeting of the Panel.

Wimbletech

AGREED that this was not a priority for inclusion in the panel's 2017/18 work programme as Wimbletech is largely self-supporting.

Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Licensing Shared Service

The Assistant Director-Public Protection advised that a report on this would be received by both Cabinet and Council in July. He suggested that there was therefore no need for further scrutiny at the moment and offered to provide an update report in 12-18 months.

AGREED that this was not a priority for inclusion in the 2017/18 work programme.

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