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Merton Council

Council meeting

Membership

The Mayor: Councillor Janice Howard

The Deputy Mayor: Councillor Edward Foley

Councillors: Agatha Mary Akyigyina OBE, Stephen Alambritis, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Eloise Bailey, Thomas Barlow, Nigel Benbow, Hina Bokhari, Kelly Braund, Mike Brunt, Adam Bush, Omar Bush, Ben Butler, Tobin Byers, Billy Christie, David Chung, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Pauline Cowper, Stephen Crowe, Mary Curtin, David Dean, John Dehaney, Nick Draper, Anthony Fairclough, Brenda Fraser, Jenifer Gould, Edward Gretton, Joan Henry, Daniel Holden, James Holmes, Andrew Howard, Natasha Irons, Sally Kenny, Linda Kirby, Paul Kohler, Rebecca Lanning, Najeeb Latif, Edith Macauley MBE, Russell Makin, Peter McCabe, Simon McGrath, Nick McLean, Oonagh Moulton, Aidan Mundy, Hayley Ormrod, Dennis Pearce, Owen Pritchard, Carl Quilliam, David Simpson CBE, Marsie Skeete, Peter Southgate, Geraldine Stanford, Eleanor Stringer, Dave Ward, Martin Whelton, Dickie Wilkinson and David Williams MBE JP

Date: Wednesday 10 July 2019

Time: 7.15 pm

Venue: Council chamber - Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX

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Council meeting

10 July 2019

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16 Business for the next ordinary meeting of the Council

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.

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Agenda Item 3

COUNCIL
15 MAY 2019

(7.15 pm - 8.20 pm)

PRESENT The Mayor Councillor Mary Curtin
 The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Geraldine Stanford

Councillors Agatha Mary Akyigyina OBE, Stephen Alambritis, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Eloise Bailey, Thomas Barlow, Nigel Benbow, Hina Bokhari, Kelly Braund, Mike Brunt, Adam Bush, Omar Bush, Ben Butler, Tobin Byers, Billy Christie, David Chung, Caroline Cooper-Marbiah, Pauline Cowper, Stephen Crowe, David Dean, John Dehaney, Nick Draper, Anthony Fairclough, Edward Foley, Brenda Fraser, Edward Gretton, Joan Henry, Daniel Holden, James Holmes, Andrew Howard, Janice Howard, Natasha Irons, Sally Kenny, Linda Kirby, Paul Kohler, Rebecca Lanning, Najeeb Latif, Edith Macauley MBE, Russell Makin, Peter McCabe, Simon McGrath, Nick McLean, Oonagh Moulton, Aidan Mundy, Hayley Ormrod, Dennis Pearce, Owen Pritchard, Carl Quilliam, David Simpson CBE, Marsie Skeete, Peter Southgate, Eleanor Stringer, Dave Ward, Martin Whelton, Dickie Wilkinson and David Williams

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

There were no apologies for absence.

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest made.

3 ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR 2019/20 AND THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2019/20 (Agenda Item 3)

It was moved by Councillor Nick McLean and seconded by Councillor Stephen Alambritis that Councillor Janice Howard be elected Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the 2019/20 municipal year.

Councillors Oonagh Moulton, Daniel Holden, Edith Macauley and Anthony Fairclough also spoke in support of the nomination.

(Copies of their speeches are attached at Appendix A to these minutes)

There not being any other nominations, the Mayor put it to the meeting and it was

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Janice Howard signed the statutory declaration of office and was invested with the Mayor's chain and badge of office.

The Mayor announced that her Deputy Mayor for the 2019/20 municipal year would be Councillor Edward Foley. Councillor Foley signed the statutory declaration of office and was invested with the Deputy Mayor's badge of office.

The Mayor announced that her consorts would be Councillor Andrew Howard, Benedict Howard and Isabella Howard. The Mayor's Chaplain would be Father Simon Peat.

The Mayor presented badges to the outgoing Mayor, Deputy Mayor and their respective consorts.

The Mayor, Councillor Janice Howard, thanked the Council for her election for the forthcoming year and announced that her two Mayoral charities would be Faith in Action and Macmillan Cancer Support.

(A copy of her acceptance speech is attached at Appendix B to these minutes)

5 VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING MAYOR (Agenda Item 5)

The Mayor invited Councillor Mary Curtin to receive the Council's vote of thanks.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Alambritis, moved and the Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Nick McLean seconded the vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor.

In doing so, both Group Leaders, along with the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, the Leader of the Merton Park Ward Independent Residents and Councillor Sally Kenny all spoke in praise of Councillor Mary Curtin's year in office.

(A copy of these speeches are attached at Appendix C to these minutes)

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the Council places on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to Councillor Mary Curtin for the dedicated manner in which she served as Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the 2018/19 municipal year.

6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 6)

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2019 are agreed as an accurate record.

7 CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES (Agenda Item 7)

The report was moved by Councillor Alambritis and seconded by Councillor Allison.

Councillor Kohler also spoke on the report.

RESOLVED

That the Council:

- A. i) approves the constitution of committees, sub-committees and scrutiny bodies set out in Appendix A to the Council report; and
ii) agrees the allocation of seats, chair and vice-chair positions and the appointment of members to those seats;
- B. i) approves the constitution of consultative forums and other bodies set out in Appendix B to the Council report; and
ii) agrees the appointment of members to those seats;
- C. agrees the allocation of seats and appointment to the outside organisations as detailed in Appendix C to the Council report.
- D. agrees the terms of reference of consultative and other bodies appointed by the Council, detailed in Appendix D to the Council report.
- E. notes the changes to the appointments to the Cabinet including their respective portfolios, detailed in Appendix E to the Council report;
- F. agrees that the Council's Constitution be amended to incorporate any changes resulting from the approval of recommendations A to E.

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Appendix A

Speech by Cllr Nick McLean nominating Cllr Janice Howard for Mayor of the London Borough of Merton

Thank you Madam Mayor,

It is with great pleasure that in my first mayor making as Leader of the Conservative Group I have the privilege of nominating our Conservative colleague, Wimbledon Park Councillor, Janice Howard as first citizen and Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the year 2019 - 20 – a deserved honour in recognition of her contribution to Merton residents, the Council and wider civic society.

We in the Conservative Group have experienced first-hand the hard work, energy and diligence that she brings to the role of Councillor – skills that will contribute greatly to a successful mayoralty.

Madam Mayor, Councillor Howard, was elected to Merton Council in 2010 where she has pursued her passionate agenda of promoting healthy lifestyles to improve the lives of residents.

Madam Mayor – it is with this passion that during the coming year, Cllr Howard will, as Mayor, deliver her messages on how a few simple lifestyle changes can really impact positively on everyone's quality of life.

Among Councillor Howard's many achievements is the pride that she has taken in promoting, alongside Councillor Kirby, and others from the cultural advisory group – the very successful and highly regarded - Film Merton.

It is this combination of cultural and healthy living that underpins an improved lifestyle for residents and is why Councillor Howard is its champion.

During her long career in corporate conference and events management, Councillor Howard also successfully studied for, and achieved with distinction, a Master's degree in operations management – study that was undertaken as a working mum demonstrating her drive and determination.

And it is these strong personal and organisational characteristics that will help raise the profile of Councillor Howard's chosen charities.

Madam Mayor, Councillor Howard is a much valued member of the Conservative Group - and as we wish her every success, we also want her to know that we, as will all Merton Councillors, be there in support. I now nominate and I urge this council to then elect Cllr Janice Howard as Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the year 2019-2020. Thank you.

Speech by Cllr Stephen Alambritis welcoming Mayor Cllr Janice Howard as the First Citizen of the London Borough of Merton at the Annual Council Meeting in the Civic Centre Chamber on Wednesday 15 May 2019

Cllr Janice Howard was first elected in May 2010.

That was the year I was elected.

Janice was in Opposition and I went on to be Leader of the Council.

Janice settled nicely into her role on the exciting Licensing Committee

The 2010 administration was a No Overall Control Labour led administration and we gave the Mayoralty to the Conservatives as an agreement with the Independents. Janice was pleased with that.

A result she thought and something to work on as I knew she was keen to be Mayor

But there was to be no room in the Parlour for Janice as Oonagh, Gillie, David and finally Kirsty were selected by her Conservative Colleagues to the honour to be the first Citizens of this great borough from 2010 through to 2014

Both Janice and I were both re-elected again in 2014

This time sadly for Janice it was a Labour administration with a majority.

So Janice settled again very nicely into the committee structure but this time to the elevated position of Vice Chair on the Standards and General Purposes Committee.

It was about this time that Janice approached me very nicely I must say to see if the Labour Group would, could, may think of her as a future Mayor.

Not this year of course she would say but a future year perhaps Stephen.

I registered the request but alas for Janice the Labour Group selected and the council elected Agatha, David, Brenda and Marsie between 2014 and 2018.

Janice was now really looking forward to the 2018 local elections and again she was elected...and so was I along with another Labour Majority

Janice was now elevated to the shadow Spokesperson for Culture and used her more senior role to press me for any support on the Labour Group agreeing to her nomination for Mayor.

Alas the Group went for Cllr Mayor Mary Curtin as we all know

At last year's Annual Council Meeting for Mary I looked across the Chamber and nodded to Janice that there may be some movement Janice I said.

And so Ladies and Gentlemen after a few years of Janice badgering me, labouring the point, hassling me, keeping on about, making an issue, we are where we are and Janice is heading for the Mayors Parlour.

Seriously though it has been a real pleasure for this Labour Group in supporting Janice this year because we on this side have huge respect for her.

No regrets now Janice...it is too late to change your mind and you know you will not have much in the way of free time

I understand there will be no more visits to your brother in Brittany in France...is that right?

I understand no more watching Midsummer Murders which is your favourite programme....is that right?

The Mayors Parlour will be getting an achiever and will benefit from a councillor who as the Leader of the Opposition said, has a Master's Degree in Operations Management and again, as the Leader of the Opposition said, a career in conference and events organising, and I just look to Carl and to Sandra to say that you have someone who will be very adept at helping you to set in stone all the events.

And so from this side of the Chamber, we wish Janice and her husband Andrew and her charities a wonderful and fruitful year. Thank you.

**Speech re Nomination for the New Mayor of Merton – Cllr Janice Howard
By Cllr Oonagh Moulton, Wimbledon Park Ward at Annual Meeting 15.05.19**

Madame Mayor

I am delighted to stand here and support the nomination for our new Mayor, Cllr Janice Howard as a fellow Ward Member of Wimbledon Park. Cllr Edward Gretton along with our former ward councillors - Tariq Ahmad (now Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon) and Linda Taylor join me in congratulating and appreciating her nomination.

And it is indeed pleasing that Cllr Howard follows a good cross-party tradition for our Ward, as she also follows not just myself as a fellow Conservative Mayor in 2010 but also the late Cllr Joyce Payton who was a previous Labour Mayor in 2001. She is popular across the Chamber and in our community and many have expressed their delight to me when her nomination was announced.

Madame Mayor, Cllr Howard has been a very hard working and diligent ward councillor who has provided excellent support and service to our constituents, the local community and to the wider borough.

I would also like to pay tribute to her consort here tonight Cllr Andrew Howard and their children Ben & Bella who have grown up with our boys and I know will be great supporters too.

On a personal note I have worked closely with Cllr Howard for many years and as Cllr Macauley and former Cllr Brierley, also here, can attest from our sessions exercising in the David Lloyd she will bring added vigour and energy to her role as Mayor. Indeed as many here tonight know she also has wonderful organisational skills which combined with her great focus and powers of persuasion will I am sure ensure that everyone here tonight gets involved in her year and events that are already planned!

I am further delighted that one of my former Mayoral chosen charities is to be one of hers too and another great charity, local as well, and I look forward to joining a great fundraising year!

Madame Mayor in short Cllr Howard will be a worthy successor to yourself and we all will I am sure all enjoy a great year ahead!

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Cllr Daniel Holden speech in support of the nomination of Cllr Janice Howard for Mayor of Merton

Thank you Madam Mayor. I too would like to support the nomination of Councillor Janice Howard as the next Mayor of Merton for the year 2019-20. I think Councillor Janice Howard will be an amazing Mayor of this borough and she is well deserving of this nomination.

Councillor Janice Howard has some key attributes which I think will make her year very successful and I will just run through a couple of them. She is very friendly and gets on well with many people from different walks of life and inclusion in this chamber across the council. Attention to detail and planning, which will come in very handy for her Mayoral events. I'm already looking forward to her Mayoral Ball in 2020. Also Janice loves socialising, enjoys good food and good drink which is key to good fundraising parties and events.

From a personal perspective I will be disappointed to miss out on my regular nutritional meals I have at Chez Howard on Sunday evenings as I imagine Janice will be quite busy throughout this coming year.

Madam Mayor, Councillor Howard will be a great Mayor and a great follow up to yourself and I support her nomination as the next Mayor of Merton. Thank you.

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Cllr Edith Macauley speech in support of the nomination of Cllr Janice Howard for Mayor of Merton

Thank you Madam Mayor. Firstly I would like to welcome the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Merton, Clare Whelan, who is also here and she is the Chair of the LMA, the Mayor's Association. Welcome Claire.

I too support the nomination of Councillor Janice Howard. She first, as the Leader said, joined the Council for the Wimbledon Park ward in 2010 and she has lived in the Borough since 1990. She has performed many duties in the Council – Vice Chair of the General Purposes Committee; Shadow Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing; Shadow spokesperson for culture and leisure; a member of Film Merton Advisory Board and also the Compact Board. An active member of David Lloyd and she enjoys various activities such as Zumba, Pilates and aqua classes.

I am delighted to say that Merton has always raised the profile of the Mayor and it is great that the Labour group have unanimously offered the Mayor's role to a stunning and dedicated lady who has excellent skills with people and I am sure that this will go down very well with our community in Merton.

I would also like to mention that at the executive meeting yesterday of the LMA forum, we were notified that for the first time in 50 years Westminster Council has given the Lord Mayor of Westminster role to a female Labour councillor. This also shows that there is a feel good factor in local government politics and despite our political differences we are supporting each other to raise the profile and also giving full support to local charities in the borough. I have no doubt whatsoever that Janice will be an excellent Mayor and she will continue to work closely with the community in Merton as she has always done in the past.

Finally, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Chair of the LMA, Clare Whelan, and the executive members of the LMA will be welcoming Janice and have concert at Westminster City Hall on 1st June for the 32 London Boroughs on the protocol to follow during the mayoral year. I wish her every success for the year and welcome her to the Chamber. Thank you.

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Cllr Anthony Fairclough speech in support of the nomination of Cllr Janice Howard for Mayor of Merton

Thank you Madam Mayor, I just had some brief comments of welcome and best wishes from the Liberal Democrat group for Councillor Janice Howard and her nomination to that of Mayor this year. I simply wanted to say what's been very obvious to us is that Janice has a lightness of touch and an ability to work cross-party and that she's shown through the cultural group and Film Merton that we welcome.

Welcome and best of luck to Janice and her consorts. Thank you.

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Appendix B

I would like to thank you all for electing me as Mayor of Merton for the forthcoming year.

It is a great honour and privilege to be representing the London Borough of Merton. I will do my best to Chair your meetings impartially and represent the whole community for the next municipal year, as was done so well by outgoing Mayor, Councillor Mary Curtin.

I moved to the London Borough of Merton in January 1990, having lost both my parents within 12 months, I immediately realised Merton was a great borough to live in, marry and raise a family!

I was first elected a Councillor in 2010 and through many Committees and Boards have recently been part of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

This gave me a real insight into the lives of the people of Merton and the many challenges they face. I have therefore chosen two principal charities to support which both aim to help the people of Merton.

The first of these has in fact been the Mayor's charity before. Councillor Linda Kirby was instrumental in setting up Faith in Action. A multi faith charity looking after the Homeless in Merton. Providing a drop-in centre two days a week, offering meals, showering, laundry, change of clothes, haircuts, food parcels, sleeping bags and help with benefits and job applications. Faith in Action relies on local volunteers who dedicate their time, support and skills to help the most vulnerable people.

The other charity will be Macmillan Cancer Support, who have a local fundraising project for an Ambulatory Oncology Care Unit at St Georges Hospital. St Georges

looks after two thirds of cancer patients from the Borough of Merton. This unit will allow cancer patients suffering from conditions and complaints associated with the disease to be seen by a specialist as day patients, thereby removing the stress of attending A&E and, in many cases, being admitted to hospital for treatment.

I am delighted that representatives from both charities have joined us here tonight and there will be an opportunity to speak to them at the reception after this meeting if you would like to know more.

I have already secured two key dates for your diary – the Mayor's Christmas Dinner on Saturday 30 November at the Wimbledon Club and the Mayors Ball at the All England Club for the 25 April 2020 - I hope that you will all ink these dates in your diary ☺ you will need to book early to avoid disappointment

I hope you will join me for a drink in Merton Junction at the conclusion of the official business. For those who are not familiar with the Civic Centre, there will be ushers giving directions

I will leave it there for now as I will also say a few words later tonight at the reception.

Thank you.

Appendix C

Cllr Stephen Alambritis, Leader of the Council, London Borough of Merton, Moves the Citation and Vote of Thanks at the Annual Council Meeting of Wednesday 15 May 2019 in Honour of Councillor Mary Curtin, Mayor of Merton 2018-2019

Welcome Madam Mayor and thank you for giving me this opportunity to move the vote of thanks for the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Mary Curtin. At the time of her election as Mayor last year, Councillor Mary Curtin had completed just four years as a councillor in Lower Morden ward

From her time as Mayor this past year you would have thought she had been a councillor for many, many years given the way she has conducted herself as our first citizen of this our great borough of Merton

The news of her election did not go unnoticed back in her native Ireland and was covered by the local Nenagh Guardian, the equivalent of our Wimbledon Guardian but with a few more pages and lo and behold stories relevant to the area!

Her election to Mayor was also featured by the mighty Tipperary Star, read throughout Ireland. Now that elicited not just distant relatives but also old school mates getting in touch to find out what on earth was going on!

And so it soon became the gossip of the village about how a Tipperary lass was now Mayor of a London Borough

How did Mary react...as she always does Madam Mayor...she got on with the job

Before beginning life in active politics, Councillor Curtin was a nurse in the NHS and then went on to set up and administer Friends in St Helier, or FISH as we all fondly call it.

Councillor Mary Curtin was of course born in Nenagh, County Tipperary where they would not let their lasses leave home till the age of 18 I understand

Until that age she was as always up front with her values in respect for others, hardworking and loved her family life

Mary was certainly up front as a centre forward for her County when playing Irish Hurling or Camogie as it is called

And she scored many goals worth a valuable 3 points when placing the ball under the bar

I do not know if they used the off side rule but Mary would use all means legal or otherwise to score goals for her beloved county

But her main goal was to travel and so, aged just 18 a determined Mary came to England in 1960 in response to the government's call for nurses to work in the expanding NHS

She would go on to spend many years in the NHS, working in both general and mental health nursing

And which hospital did she work in and in which accommodation did she stay in may you ask back then in the swinging 60s?

Why, St. Helier Hospital of course and she stayed in the then nurses accommodation in Ferguson House of course!

It is no surprise therefore that Councillor Curtin made FISH an official charity of her year of office

She also selected the Colour House Children's Theatre, in Merton Abbey Mills, which has been bringing the wonder of live theatre to children for more than 20 years

Councillor Curtin has raised not £50,000 not £60,000 Madam Mayor but more than £70,000 for the two charities during her year as Mayor

Her Irish roots, and a love of the music and dance of the country, were reflected in many mayoral events.

An evening to mark St Patrick's Day was held in Wimbledon's Irish Centre and the annual Mayor's Ball had an Irish theme.

The ball, at the All England Tennis Club, was well sold out and featured a fresh Gaelic menu of lamb, colcannon and spring greens

Young dancers from world-medal-holding Irish dance academy, Ní Cholmáin wowed the audience with their skilled display

Many of Councillor Mary Curtin's 350 engagements were aimed at families

She presided over the Easter egg hunt to be organised by a Mayor, the first ever, in the borough. This was held in Morden Park over the Easter weekend and attracted more than 1,700 people

Councillor Curtin opened the new family-friendly leisure centre in Morden and was delighted to launch Merton's first sensory library

Councillor Curtin attended the annual Remembrance Day service, one hundred years after the hostilities of World War I ceased

She also marked this important centenary at a special service at Mitcham War Memorial, where she commemorated the war hero William Allison White, a recipient of the Victoria Cross

For Councillor Curtin, the year brought many other highlights – from a seat in the Royal Box at the Wimbledon Championships to being inspired by Merton’s homeless drop-in at the Salvation Army Hall

Another legacy of her time as Mayor will be a new friendship group for people recently bereaved, which will meet in Mitcham and be a valuable resource in the east of the borough Madam Mayor

The Mayor has been supported in her work by Deputy Mayor, Councillor Geraldine Stanford and her consorts; her son William and friends Marie Bateman and Dolores Bisnouth

According to Councillor Mary Curtin, being elected Mayor was a privilege and an honour. She has approached her many engagements with dignity, compassion and a sense of fun, during a year of office dedicated to bringing people together.

Putting aside her chain of office, Councillor Curtin hopes to return to help in the kitchens at Merton’s homeless drop-in at the Salvation Army Hall and continue to officiate at Merton’s Citizenship Ceremonies whenever she can

But now Madam Mayor enough from me, Because

We now need to resolve unanimously:

that the council places on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to Councillor Mary Curtin, for the dedicated manner in which she has served as Mayor of the London Borough of Merton for the year 2018-2019.

I beg so to Move Madam Mayor, thank you.

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Councillor Nick McLean speech in support of the vote of thanks for Councillor Mary Curtin

Thank you and welcome Madam Mayor,

As a first year Councillor, I have now had the opportunity to witness the immense commitment that a successful mayoralty requires and Cllr Curtin has certainly given that commitment to both the mayoralty and by extension the residents of the London Borough of Merton.

Madam Mayor - I volunteered, along with Cllrs Sally Kenny and Dennis Pierce at this year's Friend in St Helier Easter lunch, one of Cllr Curtin's chosen charities – it was a wonderful experience and one I will be repeating.

By volunteering I was able to see first-hand the exceptional work that Nicola, Andy and the many other FISH volunteers do to ensure that the elderly residents of our Borough are not forgotten – and Cllr Curtin has been an integral part of this important and rewarding organisation for over 35 years!

I would also like to congratulate Cllr Curtin and her team on an excellent Mayors ball held at the All England – the event was entertaining, relaxed and fun.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Mayor and consorts.

Madam mayor during her mayoralty, Cllr Curtin has participated in well over 300 engagements and raised approaching £80,000 for her chosen charities The Colour House Children's Theatre and the Friends in St Helier.

I am sure we will all agree – quite the achievement!

Therefore it is with great pleasure that I second this vote of thanks and commend the citation.

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Cllr Anthony Fairclough speech in support of the vote of thanks for Councillor Mary Curtin

Thank you Madam Mayor and welcome also. I wanted to express the thanks from my group to the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Curtin, and her consorts and to Councillor Stanford and the work they have done in their Mayoral year.

I remember from this time last year when appointed, Councillor Curtin spoke about her desire to work to build a Merton family and that really spoke to me as a concept of community as a family, is a really important one and I think it's what we all do as Councillors. We all work hard to build meaningful relationships with different communities so I would like to thank Mary for her support in her very first Inter-faith Iftar held in Merton this time last year, in West Barnes Library, at which you attended and spoke – for which we were very grateful – bringing together different communities for the breaking of fast.

And you also spoke at the second one, held at the Tooting and Mitcham Community Sports Club, a larger event with representatives from the Police, community groups and a number of councillors. So thank you all for attending that.

And lastly I wanted to touch on the fantastic centenary remembrance event that I got to share with you, the events at the Mitcham War Memorial and before that at the Nelson. They were quite touching at a time of conflict in the world. I got to share the journey with you between the two and we didn't quite leave enough time to get from the Nelson to Mitcham. I got to go in the Mayoral car, which was a highlight. I'll only note that it's probably fortunate that the administration's desire to bring in 20mph speed limits hasn't yet been implemented because we did just about make it.

Thank you very much Mary for your work, it's been a great year. Thank you.

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Agenda item 5 – vote of thanks to retiring Mayor

Thank you Madam Mayor and welcome.

It's fashionable nowadays, isn't it, to claim that we are "on a journey", when we're not on a journey at all in the sense of moving from A to B at all, we're transitioning from one organisational arrangement to another, in the hope of making things better.

Well, in recent years our Mayors have made real journeys, over continents and oceans, to arrive in Merton. They've come from Jamaica, they've come from Nigeria, they've come from Guyana, and they've all achieved the recognition that comes with being elected the first citizen of our borough.

And so too, our retiring Mayor, Cllr Mary Curtin. Back in 1960, Mary came from Tipperary to serve in the NHS. Tipperary may not be as far away as the Caribbean, but that journey represented a vast leap between different cultures nearly 60 years ago. To misquote the old song from the First World War, "It's a long way **from** Tipperary..." and to change the ending "... but my heart lies **here**, in Merton"

Mary has dedicated her life here to the service of others. Her working life in the NHS, then being instrumental in starting Friends in St Helier, long before she became a councillor. FISH does so much to support our elderly population whose numbers are growing all the time, to combat loneliness and isolation through providing companionship and practical support through its lunch clubs.

Mary's other charity for the past year has been the Colour House Theatre. A number of us enjoyed an evening of cabaret in its intimate setting last summer, we were really bowled over by the impressive talent of young local performers that was on display. Now the house comedian had clearly been briefed that the mayor would not tolerate anything smutty. Denied his usual material, he struggled on for a while, risked one joke that was borderline blue, caught the steely glare of disapproval from the royal box and announced that he was cutting his set short, which he duly did. Our Mayor is a lady of strong moral convictions and religious beliefs, in case we didn't already know.

I'd like to finish by congratulating the Mayor on her initiative setting up a meeting here in the Chamber, bringing together two voluntary organisations set up to help those recently bereaved, one based in Raynes Park the other centred on the Sacred Heart church in Edge Hill. They gave powerful and moving presentations, and we hope they will inspire others to set up similar organisations in other parts of the borough.

So thank you, Mary, for all you've done for us in a very full Mayoral year.

Cllr Peter Southgate MPWIR

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Councillor Sally Kenny in support of the vote of thanks for Councillor Mary Curtin

Thank you Madam Mayor, and welcome to your year.

Mary, I am most happy to thank you for all you have done in your Mayoral year. You have been a credit to the Mayoralty and I know that you have taken on this role as a great honour.

Throughout your year you have been dignified, committed and very hard working. You have thoroughly enjoyed every occasion, meeting and experience and treated each one with commitment and enthusiasm. Your care and concern for people has shone through in all you have undertaken.

You have shown genuine interest in all whom you have met, generating warmth and concern, building valuable and meaningful relationships.

Your desire has been to support, help and encourage all people in Merton and indeed beyond. You have shown appreciation to all who have supported you. You have valued with gratitude the teamwork which has created your amazing year as Mayor.

Councillor Mary Curtin, you will be missed by those with whom you have worked and all who benefited from your commitment and care. You have raised valuable funding for your 2 charities which will enormously benefit these organisations. I know they greatly appreciate your support and have been superbly supportive to you.

Mary, you have been most dignified in your Mayoral year and we are all very proud of you. However, now it is back to Lower Morden. We are delighted to welcome you home with open arms. We have missed you.

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Committee: Council

Date: 10 July 2019

Wards: All

Subject: **Strategic Objective Review – Safer and Stronger Communities**

Lead officer: Ged Curran, Chief Executive /
Chris Lee, Director of Environment and Regeneration

Lead member: Councillor Edith Macauley, Cabinet Member for Voluntary Sector, Partnerships and Community Safety / Councillor Laxmi Attawar, Cabinet Member for Women and Equalities

Contact officers: John Dimmer, Head of Policy, Strategy and Partnerships / Neil Thurlow, Head of Safer Merton / Evereth Willis, Equalities and Community Cohesion Officer

Recommendations:

A. That Council consider, and note, the content of this report.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Council at its meeting on 6 March 2019 approved the Business Plan 2019-2023.
- 1.2 The Business Plan sets out how the council will deliver the Community Strategy, which is grouped into five strategic themes:
 - 1.2.1 Sustainable communities,
 - 1.2.2 Safer and stronger communities,
 - 1.2.3 Healthier communities,
 - 1.2.4 Older people and
 - 1.2.5 Children and young people.
- 1.3 Performance against these themes, plus an additional theme of corporate capacity, is monitored by Council. Each meeting of Council will receive a report updating on progress against one of these strategic themes.
- 1.4 This report provides Council with an opportunity to consider progress against the priorities that are to be delivered under the theme of **Safer and Stronger Communities**.
- 1.5 The key outcomes set out in the Business Plan relating to this theme are:
 - 1.5.1 Reducing the fear of crime,
 - 1.5.2 Reducing alcohol related violence and supporting those who are affected by alcohol misuse

- 1.5.3 Reducing anti-social behaviour and its effects on communities as well as individuals.
- 1.5.4 In addition to this the Business Plan seeks to empower local people to have a greater choice and influence over local decision-making and to increase community cohesion and integration.
- 1.6 This report focuses on progress in relation to Equalities and Community Cohesion with the focus of Hate Crime. The portfolio holders are Councillor Edith Macauley MBE and Councillor Laxmi Attawar.
- 1.7 The report sets out the council's partnership approach in regard to tackling hate crime, updates council on the partnerships four year strategic delivery plan as well as providing wider regional and national context in regard to hate crime.
- 1.8 The report also sets out the council's approach to equalities, including how we meet our statutory requirements.

2 DETAILS

2.1 Equalities

- 2.1.1 The responsibility for meeting the council's Public Sector Equality Duty rests primarily with senior managers, the Corporate Management Team and Cabinet. The Director of Children, Schools and Families supported by the Equality and Community Cohesion Officer is the Corporate Management Team's equality champion and chairs the Corporate Equality Steering Group. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission undertake a regular review of the Council's Equality Strategy.

Progress in meeting objectives under the Equalities and Community Cohesion Strategy 2017-21

- 2.1.2 The Equality and Community Cohesion strategy sets out the council's equality objectives to meet the statutory requirements of the Equality Act 2010 to publish equality objectives every four years. The strategy was adopted by Council on 12 April 2017.
- 2.1.3 Based on GLA trend-based projections, Merton's population is projected to increase to around 222,717 by 2025 and 232,473 by 2030. During this time the age profile is also projected to change, with the most notable growth coming in the numbers of those aged under 16 and those over 50. GLA data at 2018 puts Merton's Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) population as 76,800, meaning BAME groups make up just under 38% of the population and this proportion is projected to increase.
- 2.1.4 The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) ranks Merton as 6th least deprived out of the 33 London boroughs and 114th out of 326 local authority areas (where 1 is the most deprived) for the rest of England. This overall lack of deprivation does, however, hide inequalities and extremes in the borough between deprived wards in the east of the borough that are amongst the 15% most income-deprived in the country, and the more affluent wards in the west

that are amongst the top 5% most affluent. Three wards are more deprived than the average for London: Cricket Green, Figges Marsh and Pollards Hill.

- 2.1.5 The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Merton highlights health inequalities that are based on gender, ethnicity and where people live. It is evident that there is a difference between the most and least deprived areas within the borough for life expectancy of 6.2 years for men and 3.4 years for women. Linked to deprivation, those in the east of the borough have a much higher chance of serious illness and early deaths from illnesses such as cancer and heart disease.
- 2.1.6 Merton is a diverse London Borough and has a strong, resilient and integrated community supported by a strong track record of partnership working. This is reflected in the results of the Residents Survey (2019) with 94% of residents who think people from different backgrounds get on well together. This is underpinned by the council's commitment to equality and diversity set out in the new Equality and Community Cohesion Strategy.
- 2.1.7 The Equality and Community Cohesion Strategy 2017-21 aims to address key issues such as:
- bridging the gap between the levels of deprivation and prosperity in the borough;
 - improving understanding of the borough's diversity and foster better understanding between communities;
 - improving understanding of 'hidden' disabilities and the challenges that disabled residents face in all aspects of their lives. We aim to work in a cross-cutting way and take a holistic approach to more effectively address the needs of disabled residents;
 - supporting those who do not usually get involved in decision-making to better understand how they can get involved and get their voices heard;
 - supporting residents to access on-line access services;
 - providing services that meet the needs of a changing population;
 - employing staff that reflect the borough's diversity.
- 2.1.8 Outlined below are the 6 Equality Objectives that have been developed to narrow the gap in outcomes between residents in the east and west of the borough:
1. Ensure key plans and strategies narrow the gap between different communities in the borough;
 2. Improve equality of access to services for disadvantaged groups;
 3. Ensure regeneration plans increase the opportunity for all Merton's residents to fulfil their educational and economic potential and participate in the renewal of the borough;
 4. Promote a safe, healthy and cohesive borough where communities get on well together;
 5. Encourage recruitment from all sections of the community, actively promote staff development and career progression opportunities and embed equalities across the organisation;
 6. Fulfil our statutory duties and ensure protected groups are effectively engaged when we change our services.

2.1.9 The strategy is implemented through an action plan (see Appendix 1) which is monitored through the council's performance framework and commitments are aligned with departmental service plans to ensure effective implementation.

2.1.10 **Progress on the implementation of the strategy**

2.1.11 Overall, the update in Appendix 1 shows excellent progress has been made to implement the commitments in the Equality and Community Cohesion Strategy, in particular key achievements to note include:

- A Social Value Toolkit has been launched and will give service commissioners the policies to use the local labour supply and/or apprenticeships when major contracts (such as highways) are being procured.
- To support the council's financial inclusion work, Citizens Advice Merton and Lambeth is funded by the council to employ a Welfare Disabilities Advisor. Take-up of this service offer is very high.
- The Council continues to provide a Local Welfare Support Scheme that provides financial support to households experiencing extreme poverty.
- An increase in library usage by 11-16 year olds from a CR4 postcode, there are now 4,006 users amongst this cohort.
- Our schools continue to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged groups. At Key Stage 4 the gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers has narrowed in the Progress 8 indicator from 0.62 to 0.47 with this cohort achieving a score of 0.12.
- A new 'Positive Behaviour Support' policy has been developed with an associated training programme which has supported the reduction of exclusions related to challenging behaviour. The number of permanent exclusions in secondary schools decreased significantly – below the most recent national, London and outer London comparators. These results are against a national rising trend of permanent exclusions.
- Over the 2017-18 academic year, the proportions of young people who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), or whose status is unknown, again fell and were significantly better than national averages.
- Key workers from the My Futures team have continued to provide a range of group and individual 1:1 work as well as various other support through joint working to improve outcomes for at-risk young people and those who are NEET.
- Merton has been successful in a bid for the Home Office Early Intervention Youth Fund that will deliver 'Responsive Community Engagement' where there are concerns about anti-social behaviour, 'hot spots' and increasing violence. The team will be co-located in the Adolescent and Family Service and work alongside existing provision to increase capacity to respond swiftly to these concerns and divert young people from the criminal justice system.
- During 2017/18 the provision of housing advice and assistance has successfully prevented homelessness in 465 cases (exceeding the target of 450).
- The Merton Autism Strategy has been developed and published. An Autism Partnership steering Group has been established to implement the

action plan and a Merton Autism profile has also been developed which will be published shortly.

- A Health Needs Profile on disability has been produced to inform commissioners, ensuring disability needs and issues are considered in the commissioning of services. The profile will also be useful to voluntary and community organisations, as evidence when bidding for funding.
- The 'assisted waste' collection service has been promoted as part of the direct communication to every household in advance of the service change which was introduced in October 2018. This was again promoted as part of the information pack which accompanied the new wheelie bins.
- All controlled crossings on borough roads adhere to the regulation and are DDA compliant. TfL have also completed their review and administered remedial works at all signalised junctions.
- The Faith and Belief Forum has supported Wimbledon Synagogue to sponsor a Syrian Refugee family through the Community Sponsorship Scheme. This is the second family welcomed to Merton by our library voluntary sector and more applications are in the pipeline.
- The council submitted a successful bid for funding from the Home Office and secured £143k from the English Language Co-ordination Fund for 2018-20. The council has partnered with Merton Home Tutoring to provide a service that supports those seeking English language courses with the most suitable provider.

2.1.12 In addition to continuing to be address the commitments in the equality strategy, the following areas will be focused on in 2019/20:

- Reduce the gap in the percentage of obese 10-11 year olds between East and West Merton, through reducing obesity amongst children in east Merton.
- Increase Adult Education course take up by 25% in deprived wards by delivering a focussed employability and family learning offer.
- Continue to press for step free access at West Barnes and Motspur Park stations under the 'Access for all' funding programme
- Embed the new waste collection service and focus on assisted collections and ensuring pavements remain free of wheeled bins

2.1.13 **Celebrating and supporting Merton's Windrush Generation**

2.1.14 Merton successfully secured funding from the Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government to celebrate Windrush Day and the Caribbean presence in Merton. Working with local community and educational groups the borough will celebrate 'Windrush Day 2019' through a three-day programme of events to highlight and celebrate some of the contributions made by the "Windrush Generation" to Merton and to the UK. Included in the programme are:

- 21st June - Schools Celebration -10.00-12.00 at Merton Civic Centre, including a Heritage display, traditional Caribbean and other music and storytelling: from 'Grandma's Knees'.

- 22nd June - Community Celebration -12.30-4.30pm at Merton Civic Centre. Heritage display, music, Caribbean migratory history workshop and authentic Caribbean taster food.
- 23rd June Interdenominational Thanksgiving Service- 4.00pm-6pm at St. Barnabas

2.1.15 Following the launch of the Windrush Compensation scheme the council has promoted the scheme through the council magazine, My Merton, and also working with MVSC to target information to relevant community organisations.

2.1.16 **EU Settlement Scheme**

2.1.17 The council has promoted publicity about the EU Settlement scheme and has been working with voluntary sector organisations to ensure that all those residents who are eligible to apply are aware of their rights and take steps to secure their status in the UK. The council has funded Citizens Advice Merton and Lambeth to provide advice and casework support to residents who need support to navigate the system to ensure they do not lose out on their rights.

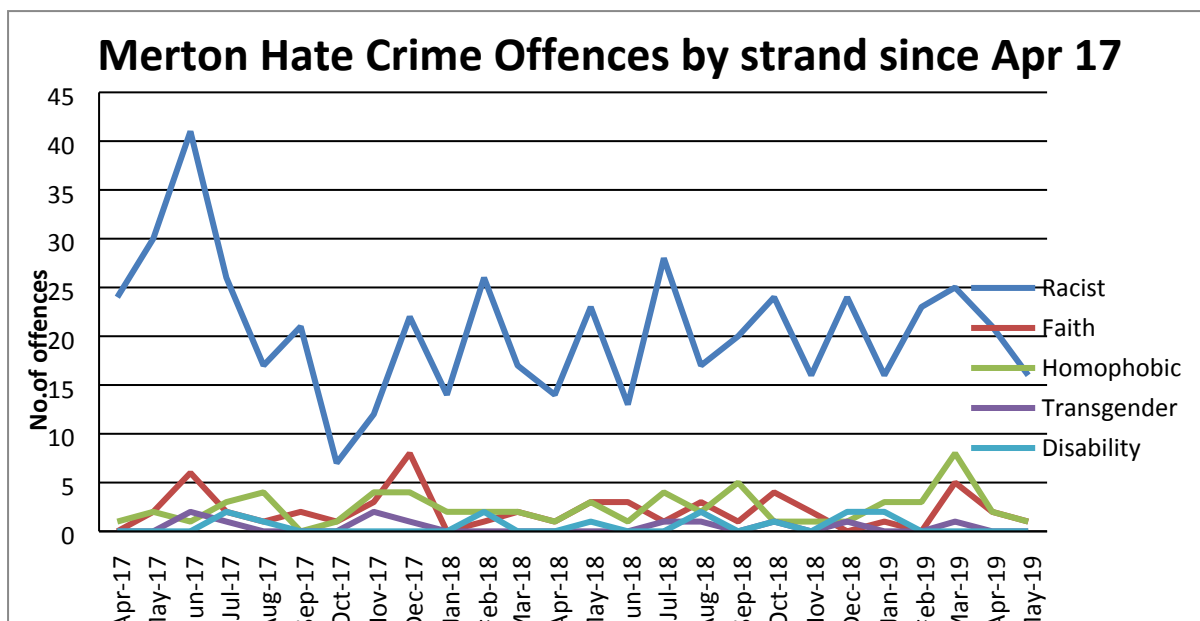
2.2 **Tackling Hate Crime in Merton**

2.2.1 Hate crime is defined, by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) as, *"any criminal offence which is perceived, by the victim or any other person, to be motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a personal characteristic; specifically actual or perceived race, religion/faith, sexual orientation, disability and transgender identity"*

2.2.2 Hate crime is a strategic priority for the Community Safety Partnership and Mayor of London as stated in the Police and Crime Commissioners (MOPAC) Police and Crime Plan 2017-21. The delivery of the partnerships hate crime plan sits within Community Safety where a dedicated officer oversees the work and delivery of the plans required outcomes.

2.2.3 Following the last strategic theme report in 2017 the country has seen several terror attacks including those at London Bridge as well as the bombing at the Manchester Arena.

2.2.4 These attacks lead to increased reports of hate crime nationally, and within Merton. However, the borough based reports gently declined and this trend has been maintained since.



- 2.2.4.1 National hate crime figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) are only available up to FY 2017/18
- 2.2.4.2 For Merton the figures show a 17% increase on the previous year for all forms of hate crime offence with racial incidents being the highest form of offence with an approximate average 20 offences reported a month.
- 2.2.5 Each year the Safer Merton service undertake a hate crime profile to better understand reported hate crime within the borough. The refresh of this report is due to be delivered in August 2019.
- 2.2.6 For financial year 2018/19 Merton saw 330 reports of hate crimes made to Police. This is an increase on the total of 313 for the previous year. These figures break down as follows:-
- 238 racial hate;
 - 30 faith based hate;
 - 34 homophobic hate;
 - 9 disability hate crime;
 - 9 transgender hate crime.
- 2.2.6 These numbers suggest that there is still more to do in terms of how we engage our disabled and LGBT+ communities to encourage reporting.
- 2.2.7 Whilst these figures show a slight decrease year on year the partnership recognises that reports of hate crime remain significantly low and that there will be more victims whom are yet to come forward and seek support.
- 2.2.8 Merton has a strong community and the Safer Merton service, as too the council as a whole, are fortunate to have excellent partners in the voluntary and community sector who are helping us drive this agenda forward.

2.2.8 Working with our communities over the last 12 months we have delivered:

- *International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT)*. Friday 17th May 2019 saw the Mayor of Merton, Members, Merton's LGBT+ Forum, council, police, LFB and community representatives raise the Freedom Flag above the Civic Centre to mark IDAHOBIT 2019. The event was well attended with colleagues across the council coming together to show their support and take a stand against hate in any form.
- *Hate Crime Awareness Week (HCAW)* – running 13th-20th October 2018, HCAW saw a programme of engagement events running at locations across the borough supported by a strong social media campaign. Over the course of the week Safer Merton, police and partners engaged with over 1,500 residents from a range of backgrounds face to face, raising awareness of hate crime and providing a strong reassurance message that hate crime in any form is not tolerated in this borough. 180 residents also completed our hate crime survey via face to face and online methods, the learning from which will be taken forward to shape this year's programme of events.
- *Hate Crime Advice Surgery in conjunction with Tell MAMA and partners* – In February 2019 the first of Merton's Hate Crime Advice Surgeries launched. Taking place once a month at the Civic Centre, this service is the first of its kind in South London and sees representatives from Tell MAMA (Measuring Anti Muslim Attacks), Polish Family Association, BAME Voice and Inner Strength Network offer advice and support on hate crime and how to report it. This is a drop in service available to all victims of hate crime living in the borough.
- *Hate crime video in conjunction with South Thames College and Leaders Unlocked* – Safer Merton has funded the production of a video on hate crime and how it affects young people developed, scripted and produced by students at South Thames College in Merton. This video will be used as an educational resource for students aged 11-18yrs across the borough going forward.
- *Hate crime advocate at DV OSS trial* – During the first half of 2018/19, a specialist worker attended the weekly one stop shop for victims of domestic violence to identify and support disabled domestic violence victims who were also victims of hate crime. The worker also provided training to other agencies involved in the running of the OSS on how to recognise and support victims of this sometimes difficult to identify crime.
- *Hate crime leaflet* – a leaflet explaining what a hate crime is and how to report it and the key support services available in Merton has been designed and distributed to residents at engagement events and on our website. (Appendix 10.1)

- *Hate crime victims' card* - A card with this information in a wallet sized format has been created and distributed to police Neighbourhood and Response teams in the BCU to be given to victims of hate crime to inform them of further support services available to them in Merton. (Appendix 10.2)

2.2.9 Our approach to engaging with victims of hate crime, and championing the work which is being delivered in Merton is driven by third sector is recognised as being innovative and inclusive within the Borough Command Unit area. Our work on this agenda has been driven to ensure that our third sector and statutory partners come together to work with the council on this agenda.

2.2.10 Moving forward we will seek to further enhance this work with the development, and launch, of third party reporting sites, increased work on engagement and awareness raising (to increase both formal reports and requests for support) as well as seeking to align victims of hate crime with other victims needs as we explore the concept of safe havens across the borough.

2.2.11 Our partnership work ensures that we respond appropriately, swiftly and in a co-ordinated fashion when supporting victims of hate crime. Our work will continue in this vein as we work with colleagues from across the council and the partnership to provide support and guidance to our communities as we work to ensure that they feel safe and they understand what offers there are in the borough.

2.2.12 If we can achieve this we will seek to enhance Merton's position as a safe, cohesive borough which is not immeasurably impacted upon by the few but is, rather, celebrated by the majority.

Our hate crime strategy – 2018/19 update

2.2.13 As advised in the previous strategic theme report our work on hate crime is channelled via a four year strategic work plan. This plan, delivered between 2017-21, is overseen by the hate crime strategy group and, in turn, the community safety partnership. The plan works to four key themes:

(i) Co-ordination – Designed to ensure that we develop an understanding of the victims’ needs and their journey through the criminal justice system to ensure that Merton’s residents can access reporting and support services easily and efficiently.

(ii) Prevention - Provide our residents with the knowledge and skills to stay safe, whilst challenging those who identify with the perpetration of hate crime. Developing and strengthening community cohesion through unifying our residents.

(iii) Provision - Work with partners and the community to provide a range of support services which assist in a practical sense with regards to the reporting (and potentially trial) procedures while also providing emotional support to victims.

(iv) Protection - Ensure that the police and partners are given equalities and diversity training and so can identify factors which could flag a regular crime as being motivated by hate, in the process ensuring these are taken seriously and acted upon accordingly.

2.2.14 The plan is now entering its third year of operation. Year two outcomes include:

- A successful campaign of engagement events took place throughout Hate Crime Awareness Week (HCAW) in October 2018 to raise awareness of hate crime and increase confidence in reporting.
- IDAHO (International Day Against Homophobia) 2018 was marked with a Freedom flag raising ceremony outside Wimbledon Police Station attended by the Mayor and community leaders and representatives.
- The launch of a monthly Hate Crime Advice Surgery in conjunction with Tell MAMA and partners, the first in the South London area, encouraging victims to come forward and seek advice and support.
- Work began on strengthening relationships with third party providers and on designing a third party reporting protocol.
- The consideration of the impact of Brexit on our community and the affects hate crime can have on community cohesion. As such, a social media campaign run by the council and supported by partner organisations in the hate crime strategy group was implemented with the hashtag #mertonstopshate to relay the message that Merton is a harmonious borough which will not be divided by hate.

Future aims and next steps for the hate crime strategy:

- Following the implementation of a six month pilot scheme, to roll out a network of third party reporting providers to improve the reporting mechanism and support available to victims and encourage those who do not feel confident reporting to police to come forward.
- To further evolve a strategy involving Think Family which takes consideration of the victims' and perpetrators' entire family.
- The hate crime strategy group will continue to keep a watching brief of developments over Brexit and how we can support those who are affected by resulting hate crime. This will involve the continuation of our #mertonstopshate social media campaign and monitoring of data on reports of hate crime to ensure any groups within our community particularly affected can be offered further engagement and support.
- To continue to run a comprehensive programme of engagement events across the borough during Hate Crime Awareness Week (HCAW) in October 2019 in conjunction with our partners, the police and community groups to provide a strong reassurance message that hate crime will not be tolerated and support is available.
- To further develop our educational approach in tackling hate crime by incorporating awareness sessions into the Junior Neighbourhood Watch programme already being run by Safer Merton aimed at primary school pupils in the borough.
- Explore avenues of BCU wide working around hate crime to ensure the needs of victims in the South West BCU are fully understood.
- To engage housing providers around early recognition of hate crime and enforcement actions against tenants who are perpetrators.

Definitions of hate crime

- 2.2.15 In November 2018, Merton Council formally adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of Anti-Semitism. This definition has been added to our Hate Crime Strategy.
- 2.2.16 At Council in April 2019 a motion was passed to write to the borough's MPs to urge them to work with the government to produce an internationally recognised definition of Islamophobia to be adopted by the government, which will then be formally adopted by this Council.

3. REPORTS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSIONS/PANELS

3.1 Safer Communities

- 3.1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission has continued to hold the Police and Safer Merton to account in relation to crime, policing and anti-social behaviour over the last year.

- 3.1.2 The BCU Commander has attended scrutiny twice in the past year to provide the latest crime data and answer questions on a wide range of issues including stop and search, anti social behaviour, gangs and knife crime, street drinking (including the use of public space protection orders) as well as preventative work including the work of police officers in local schools. The Commission has closely questioned the Borough Commander on levels of crime, how BCU police resources are deployed in Merton and the future of Wimbledon and Mitcham police stations.
- 3.1.3 The Commission was pleased to hear of progress made in obtaining a long term injunction that will help the police and the council to respond promptly to Traveller encampments.
- 3.1.4 The Safer Merton Manager reported twice on work being undertaken by Safer Merton and the Community Safety Partnership, including detailed information on the CCTV service, anti social behaviour, victim support and hate crime. At the request of the Commission, an email was sent to all councillors setting out key messages about when to use the 999 and 101 police phone numbers so that this could be passed on to residents.
- 3.1.5 The Commission commended the work of Safer Merton in regard to its content, breadth and outcomes achieved epically when considered alongside headcount within the service itself. Several members have visited the councils CCTV service which, in summer 2018, returned to Safer Merton's management.
- 3.1.6 The Commission and the Youth Parliament ran a joint event during Local Democracy Week 2018 to give young people some experience of and insight into the council's scrutiny processes. Five members of the Youth Parliament joined seven scrutiny councillors to discuss "what is Merton doing to help young people feel safe?" This question was chosen by the Youth Parliament to provide them with an opportunity to present and discuss the results of a consultation the Young Advisers had carried out with 742 young people aged 11-20.
- 3.1.7 A Police Sergeant and a council officer from Safer Merton also attended to outline their roles and to answer questions.
- 3.1.8 Cabinet subsequently endorsed the recommendations made by the Youth Parliament and the implementation plan is now being monitored by the Commission.

3.2 Stronger Communities

- 3.2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission has continued to take a close interest in Merton Partnership's equality and community cohesion strategy and to review the action plan on an annual basis. The Commission welcomed progress made this year on the Equality and Community Cohesion Strategy action plan, particularly on narrowing the gap on

educational attainment, the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), food poverty and welfare support.

3.2.2 In November 2018 the Commission received a report detailing how the council was preparing for Brexit, including contingency plans in the event of a 'no deal', and how the council could support EU residents to secure their rights around settled status. In response, members requested that councillors be provided with information so they could encourage EU residents within their wards to apply for settled status.

3.2.3 Although the Commission leads on Stronger Communities, many of the work strands of the three Overview and Scrutiny Panels actively contribute to the promotion of equality and diversity. For example, the Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel has scrutinised the experience of people with disabilities who have faced challenges when applying for the Disability Living Allowance to the Personal Independent Payment. A number of organisations have been invited to the Panel to give evidence including the Merton Centre for Independent Living, Citizens Advice Merton and Lambeth and representatives from the DWP. The Panel will continue to focus on this area until the service for Merton residents has improved..

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1 None for the purposes of this report.

5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The work to drive forward the council's contributions to hate crime sits within Safer Merton. The service has been fortunate to secure funding from grant income (London Crime Prevention Fund) to pay for officer time on this agenda. This funding is currently secure for financial years 2019/20 and 2020/21

5.2 The Equality and Community Cohesion Strategy will be delivered within existing resources.

6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 IHRA Definition of Anti-Semitism

The IHRA definition of Anti-Semitism is *“a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”*

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of anti-Semitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- (b) Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- (c) Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- (d) Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- (e) Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- (f) Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- (g) Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor.
- (h) Applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- (i) Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- (j) Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- (k) Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

- 7 On 6 April 2011 the Equality Act 2010 introduced the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which requires the Local Authority, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a “protected characteristic” and those who do not. “Protected

characteristics” are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation and, in relation to the duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination only, marriage and civil partnership.

- 8 With effect from 12 April 2012 the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulation 2011 requires the council to prepare and publish equality objectives and subsequently at least four-yearly. The objectives must be specific and measurable. The Equality and Community Cohesion Strategy fulfils these requirements.

9 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 By developing and producing a new Equality Strategy, the Council has re-affirmed its commitment to human rights, equality and community cohesion. Merton’s approach to equality and diversity is driven by its overall vision of Merton – a great place to live, work, learn and visit. The draft strategy will encourage a wider public debate about equalities in Merton and the actions needed to address inequality.

10 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There is a risk of increased hate crime activity directed towards certain groups if there is no commitment to eliminate discrimination and harassment.
- 10.2 Council and the wider partnership need to be aware of the potential risk of increased levels of hate crimes as and when the UK officially exits the European Union

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 Update on Equality Strategy Action Plan
To follow

- 12.2 Hate crime leaflet



10.19
Hate_Crime_DL_Leaf

- 12.3 Hate crime victims’ card



10.19 Hate Crime
Wallet Card 54x85.6

13 BACKGROUND PAPERS

13.1 The hate crime strategic work plan 2017-21



Strategic Work Plan
2017-2021 Yr 2 Upda

RAYNES PARK COMMUNITY FORUM
26 MARCH 2019

(7.15 pm - 9.00 pm)

PRESENT Councillors Councillor Omar Bush (in the Chair),

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Agenda Item 1)

The meeting was held in Raynes Park Library Hall, and chaired by Councillor Omar Bush, with Chris Larkman from the Raynes Park Association (RPA). More than 50 residents attended, as well as six other Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners. in Raynes Park Library Hall, and chaired by Councillor Omar Bush, with Chris Larkman from the Raynes Park Association (RPA). More than 50 residents attended, as well as six other Merton Councillors, and officers from the council and its partners.

2 OPEN FORUM (Agenda Item 2)

Morley Park

Councillor Nick Draper, Cabinet Member for Community and Culture, provided an update on Morley Park. Having had a difficult time negotiating with the developer Berkeley Homes, Cllr Draper said that the lease agreement had been reached with a £1million endowment so that Berkeley Homes would remain responsible for any reoccurrence of Japanese Knotweed. As a result, the park would be able to open in the next few weeks, with Ursuline School able to use the playing fields after their Governors have agreed the contract with the Council. A formal opening ceremony will then take place in May.

In response to questions from residents Cllr Draper said that the park should be open to the public before the official opening but the details of the event have yet to be planned in detail. Cllr Draper explained that the footway through the park would be a public right of way but the park would be closed at night. Diane Hodson from Friends of Morley Park asked if the sloping path would be made more accessible. Cllr Draper said there would not be any more work to the path as the area will be left to meadow. Access to the area will be from the other side of the park and the advantage of keeping a circular path is that it is more dementia friendly. A resident also asked about the visibility of the blocks of flats with trees having been removed, Cllr Draper said he would need to check but some areas are still to be planted.

My Raynes Park Festival

Tom Underwood said that the programme for the summer festival has been finalised and is being printed. The festival will run from 28 June to 7 July and will include comedy, poetry, art, music and films, culminating with the Lark in the Park picnic on 7 July in Holland Gardens. Details will be available from <http://www.myraynespark.co.uk/>

Merton Citizens

Tom also provided an update on Merton Citizens, that brings together 21 local organisations and faith groups. The priorities for the group are housing, mental health, and refugee welcome.

Sexual Health Strategy

Clare Gummatt said that Merton Council's Public Health Team was working with Merton Clinical Commissioning Group to create a new Sexual Strategy that would inform future commissioning. There is a consultation open until 22 April which can be found at www.merton.gov.uk/consultations.

Age UK Planning for the Future Event

Clare also said that Age UK would be holding a Planning for the Future Event on 10 April from 4-8pm in Wimbledon Library.

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/merton/about-us/news/articles/2019/planning-for-the-future-with-age-uk-merton/>

Details of all the other activities run by Age UK Merton are also available from their website <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/merton/>

Chris Larkman said that the Apostle's Residents Association had asked Merton Council to plant additional trees, that the Association would pay for as they have in the past, but was told Merton Council would not be willing to meet ongoing maintenance costs.

3 LONDON ASSEMBLY UPDATE (Agenda Item 3)

Leonie Cooper, Assembly Member for Merton and Wandsworth, provided an update on the work of the Assembly in holding the Mayor of London to account. Since her last visit to Raynes Park the Assembly has agreed Environment, Transport, and Knife Crime strategies. The London Plan is currently being examined in public by the Planning Inspectorate. The London Plan covers issues such as green spaces, building heights, tree planting and waste recycling as well as using Transport for London land to transform areas like Morden. Once approved by Inspectors the Plan would be enforced.

The new Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), will come into effect on 8 April. It will cover the same areas as the Congestion Charge but will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To find out if your vehicle would be subject to the additional charge go to <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/vrm-checker-ulez>.

In response to questions from residents Leonie said the start of Crossrail 2 were certainly receding and it would be unlikely to see a Hybrid Bill in 2019. It is possible the Crossrail will need to be completed first and that has been delayed. Leonie was asked if the Mayor of London could call-in planning permission granted by Merton Council on Metropolitan Open Land, and replied that the Mayor can only call-in certain types of applications so would need to check on the detail if it could be emailed to leonie.cooper@london.gov.uk.

A resident asked what was being done to hold the Mayor to account over knife crime. Leonie responded that knife and violent crime was a national issue not just a London one but in London the Assembly has been challenging the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor Sophie Lindon; the Commissioner Cressida Dick; and Borough Commanders. There has been some improvement in 2019 compared to 2018 but there is still a lot more to do to resolve long term issues like cuts to local youth services. The Mayor has created a Violence Reduction Unit and has increased the Council Tax precept in order to invest in more officers. A resident asked if the Assembly was pressuring the Government to reserve cuts to police funding. Leonie said the Assembly agreed that police cuts have gone too far, especially in London which has unique costs like Royal Protection and counter terrorism. There are different views across the Assembly about the role of Stop and Search but it is usually most effective when intelligence led. In some case the Met has been using Section 60 powers to increase stop and search in a small area, such as Figges Marsh, for a time-limited period.

Leonie explained that while Councils can pay for additional officers they can't pay for additional PCSO as the Met is not keen to lose flexibility over deployment. On Wimbledon Police Station Leonie said the review of the decision following the Judicial Review of the consultation was not yet completed so there is not a final decision as yet.

4 PROPOSED RESIDENT'S PARKING CHARGE INCREASES AND RP CENTRE 20 MINUTE FREE PARKING. (Agenda Item 4)

Cath James, Ben Stephens and Mike Robinson from Merton Council gave a presentation on the proposed changes to charges for parking in car parks, on-street bays and controlled parking zones (CPZs). The presentation can be found as an appendix to this report.

The consultation is open from 29 March until 5 May and can be found at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/parking/charges-consultation-2019>

Not part of the consultation is the option of emissions charging or the review of the diesel levy which will be considered by Cabinet in the autumn. The results from the consultation will be reported to Cabinet in the summer.

Residents raised a number of comments in relation to the proposals including:

- The charges are unfair as they only cover CPZs so won't affect those with driveways or outside the zones
- The resident permit charge was to cover administration of the zone so this breaks with this relationship
- The increase in Pay and Display charges will impact on local businesses
- There is no evidence that increasing charges will reduce use of cars
- The large increases are hard on those who cannot afford this
- There has been insufficient notice given of the consultation
- Pollution is caused by other kinds of vehicles, not residents parked cars
- This will encourage more people to concrete over their front gardens and install crossovers, which is bad for the environment

- There is a big life expectancy gap between the East and the West of Merton and yet the biggest increase in charges in are in the West where life expectancy is higher.
- Emissions based charging would be fairer

Ben explained that in addition to on-street posters the consultation was also featured in My Merton, would be in the Wimbledon Times, and would be promoted on social media.

Councillor Martin Whelton, Cabinet Member Regeneration, Housing and Transport, said that parking is not the only action the Council is taking on air pollution but is an important lever. He had heard the views expressed tonight and encouraged residents to respond to the consultation.

5 STREET CLEANING, RUBBISH & RECYCLING COLLECTIONS (Agenda Item 5)

Councillor Mike Brunt, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Cleanliness, provided an update on the new waste collection service. Cllr Brunt said it had been a difficult roll out with 10% of households not receiving the new bins in time for the new service and some having to wait five months for their bins. This was not acceptable and Cllr Brunt apologised for this. This has been the biggest change in Merton's waste collection but was already starting to see some positive results. Food recycling has increased by 160,000 tonnes per months, garden waste subscriptions are up by 20% and there has been a drop in the waste going to the Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) of 330,000 tonnes per month. The number of assisted collections has also doubled. The target was to see 45% of waste recycled in 2018/19 and we are on target for that.

There is still a challenge in getting the contractors crews to use the system properly, stopping them lifting refuse out of the bins and risking spills. Missed collections are still too high but are coming down from 717 per week in November to 360 per week in March. Merton is recruiting three extra street inspectors to monitor the contract performance. Plastic waste does not have any value in recycling but it is cheaper to recycle than feed into the ERF. The Council is keen to work with Government to see plastic usage reduce.

Fly-tipping is still an issue but action is being taken. The Council has just taken eight people to court and fined them £1300 as well as crushing three vehicles used for fly-tipping. We will be looking to increase enforcement, name and shame more offenders and will be launching a 'We are watching you' campaign.

In response to questions from residents Cllr Brunt said that the ERF visitor centre will be open later this year. Services for flats above shops will be reviewed and there have been problems with recycling for small blocks of flats. Residents can request additional recycling boxes if needed and all new boxes should come with a lid. Unfortunately, the Council cannot clear fly-tips on private land without permission but is happy to support Alleygates if that would help residents keep their land clear. Street cleaning is based on monitoring output targets and Merton will be increasing the number of inspectors to monitor performance. With autumn leaf fall there is a 10-

week window to clear up the fall so timing is critical, this year sucker machines were introduced to speed up the process.

6 TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENTS & RAILWAY (Agenda Item 6)

Chris Larkman provided an update. Network Rail are clearing the bank on the north side of the station and hopefully the land transfer on the south side will go ahead shortly. The poor fencing and the poor SW trains service have also been raised. It is important to keep the pressure on NR.

The cycle route to New Malden should open in the next few months.

7 RAYNES PARK PLANNING MATTERS (Agenda Item 7)

Neil Milligan was unable to attend the meeting so Chris Larkman and Cllr Fairclough provided an update instead. New plans on the Manuplastics site have been submitted following consultation, increasing the number of units from 99 to 125. The developer plans to start on site in 2020 even if they cannot get the changes approved. The development on the Bushey Road Tesco site is going ahead. Southey Bowling Club have applied for an extended License, 12.30am on Friday and 1am on Saturday, and comments need to be submitted by 2 April. A pedestrian crossing on Martin Way will be installed in April.

8 FEEDBACK, REMINDERS & UPDATES (Agenda Item 8)

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda Item 9)

Councillor Bush thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting

Dates of future meetings: All at 7.15pm in the Library Hall

Thursday 13 June 2019 Cllr Anthony Fairclough

Thursday 19 September 2019 Cllr Eloise Bailey

Thursday 5 December 2019 Cllr Pauline Cowper

Tuesday 31 March 2020 Cllr Adam Bush

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Public health, air quality and sustainable transport a strategic approach to parking charges

Community Forum Consultation

April 2019

This evening :

- What is being proposed
- Why is it being proposed
- Where to find our more and have your say

What is **not** being proposed in this consultation

- Changes to 20 Minutes free parking
- Changes in the diesel levy
- Emissions based charging

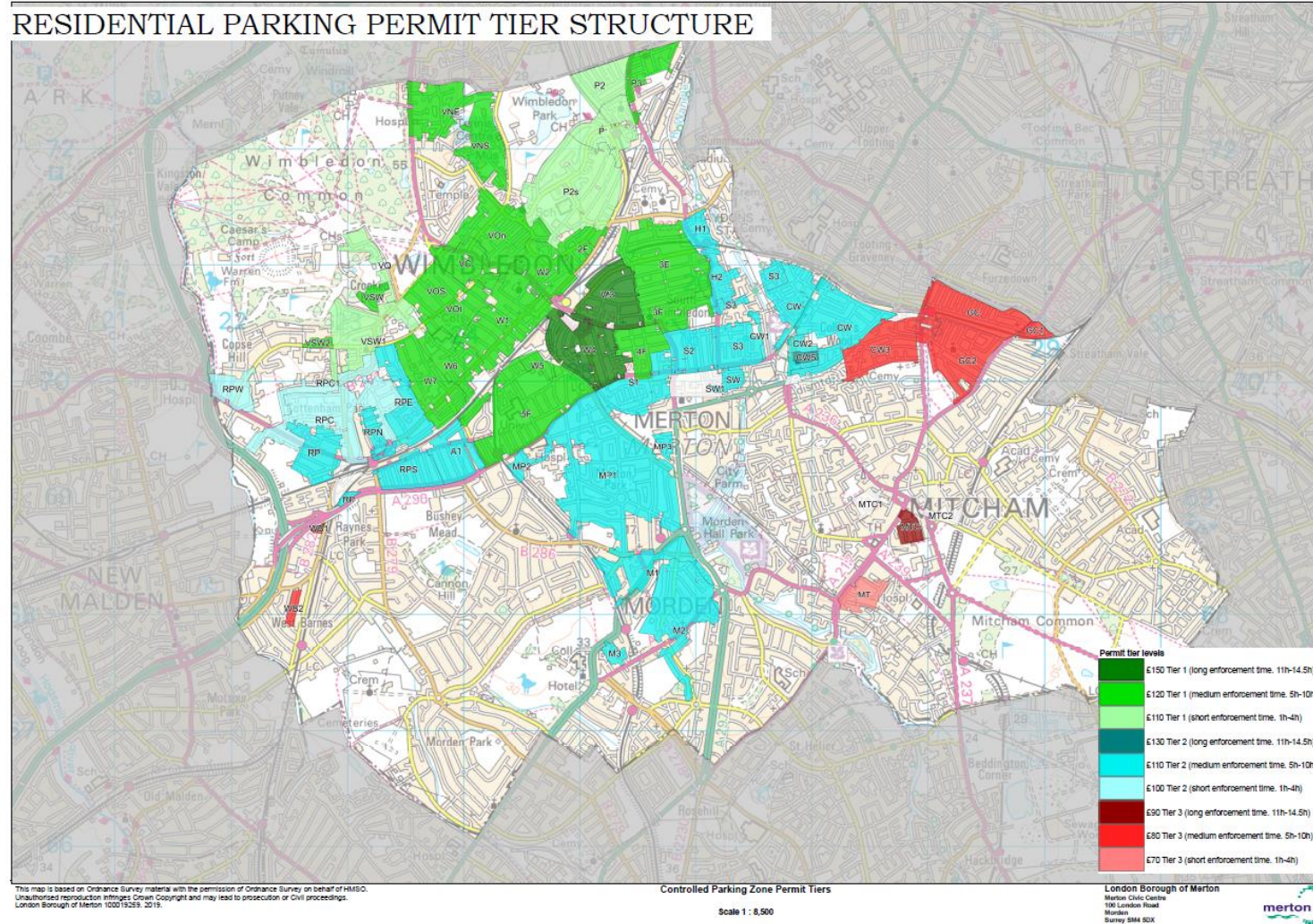
What is being proposed

- The Council is consulting on parking charges until **5th May 2019**
- This includes :
 - Charges in council owned car parks
 - *Pay and Display* charges 'on street'
 - Resident and visitor permit charges in Controlled Parking Zones
- It is proposed that charges will increase but there will continue to be incentives and lower charges for electric vehicles

What is being proposed

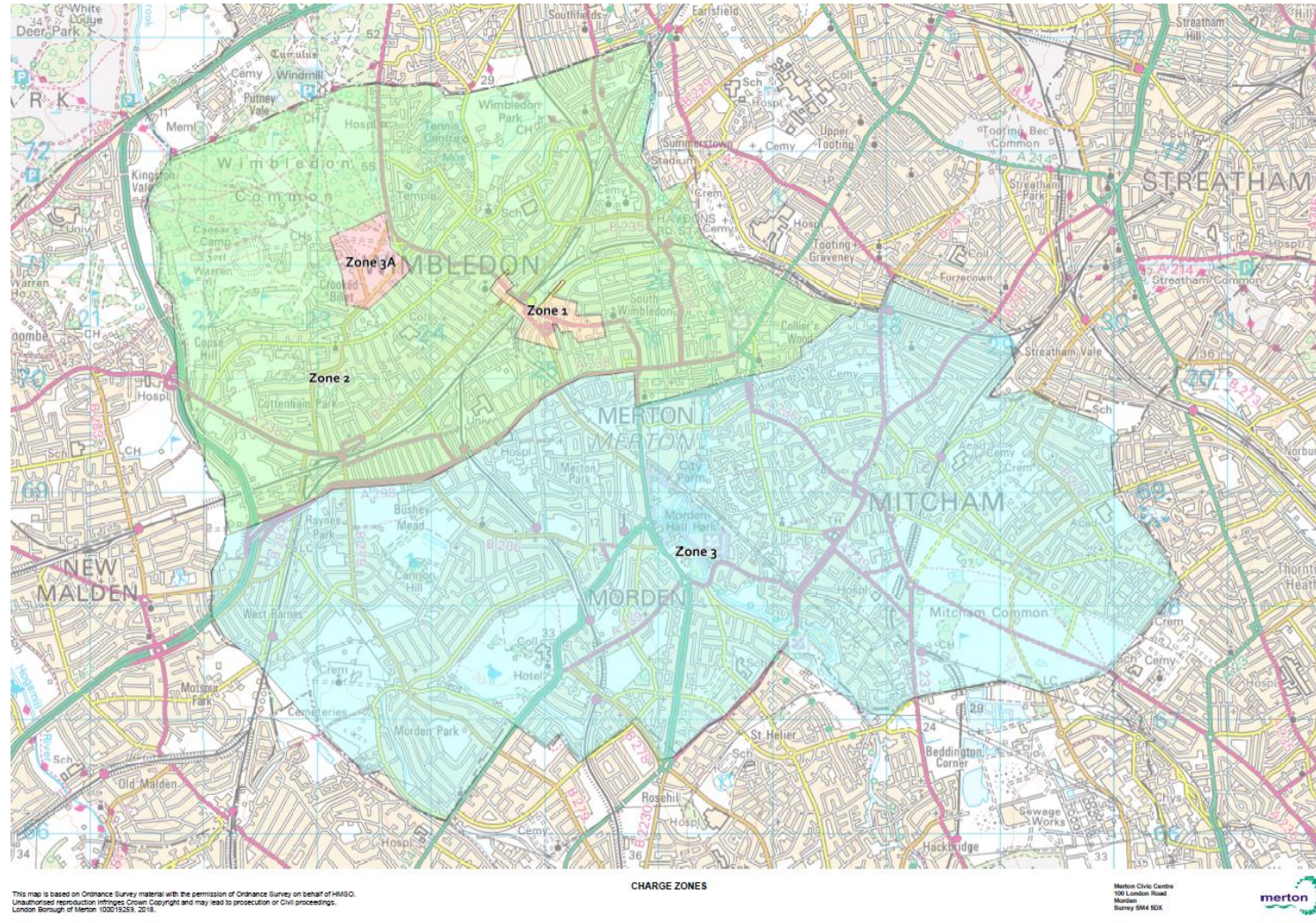
- **A charging system that :**
- Is fair and proportionate recognising that there are parts of the borough that are better served by public transport;
- Reflects the resources to enforce Controlled Parking Zones that have longer operating hours;
- Encourages active transport [walking and cycling] as well as public transport
- Is representative of, Mayors Transport policy, other council policy such as Air Quality and compliments surrounding boroughs similar sustainable transport endeavours.

Controlled Parking Zone Tier Structure



Pay and Display Charging Structure

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Why is this being proposed ?

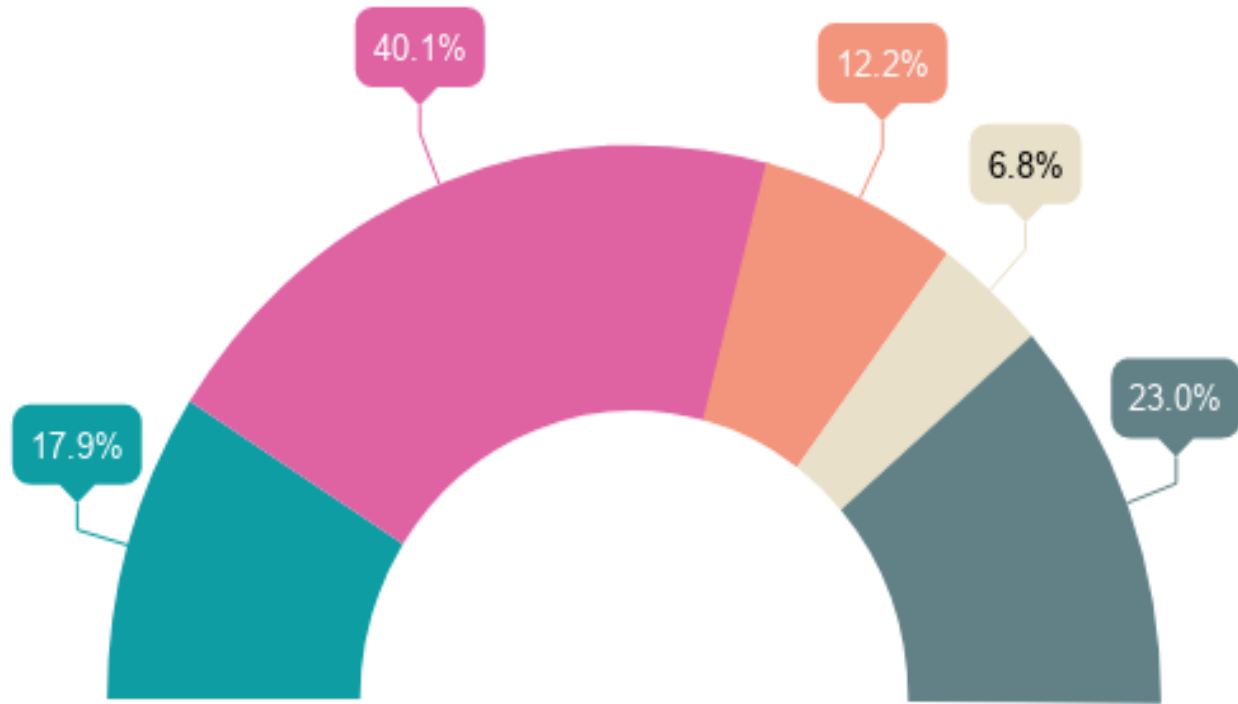
- Incentive for less car use, meaning fewer trips by car
 - Over one third of all the car trips made by London residents could be walked in up to 25 minutes
- Less car use meaning less vehicle emissions and less **air pollution**:
 - The **main source of air pollution** is from the vehicles on our roads.
 - An estimated **9,000 deaths a year in London** are attributable to the air pollution.
 - Other **health problems** are caused or worsened eg heart disease, dementia.
 - Most people with asthma say that **poor air quality makes asthma worse**.
 - 60% of children and young people in Merton, say air quality is a 'problem', 'big problem', or 'very big problem'.

Why is this being proposed ?

- Less car use means **more physical activity** through use of public transport, walking or cycling.
 - More physical activity lessens the obesity epidemic. **150 primary school classes of Merton children** are overweight.
 - Almost **60% of Merton adults** are overweight.
 - Diabetes and other long term health conditions linked to obesity will get worse.
- Less car use is **good for the economy and for business** as the efficiency of freight and commercial journeys improves
- **There isn't one single solution.** Increasing parking charges is part of the solution at local level
- Most car charges have not increased since 2009

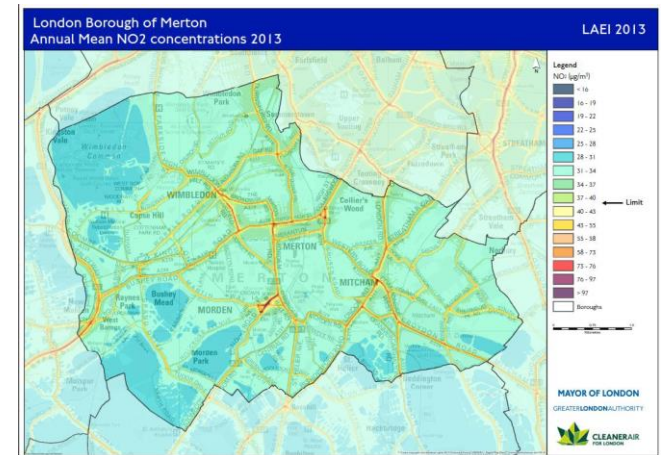


Children and young people in Merton care about air quality:



- No problem at all
- A problem
- A big problem
- A very big problem
- Don't Know

Question 24.0
How much of a problem is the cleanliness of the air in my area?
This single response question was answered by 1,174 respondents.



Where can I find out more?

More information

- A copy of the proposed Order and other documents giving more detailed particulars of the Order, including the Council's statement of reasons and plans can be inspected Monday to Friday during normal office hours at:
 - Merton Link, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey.
- Further information can be viewed on the Council's website at: www.merton.gov.uk/parkingconsultation2019 and at all Merton operated libraries.

Public Notices on street & in the local press.

- The Council has placed a minimum of 6 Notices per street in each CPZ zone.
- A notice has been attached to each Pay and display machine, both on street and in or car parks.
- A Notice has been published in the Local Newspaper
- MyMerton has a feature article, (delivered to all residents)

How can I support or make representation on this proposal?

We welcome your comments

Any person wishing to make representation or object on the proposals should visit:

www.merton.gov.uk/parkingconsultation2019

We have an online survey and opportunity to submit representations

or

In writing to Parking Services, the London Borough of Merton, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5DX quoting reference **Parking Consultation 2019** or by email to parkingconsultation2019@merton.gov.uk, no later than **5 May 2019**.

Thank you

WIMBLEDON COMMUNITY FORUM
28 MARCH 2019

(7.15 pm - 9.15 pm)

PRESENT Councillors Councillor James Holmes (in the Chair),

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Agenda Item 1)

The meeting was held at the Wimbledon Arts Space, and chaired by Councillor James Holmes. More than 30 residents attended, as well as seven other Merton Councillors. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, introducing the councillors present at the meeting.

2 CHANGES TO PARKING CHARGES CONSULTATION (Agenda Item 2)

Councillor Tobin Byers, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health introduced the rationale behind the proposed changes and then the detail was presented by Cath James, Assistant Director for Public Protection, and Ben Stephens, Head of Parking Services. The presentation slides are an appendix to this report.

Cllr Byers said that the wider determinants of health, including the environment have a huge impact and that the council was keen to use the levers it has to influence behaviours that will have a positive impact. In this case the proposal is to encourage behaviours that will improve Air Quality and encourage Active Travel. Tobin said he understood this was a difficult issue and there would be opposition but this was a serious issue that required challenging choices.

The consultation would begin on 29 March and would run until 5 May. The results would then be reported to Scrutiny and Cabinet. The Council is also looking into emissions based charging and would be reviewing the diesel levy but these will be considered in the autumn so are not part of this consultation. The consultation can be found at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/parking/charges-consultation-2019>

The consultation is featured in the latest My Merton and notices have been posted on streets effected. Notices will also be published in the Wimbledon Times and there will be a link on the home page of the Council website. The consultation will also be promoted on social media and with key stakeholder groups. To respond you can complete an online survey, send in an email to

ParkingConsultation2019@merton.gov.uk or write to the Council at Parking Consultation 2019, Parking Services, Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, SM4 5DX

Residents raised a number of issues as set out below along with the response from the team where relevant:

Issue	Response
The PTAL does not reflect the reality of the quality of public transport	This is a widely use Transport for London assessment.
The charges will not change behaviour, there is no evidence supporting this and there is no target for the reduction in car use.	The proposals aim to be fair and reasonable and nudge rather be too blunt a tool.
Parked cars do not have an impact on air quality whereas the following do: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxis idling at the station • Buses • HGVs • Construction/development • Mopeds blocking free parking outside the station 	Cars do move and it is a choice to keep one. The Council is working with TfL to move taxis and buses to lower emission vehicles and is also beginning an anti-idling campaign. Planners consider the impact on air quality of all applications and there is a section on air quality in the draft Local Plan. The Council is working with Love Wimbledon to identify a better position for the delivery mopeds.
No charges for those with private driveways or outside controlled parking zones	The proposals form part of a much larger picture to tackle Air Quality but is an important lever the Council can use.
Negative impact on retailers of increasing charges	The 20min free bays in the smaller retail centres are unaffected.
Cycling lanes are in poor condition and infrastructure not good enough to encourage active travel	Addressing this forms part of the plans for Local Improvement Programme (LIP) that is being agreed with Transport for London

Cllr Byers summed up by explaining that any income from parking charges or enforcement is restricted to transport related projects including the £9m cost of Freedom Passes, road infrastructure and addressing air quality. Additional income will help us do more but the object is to reduce the number of cars in Merton, and therefore issue less permits.

Parking is not the only issue in relation to air quality and the Air Quality Action plan sets out more than 70 measures the council is taking:

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/pollution/air-quality-and-air-pollution/local-air-quality-management>

The consultation is just beginning and residents are encouraged to take part and to document any concerns. All the responses will be weighed up before a decision is taken.

3 STEPHEN HAMMOND MP (Agenda Item 3)

Stephen Hammond, MP for Wimbledon, provided an update on local issues: Crossrail 2 – not much progress as the funding model is still being discussed and they still have not determined the route. Stephen said he would hold a public meeting if there was any news

Heathrow – Stephen had organised a well-attended public meeting to encourage residents to have their say on the consultation on new flight paths. The proposals would see a substantial increase in the number of low flights over Wimbledon. Stephen had responded directly to the consultation to say the proposals were unacceptable.

Wimbledon Masterplan – Stephen had met with resident associations and councillors to feedback on the draft masterplan.

Wimbledon Police Station – there has still not been a final decision on the future of the station following the judicial review that forced the Mayor of London to reconsider the proposed closure. Stephen did not think it was likely the Mayor would change his mind.

Bins – there were still some residents complaining they had not received the new wheelie bins. The reputation of the borough is being undermined and the service is not acceptable.

Parking – whilst air quality is an important issue moving vehicles are more of an issue than parking, and the council also needs to look at the impact of development.

In response to questions from residents Mr Hammond said he would continue to encourage residents to respond to Heathrow consultations and would raise with Merton Council's Chief Officer if the Council can publish their response. Cllr Byers also said he would look into this. Mr Hammond said that Heathrow expansion would have more impact on noise pollution than on air quality although air quality would be affected by the additional vehicles going to Heathrow.

Air quality was also raised in the planning application for the Harris School development and Mr Hammond said he was disappointed the application based. Cllr Byers said he would be happy to look at the construction issues at this site.

A resident asked about additional street bins being made available and Mr Hammond said the councillors present would be best placed to take this up.

4 WARM & WELL IN MERTON PROJECT (Agenda Item 4)

Mark Williams from Wimbledon Guild gave a presentation on the Warm and Well in Merton project. The slides are attached to this report. Mark explained that this is an important issue due to the excess winter deaths, especially for the over 75s and in 2016/17 there were 851 emergency admissions for injuries due to falls among people aged 65 years and over in Merton. The project offers information and advice, free home energy checks for residents meeting certain criteria, as well as opportunities to access financial support. The project is looking to work with local organisations and groups to get everyone ready for next winter, giving Warm & Well talks and distributing information packs which include a free thermometer. Anyone interested in getting involved can contact Catherine at Wimbledon Guild at ckiernan@wimbledonguild.co.uk.

A resident raised concerns about the quality of footways, the impact of tall buildings on creating wind tunnels and landlords including Clarion moving to electric only buildings.

5 PLAY WIMBLEDON AND MASTERPLAN UPDATE (Agenda Item 5)

Paul McGarry gave an update on consultation on the draft Wimbledon Master Plan. The slides are attached to this report and all the consultation responses have been published at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/regeneration-projects/future-wimbledon/future-wimbledon-consultation-responses>

A lot of detail had been provided by respondents so officers are still examining the information. A final report will be published in June.

The Play Wimbledon workshops looked at using the space in St Marks Place and outside New Wimbledon Theatre. The full report on this work can be found at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/regeneration-urban-design/future-wimbledon>

Paul and Pablo Sendra from LUGADERO shared the concepts for permanent options in these spaces but detailed designs would follow and be consulted on.

Residents raised the following points about the two sites.

St Marks Place:

- Please explore Barcelona style bins that are underground
- Does the area need to be repaved given the costs?
- The space is not sufficient for cars to pass each other
- Having art or display options on the side of the library
- Fixed designs reduce flexibility
- Kiosks are not needed

- There would need to be additional crowd control
- St Mark's Church are broadly in favour of the designs

New Wimbledon Theatre:

- Would like more ambitious approach to the seating
- Hedging would be better than planters for greening

6 OPEN FORUM (Agenda Item 6)

Sergeant Marcia Heritage had provided contact details for anyone wanting to raise any local crime and safety issues. The local Safer Neighbourhood Team can be reached at wimbledontowncentre.snt@met.police.uk.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda Item 7)

Councillor Holmes thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Future meetings: all 7.15pm in Wimbledon Arts Space
Wednesday 19 June 2019; Wednesday 25 September 2019
Tuesday 3 December 2019; Thursday 26 March 2020

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Public health, air quality and sustainable transport:

A strategic approach to parking charges

What is being proposed

- The Council is consulting on parking charges until **5th May 2019**
- This includes :
 - Charges in council owned car parks
 - *Pay and Display* charges 'on street'
 - Resident and visitor permit charges in Controlled Parking Zones
- No change to 20 Minutes free parking
- It is proposed that charges will increase but there will continue to be incentives and lower charges for electric vehicles

What is being proposed

- **A charging system that :**

- Is representative of, Mayors Transport policy, other council policy such as Air Quality and compliments surrounding boroughs similar sustainable transport endeavours.
- Is fair and proportionate recognising that there are parts of the borough that are better served by public transport;
- Reflects the resources to enforce Controlled Parking Zones that have longer operating hours;

Why is this being proposed ?

- Incentive for less car use, meaning fewer trips by car
 - Over one third of all the car trips made by London residents could be walked in up to 25 minutes
- Less car use meaning less vehicle emissions and less **air pollution**:
 - The **main source of air pollution** is from the vehicles on our roads.
 - An estimated **9,000 deaths a year in London** are attributable to the air pollution.

Why is this being proposed in Merton?

- Less car use can lead to **more physical activity** through use of public transport, walking or cycling.
 - More physical activity lessens the obesity epidemic. **150 primary school classes of Merton children** are overweight.
 - Almost **60% of Merton adults** are overweight.

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Cycle parking delivers



5x
the retail spend per square metre than the same area of car parking

Source: Raje and Saffrey, 2016

Over a month, people who walk to the high street spend up to

40% more

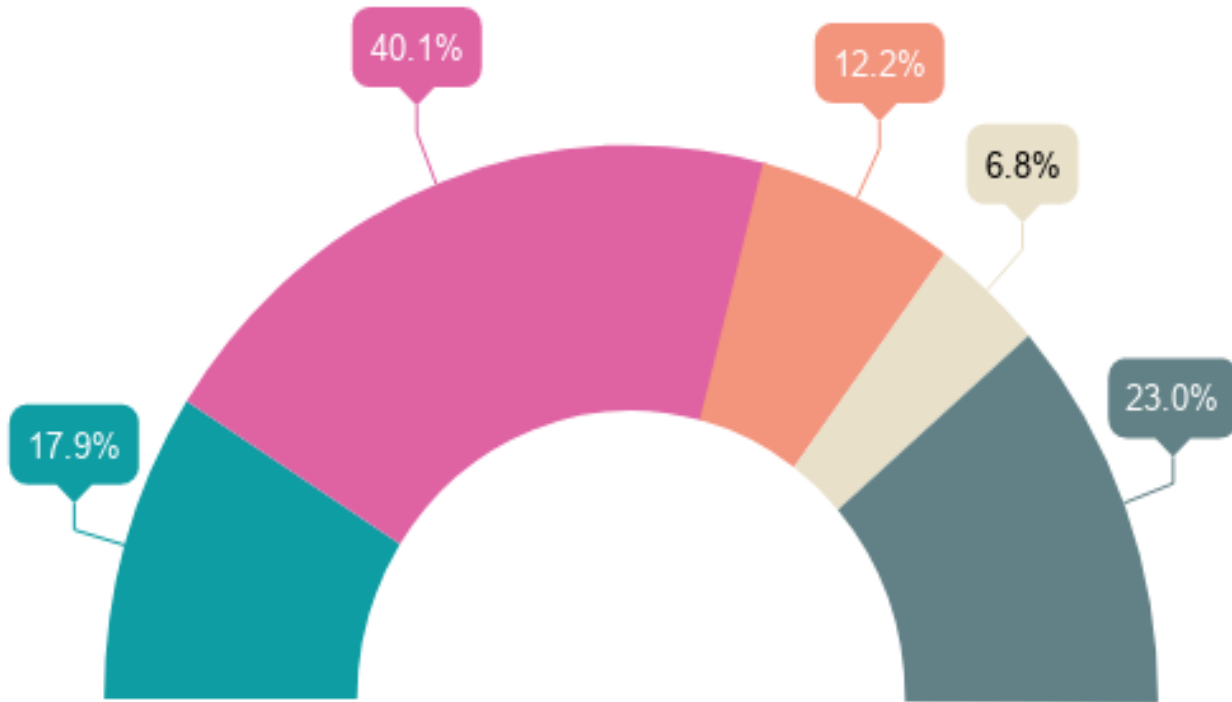


than people who drive to the high street

Source: TfL, 2013

Young people in Merton care about air quality:

Page 79



- No problem at all
- A problem
- A big problem
- A very big problem
- Don't Know

Question 24.0
How much of a problem is the cleanliness of the air in my area?
This single response question was answered by 1,174 respondents.

Proposed car park charges in Wimbledon

CAR PARK (Inclusive of VAT).	Current hourly charge	Proposed hourly charge
Broadway	£1.00	£2.00
Hartfield Road	£1.50	£2.00
Queens Road	£1.00	£1.50
St Georges Road	£1.40	£1.50

Proposed On Street Pay and Display Charges

On-street pay & display	Per Hour
Zone 1 255 bays in Wimbledon town centre	£4.50
Zone 2 Wimbledon Village, Wimbledon Park, South Wimbledon Raynes Park. Colliers Wood,	£3.00
Zone 3 Mitcham, Morden and other areas not specified.	£1.50
Zone 1a Wimbledon Common	£1.50

Proposed Controlled Parking Zone Tier Structure

Merton last increased Permit charges in 2009.

Zone duration	Tier 1 zones Wimbledon	Tier 2 zones Part Colliers Wood/ South Wimbledon/ Raynes Park/ Morden	Tier 3 zones Mitcham/ Part Colliers Wood	100% electric vehicles All zones
Long (12 to 14.5 hrs)	£150	£130	£90	£20
Medium (6 to 10 hrs)	£120	£110	£80	£20
Short (1 to 4 hrs)	£110	£100	£70	£20

- Linked to 'Public Transport Accessibility Levels' (PTAL) as set out by TfL.
- Length of operation of each zone and associated enforcement costs.

Other boroughs Permit charges

Cost	Highest priced residential permit by council (2018/19)
£300 +	Islington £475, Kingston £350* Enfield, £330
£200 - £299	Lambeth £299, Camden £296, Haringey£280, Brent, £237, Kensington & Chelsea £228, Hackney £214
£90 - £180	Tower Hamlets £181, Wandsworth £166, Sutton £150, Merton £150 , Hounslow £130, Southwark £125, Ealing £125, Lewisham £120, Merton £120 , Richmond £109,

*Kingston from April 2019.

Informing the public and stakeholders

Public Notices on street & in the local press.

- Yellow Notices in each CPZ zone.
- Each pay and display machine
- Local Newspaper
- My Merton has a feature article, (delivered to all residents)
- Press release
- Formally informed:
 - All Councillors,
 - All Resident and Business Associations
 - All Statutory Consultees

How can I support or make representation on this proposal?

We welcome your comments

- Any person wishing to make representation or object on the proposals should visit: www.merton.gov.uk/parkingconsultation2019
We have an online survey and opportunity to submit representations
- In writing to: Parking Services, the London Borough of Merton, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5DX quoting reference **Parking Consultation 2019** or by email to parkingconsultation2019@merton.gov.uk, no later than **5 May 2019**.

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Mark Williams, Head of Communications and Fundraising at Wimbledon Guild



What is Warm & Well in Merton?

- Raising awareness of the importance of preparing for next winter and giving support on how best to stay warm and well, helping to reduce the number of winter hospital admissions in Merton.
- A partnership between Merton Council, Wimbledon Guild and Age UK Merton
- Running from January 2019 to March 2020 with 3 main aims:

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- 1) To make sure that people at risk receive correct, clear, consistent, useful advice and information to help them stay warm and well
- 2) To improve awareness and encourage collaboration between services by providing information about what works, and what services are available
- 3) To support individual people to maximise their income, stay active and keep warm in Winter

**Warm
& Well
in Merton**



Winter pressures

An estimated 43,900 excess winter deaths occurred in England and Wales in 2014/15; the highest number since 1999/00, with 27% more people dying in the winter months compared with the non-winter months (Office of National Statistics).



The majority of deaths occurred among people aged 75 and over; there were an estimated 36,300 excess winter deaths in this age group in 2014/15, compared with 7,700 in people aged under 75 (Office of National Statistics)



In 2016/17 there were 851 emergency admissions for injuries due to falls among people aged 65 years and over. Falls are the leading cause of older people being admitted to hospital as an emergency (Merton Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2018)



Merton's 2018 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) predicts the number of people aged 65-84 years old will increase by 11.2% to 24,350 by 2025. This is likely to lead to greater numbers of older people suffering from falls and excess winter deaths.

What does Warm & Well offer?



Warm & Well Pack

Information and advice for individuals

Information for organisations working with people at risk

Financial support for individuals

Warm & Well Pack

- The Warm and Well packs include:
 - A Warm & Well checklist
 - Information about activities, lunch and social clubs available in the borough.
 - Age UK Winter Wrapped Up Guide, which gives information and advice on how to stay warm and a **free thermometer**.
- Age UK Winter Wrapped Up Guide is also online on the Age UK website - www.ageuk.org.uk



Warm & Well Checklist








Warm & Well in Merton Checklist



<p>How do you keep warm in winter?</p> 	<p>If you need support or more information about keeping warm and well, you can contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wimbledon Guild: 0208 946 0735 Age UK Merton if aged 60+: 020 8648 5792
<p>Are you getting the best deal on your energy supplier?</p> 	<p>Switching energy suppliers could save money on your heating bills. The following organisations provide free price comparisons:</p> <p>www.uswitch.com/ - 0800 6888 557</p> <p>www.moneysupermarket.com – 0800 177 7087</p> <p>www.simplyswitch.com – 0800 011 1395</p> <p>If you need support or more information, you can contact:</p> <p>Age UK Merton (State Pension Age and over): 020 8648 5792</p>
<p>Are you getting all the benefits to which you are entitled?</p> 	<p>You may be eligible for benefits to help with your energy bills such as Winter Fuel Payments or the Warm Home Discount scheme. You can use a benefits calculator to check this:</p> <p>https://benefitscheck.ageuk.org.uk/Home/Start/</p> <p>https://benefits-calculator.turn2us.org.uk/AboutYou</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators</p> <p>If you need support with working out your benefits, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wimbledon Guild if aged 55+: 0208 946 0735 Age UK Merton (State Pension Age & over): 020 8648 5792
<p>Do you need financial help to ensure you can keep warm and well in winter?</p>	<p>Wimbledon Guild can provide grants for items people in Merton desperately need such as fuel costs, food, warm clothing, bedding etc when they have exhausted all other avenues of help.</p> <p>Contact Wimbledon Guild Welfare: welfare@wimbledonguild.co.uk</p>
<p>Are you struggling to buy food?</p> 	<p>If you need Food Bank vouchers, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wimbledon Guild: 0208 946 0735 Age UK Merton: 020 8648 5792
<p>Have you had the flu jab this winter?</p> 	<p>The flu jab is free for people aged over 65 and those who have conditions that make them susceptible to complications if they have flu. Ask your GP or pharmacist for more information.</p>

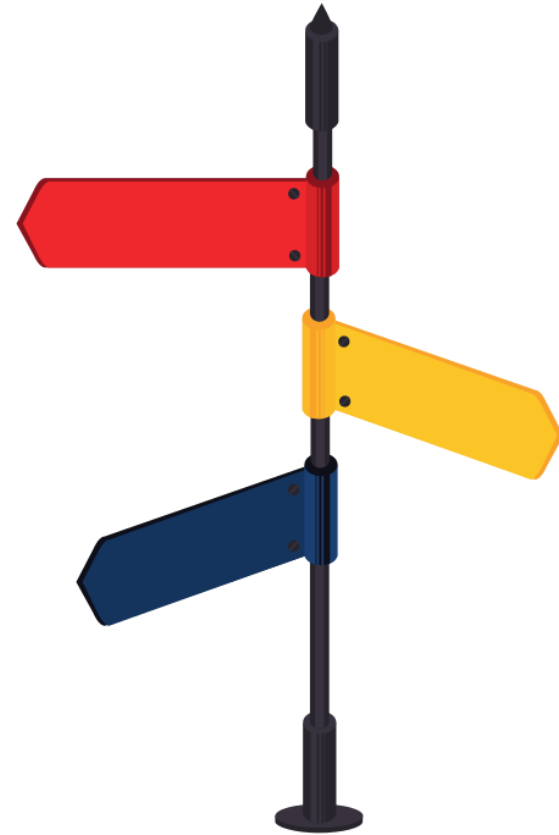


<p>Have you had any falls in the last year and how has this affected you?</p> 	<p>If you are worried about falling, Merton Falls Prevention Service provides assessment, advice and exercise for older people who are at risk of falling. Please call: 0333 241 4242</p> <p>Increasing physical activity can improve strength, balance and coordination. For an assessment and referral to an exercise class please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wimbledon Guild: 0208 946 0735 Age UK Merton: 020 8648 5792
<p>Do you need any specialist equipment or adaptations in your home?</p> 	<p>Occupational Therapy in Merton provide specialist equipment and adaptations such as toileting/bathing equipment and grab rails, to help people stay independent at home and in everyday life. The council may cover the cost, depending on customers' circumstances and need. Disabled facilities grants (DFGs) can help meet the cost of providing adaptations.</p> <p>Contact Occupational Therapy in Merton: 020 8545 4477 / 4428 Mon to Fri 9:30am to 12:30pm (no facility to leave messages)</p>
<p>Do you know what to do if there is a cold snap on the way?</p> 	<p>Watch/listen for cold weather alerts – TV/Radio/Internet</p> <p>Keep your main living room around 21°C/70°F and the rest of your home heated to at least 18°C/65°F and wear suitable clothing.</p> <p>Where do you usually sit in the house? You can place the free thermometer (from your pack) there to check the temperature.</p>
<p>Are you keeping active and busy?</p> 	<p>There are lots of social activities and classes locally. Contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wimbledon Guild: 0208 946 0735 Age UK Merton: 020 8648 5792
<p>Are you feeling connected?</p> 	<p>The Merton Befriending Service can match you with a volunteer to visit regularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wimbledon Guild: 020 8946 0735 Age UK Merton (65+): 020 8648 5792 <p>Wimbledon Guild offer counselling and group therapy for anyone over 18 who lives, works or studies within Merton and offer charitable rates.</p> <p>Contact Wimbledon Guild: 0208 296 0030</p>



Information for individuals

- Age UK Merton and Wimbledon Guild are giving advice on:
 - Keeping Warm & Well
 - Fuel poverty
 - Money & benefits
 - Transport (Dial-a-Ride, Taxi Card & Blue Badge)
 - Housing
 - Access to local services



Information for organisations

- We are holding Warm & Well talks for residents and staff at voluntary and community organisations, health and social care providers

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This will include the opportunity to run through the Warm & Well checklist on a 1:1 basis and to be referred to the appropriate organisation

- We are starting Warm & Well engagement activities in the priority wards of Cricket Green, Figges Marsh and Pollards Hill.



Financial Support for Individuals

- Wimbledon Guild can provide grant distribution:
 - For winter items people in Merton desperately need such as fuel costs, food, warm clothing, bedding etc when they have exhausted all other avenues of help
 - An application form would need to be completed and a supporting statement (by phone, email or letter) from a referring agent is preferred
 - Applicants must provide evidence of being Merton residents, proof of income and photo ID.
 - For further information, including the guidance and application form, please contact: welfare@wimbledonguild.co.uk



Staying Warm and Well in Winter

- Make sure you have a yearly flu jab. It's free for people aged over 65, if you have certain long-term health conditions or if you are a carer
- Keep moving- when indoors, try not to sit still for more than an hour
- Eat at least one hot meal a day and drink several hot drinks
- Several thin layers of clothing will keep you warmer than one thick layer, as the layers trap warm air between them.
- Choose boots with non-slip soles and a warm lining, or wear thermal socks. These boots not only keep your feet warm, they also keep you safe if the ground is slippery
- Check local news and weather reports for advice when bad weather is forecast



To help you **stay well**, it's important to **keep warm**, follow as healthy a lifestyle as you can, and **have a flu jab**.

Myth-busting



'Wearing a hat is **enough** to keep me warm on a winter's day.'

As well as a hat, wrapping a scarf around your neck and mouth can **help to protect** your health. Breathing in cold air raises the risk of chest infections and increases blood pressure.



'A **warm bedroom** is bad for my health.'

18°C/64°F is the ideal temperature for your bedroom to make sure that you are warm and well in winter.



'I only need to put the heating on for a **couple of hours** a day to keep warm.'

It's best to keep your house at a **stable temperature** as sudden changes can be dangerous. Try to keep your main living room at 21°C/70°F and close any doors to rooms you're not using.



'I don't **qualify** for any help with my heating costs.'

Contact your local Age UK for a **benefits check**, to find out what financial support is available and to see if you're eligible for any help.

Contact details



Wimbledon Guild

ckiernan@wimbledonguild.co.uk

0208 946 0735

07551 014 515



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PLAY WIMBLEDON

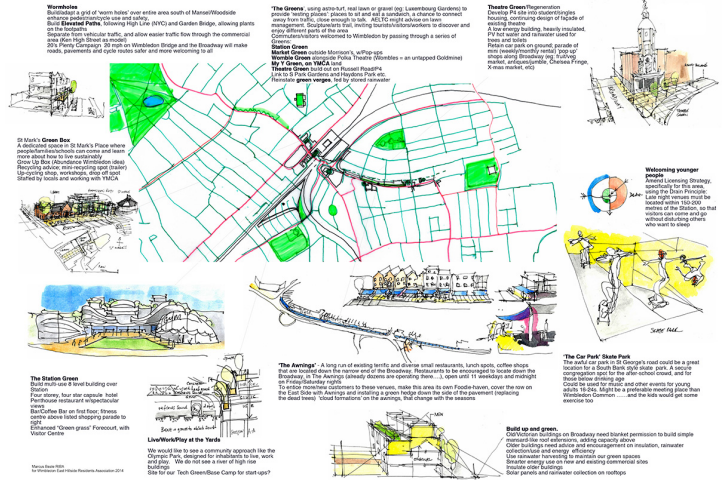
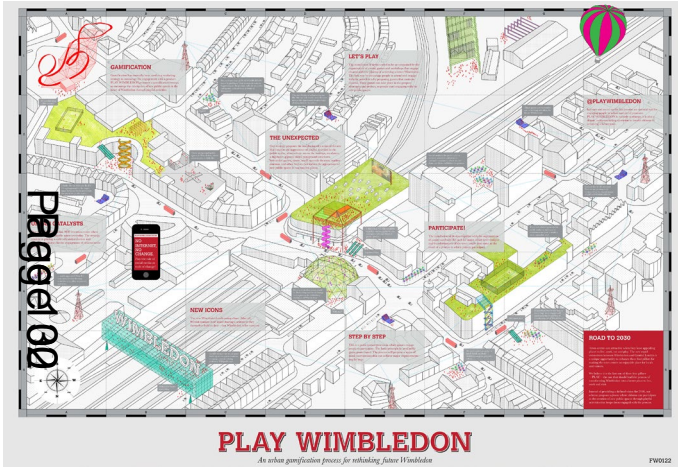
Co-design process for new public spaces in Wimbledon Town Centre,
St Mark's Place and junction New Wimbledon Theatre.
October 2018 – March 2019.



LUGADERO.



BACKGROUND



METHODOLOGY

Analysis

Campaign for advertising the co-design process and the events

Temporary installations

P-participatory design workshops

Further correspondence with residents

Collecting responses and ideas

Preliminary design

Meeting with residents and feedback

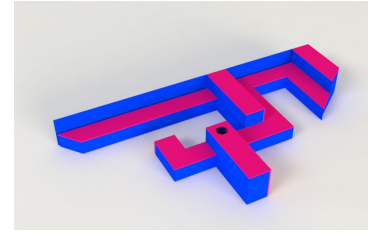
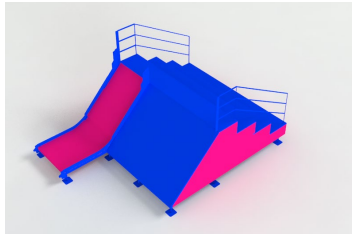
Meeting with Love Wimbledon BID and feedback

Revised proposals

Sharing the revised proposals

Presentation in the Wimbledon Community Forum

Next steps



CO-DESIGN WORKSHOPS

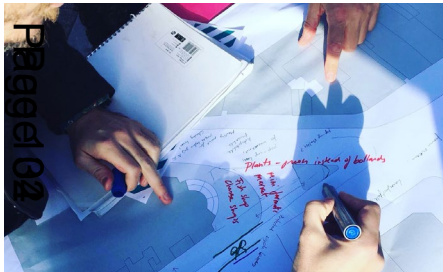
The co-design workshops used a mix of participatory methods to engage participants. The methods included:



PLAY AS AN ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY



INTERVIEWS



MAPPING PROPOSALS



LISTENING



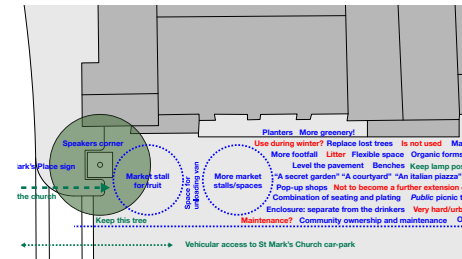
DISCUSSING CATALOGUE OF POSSIBILITIES



TESTING POSSIBILITIES IN A MODEL



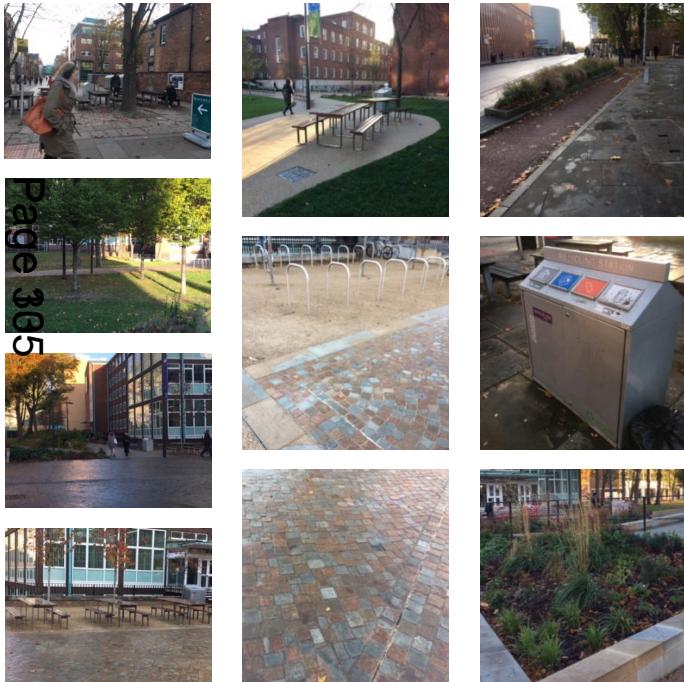
PARTICIPATORY PAINTING



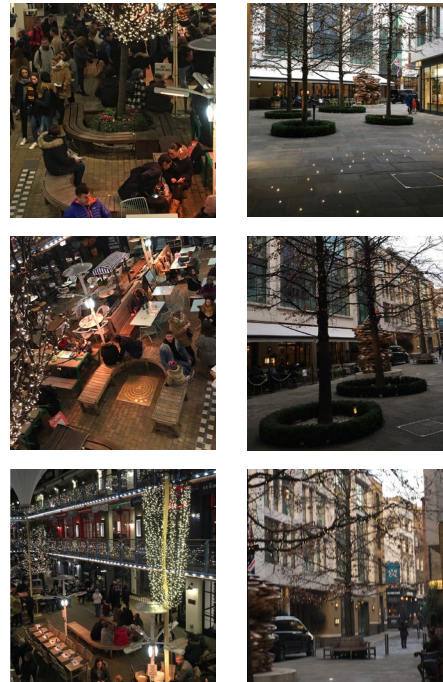
HARVESTING IDEAS

FURTHER CORRESPONDANCE WITH PARTICIPANTS

PHOTOS FROM MANCHESTER SENT BY A WIMBLEDON RESIDENT.

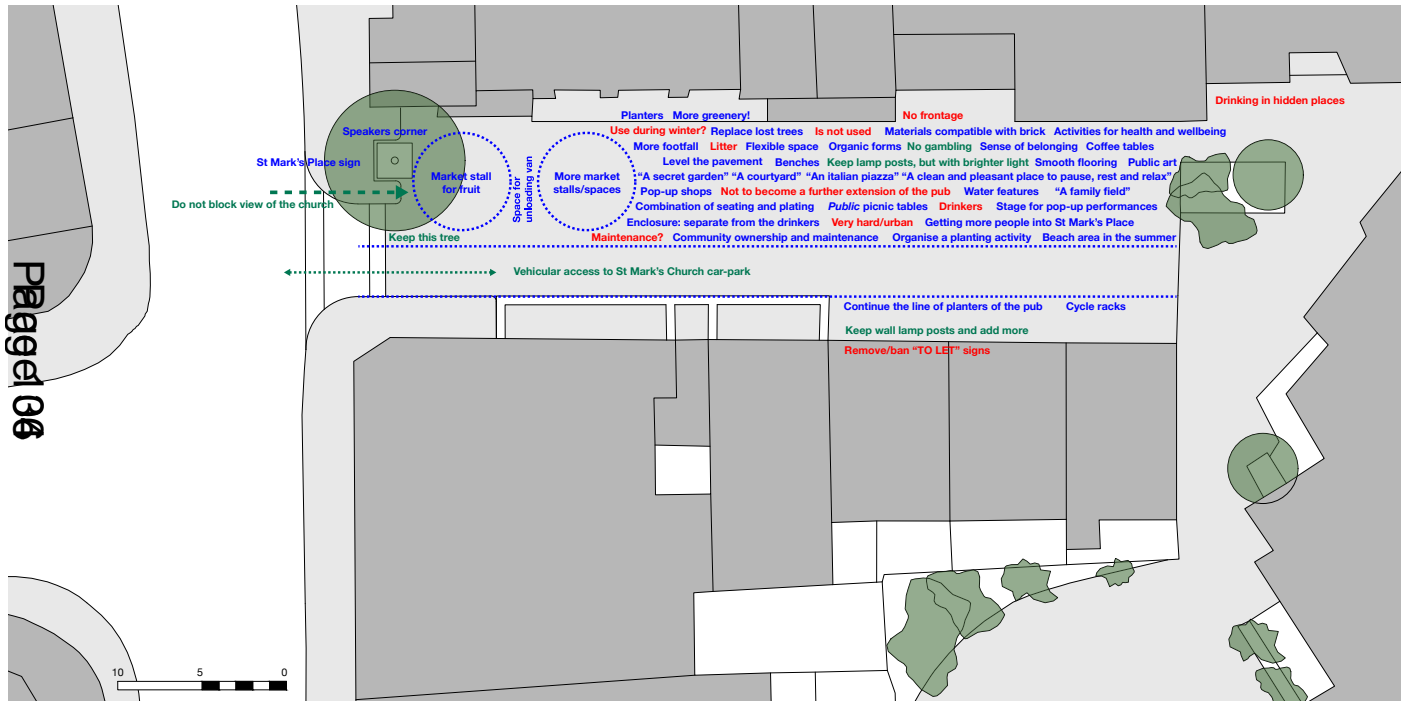


PHOTOS FROM THE WEST END, LONDON, SENT BY A WIMBLEDON RESIDENT.



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COLLECTING RESPONSES AND IDEAS



CO-DESIGN MAP ST MARK'S PLACE. COLLAGE OF RESPONSES FROM CO-DESIGN WORKSHOP.

What are your main concerns about St Mark's Place?

What should change or should be improved?

What should not change?



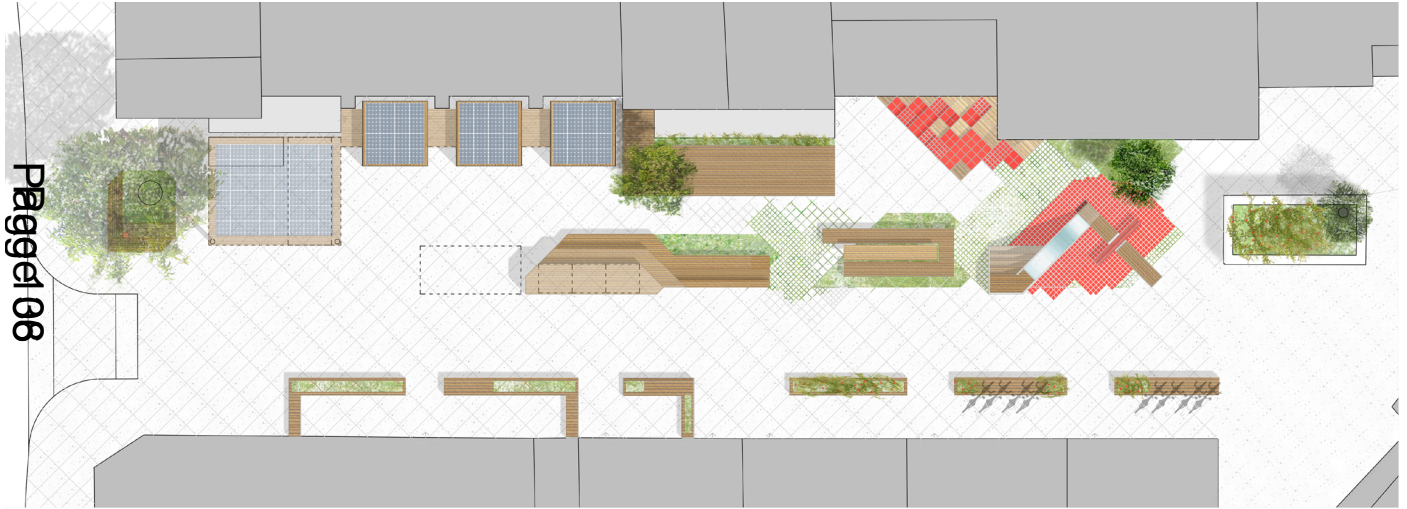
CO-DESIGN MAP JUNCTION NEW WIMBLEDON THEATRE. COLLAGE OF RESPONSES FROM CO-DESIGN WORKSHOP.

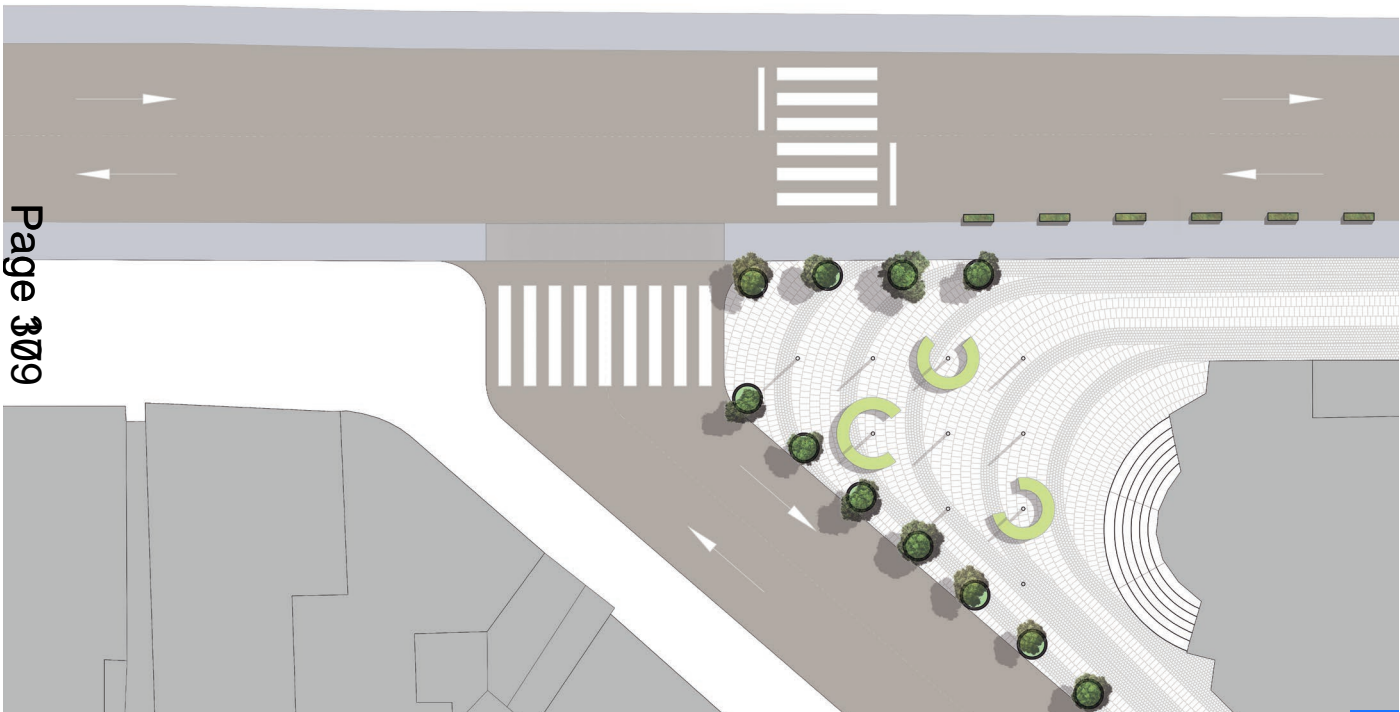
What are your main concerns about the junction in New Wimbledon Theatre?

What should change or should be improved?

What should not change?

PRELIMINARY DESIGN





MEETING WITH RESIDENTS TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS



REVISED PROPOSAL ST MARK'S PLACE
REDESIGNING THE PLANTER





PAGGET 40



ST MARK'S PLACE
PERSPECTIVE



CONCERNS RAISED BY RESIDENTS:

Trees.

Enhancement of the conservation area as part of the improvements.

Concerns on night safety.

Concerns about the cost of the pavement.

Vehicular access from/to St Mark's Church, freight vehicles and rubbish collection.

St Mark's Church 'sight lines'.

Flexibility.

Design of the kiosks.

Durable materials.

Events on stage no later than 10:30pm.



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JUNCTION NEW WIMBLEDON THEATRE
PERSPECTIVE

**JUNCTION NEW WIMBLEDON THEATRE
AXONOMETRIC VIEW**



CONCERNS RAISED BY RESIDENTS:

Concerns of the placement of sitting areas near the road.

Concerns on the lack of greening.

Concerns on the size of the road and the interaction between cyclists, cars, pedestrians and buses.

Green corridor in Kings Road.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

In 2019/2020, Merton Council will **seek funding to build these two new public spaces**. Before these public spaces are built, the following steps should be followed:

Consultation

Detailed design

Collective greening and maintenance

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COUNCIL MEETING – 10 JULY 2019

NOTICE OF MOTION

This council advises the Cabinet to:

- Abandon their ill-fated and ill-advised discriminatory policy as set out in the cabinet agenda item *Public health, air quality and sustainable transport - a strategic approach to parking charges*.
- Establish a cross-party task group to look at fairer and more effective solutions to address public health concerns and air quality across Merton.

Cllr Daniel Holden

Cllr Edward Gretton

Cllr Nick McLean

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COUNCIL MEETING – 10 JULY 2019

NOTICE OF MOTION

Council Notes:

- That both candidates for the leadership of the Conservative Party have said they would in certain circumstances agree to a 'No Deal' Brexit;
- Warnings from the Governor of the Bank of England, the OECD, the OBR and many other bodies that a 'No deal' Brexit would have severe effects on the economy
- Warnings from the British Medical Association, the Chief Medical Officer and the NHS Confederation about the effects of a 'No deal' Brexit on the supply of medicines and on the NHS more generally;
- That a no deal Brexit would leave British citizens in other EU countries and EU citizens in the UK in a very unclear situation;

Council believes that a 'No Deal' Brexit would have severe adverse effects on the people of Merton

Council resolves:

- To ask the Leader of the Council to write to Merton's MPs telling them of our concern about the effects of a 'No Deal' Brexit on the residents of Merton and asking them to use any necessary Parliamentary means to stop it from happening.
- To ask the Cabinet to ensure it has robust plans to, as far as possible, mitigate the effects of a 'No Deal' Brexit on its operations; to report on these to the September full Council meeting; and to make the details of the Brexit task group and its meetings public.

Signed by

Cllr Paul Kohler, Cllr Simon McGrath and Cllr Anthony Fairclough

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Council meeting – 10th July 2019
Notice of motion

Merton Council believes that the world is in the midst of a climate emergency and that action is required at all levels of Government – local, national and international – in order to protect our planet for future generations.

This Council notes that:

- on 8th October 2018, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published a report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emissions;
- the report warned that the risk of catastrophic climate change including extreme heat, drought, flooding and climate-related poverty would significantly increase unless global warming could be kept to a maximum of 1.5°C;
- the report authors found that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate and say that urgent and unprecedented action is required to meet the target.

Council recognises that the scale of the challenge is unprecedented. Approximately 97.5% of emissions within the borough are beyond the Council's direct control, so everyone within the borough has a role to play if we are to successfully reduce emissions. Tackling climate change can only be a common endeavour and will require residents, businesses and other organisations to play their part.

This Council resolves to:

- declare a climate emergency;
- work towards ensuring that the borough is carbon neutral by 2050, in line with the Mayor and the Government's targets. Achieving this will require significant investment and policy initiatives from the Government, and Council hopes it would be achieved earlier than 2050;
- work towards ensuring that the Council is carbon neutral by 2030, recognising the leadership role it has in the borough;
- develop a working group to support the Council move from declaration to delivery drawing in cross sector expertise, capacity and capability. The working group should draw on existing expertise within the borough as well as including residents who are representative of the borough as a whole;
- set in place a process of engagement and collaborative action that enables an action plan to be considered by Cabinet and Council in early 2020, based on achieving the aforementioned targets.

Cllr Stephen Alambritis

Cllr Anthony Fairclough

Cllr Nick McLean

Cllr Peter Southgate

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Committee: Council

Date: 10 July 2019

Subject: Review of proportionality and changes to Membership of Committees

Lead officer: Ged Curran, Chief Executive

Contact officer: Louise Fleming, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Democratic Services 020 8545 3616 - democratic.services@merton.gov.uk

Recommendations:

That the Council:

1. Approves the allocation of seats to political groups as set out at Appendix A
 2. Approves the appointment of nominations to those seats as set out in Appendix B and paragraph 2.2 below.
 3. Notes the changes to the membership of Committees that were approved under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Council.
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The Council has a statutory duty to review the representations of different political groups on the Council in order to ensure that a political balance is secured on council committees so as to reflect the overall political composition of the council. This review must take place whenever there is a change to the political composition of the Council.
- 1.2. This report also asks Council to note the changes made to committee memberships under delegated authority since the publication of the agenda for the last ordinary Council meeting on 3 April 2019

2 DETAILS

- 2.1 Following the resignation of former Councillor Mark Kenny, a by-election was held on 20 June 2019 in the Cannon Hill ward. Following the by-election, officers have carried out a review of proportionality and the allocation of seats to committees has been recalculated to reflect the change in the political composition of the Council and is attached at Appendix A.
- 2.2 The Liberal Democrat group has suggested nominations for seats to be allocated as attached at Appendix B and are detailed below:
 - Councillor Jenifer Gould be nominated to sit on the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel, with Councillor Hina Bokhari as substitute; and
 - Councillor Jenifer Gould replace Councillor Paul Kohler as substitute on the Standards and General Purposes Committee.

The nominations must be either ratified or amended by Council.

- 2.1. The following membership changes have been made by the Chief Executive under his delegated authority in accordance with section 1.4 of part 3F of the Constitution:

Committee	Member resigning	Replaced by	Date
NE Surrey Crematorium Board	David Simpson	Nick McLean	3 June 2019
School Standards Panel	n/a (vacancy)	Dave Ward	12 June 2019
Planning Applications Committee	Dave Ward	Dennis Pearce	19 June 2019

2.4 The appointments to Committees and other bodies, including the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of those committees and other bodies, were agreed at the annual meeting of the Council on 15 May 2019.

3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

3.1 None for the purposes of this report.

4 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

4.1. None for the purposes of this report.

5 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1. The information regarding membership changes in this report complies with legal and statutory requirements. Council is required to accept nominations made by political groups.

5.2. The Housing and Local Government Act 1989 contains provisions relating to the political balance on committees, the duty to allocate seats to political groups and the duty to give effect to allocations.

5.3. The Council has a statutory duty to review the representations of different political groups on the Council in order to ensure that a political balance is secured on council committees so as to reflect the overall political composition of the council.

5.4. The requirement to allocate seats must be made in accordance with the following statutory principles:

a) All of the seats are not to be allocated to the same political group.

b) The majority of the seats must be allocated to the political group with a majority on the Council.

c) Subject to the two principles listed above, the number of seats on the total of all the ordinary committees of the Council allocated to each political group must bear the same proportion to that on full Council.

6 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

6.1. None for the purposes of this report.

7 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

8 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

8.1. N/A

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

9.1 Appendix A – Allocation of committee places to political groups

9.2 Appendix B – Nominations to committee places

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Documents from the authorised officer confirming approval of the membership changes agreed under delegated authority.

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Parties
 Seats
 Total councillors
 Total in groups

60
 60

Labour	Con	LD	MPW
33	17	7	3

Committees subject to Statutory proportionality	Seats	Allocations actual				Variation seats
		Labour	Con	LD	MPW	
Scrutiny committees						
Overview and Scrutiny Commission	10	6	2	1	1	+
Healthier Communities and Older People	8	5	2	1	0	+
Children and Young People	12	7	3	1	1	+
Sustainable Communities	8	5	2	1	0	+
SW London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Cttee	2	1	1	0	0	+
Committees						
Appointments	10	6	3	1	0	+
Licensing	12	7	4	1	0	+
Licensing misc	12	7	4	1	0	+
Planning	10	6	2	1	1	+
Standards and General Purposes	12	7	3	1	1	+
Appeals	6	4	1	1	0	+
Advisory Committees established by the Council						
Pension Fund Advisory Committee	3	2	1	0	0	+
Borough Plan Advisory Committee	6	4	1	1	0	+
Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations	5	3	1	1	0	+
Merton Heritage Forum	5	3	1	0	1	+
Member School Standards Panel	3	2	1	0	0	+
Total seats	124	75	32	12	5	0
Total rounded	123	Total allocated				124
Variation	-1	Variation				+

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COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES AND SCRUTINY BODIES

COMMITTEE	LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	MERTON PARK IR
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (12 seats) Substitutes allowed	Cllr Sally Kenny (Chair) Cllr Agatha Akyigyina Cllr Joan Henry Cllr Russell Makin Cllr Marsie Skeete Cllr Dave Ward Cllr TBC Substitutes: Cllr Billy Christie TBC	Cllr Hayley Ormrod – Vice-Chair Cllr James Holmes Cllr Omar Bush Substitutes: Cllr Thomas Barlow Cllr Andrew Howard	Cllr Jenifer Gould Substitute: Cllr Hina Bokhari	Cllr Edward Foley Substitute: Cllr Dickie Wilkinson

COMMITTEE	LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRATS	MERTON PARK IR
STANDARDS AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (12 seats plus 2 Independent Persons) Substitutes allowed	Cllr Peter McCabe (Chair) Cllr Agatha Akyigyina Cllr Ben Butler Cllr Pauline Cowper Cllr Mary Curtin Cllr John Dehaney Cllr Brenda Fraser Substitutes: Cllr Stan Anderson Cllr Sally Kenny	Cllr Adam Bush – Vice Chair Cllr David Williams Cllr Thomas Barlow Substitutes: Cllr Nicholas McLean Cllr Omar Bush	Cllr Hina Bokhari Substitute: Cllr Jenifer Gould	Cllr Dickie Wilkinson Substitute: Cllr Peter Southgate

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Committee: Council

Date: 10 July 2019

Wards: All

Subject: Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018-19

Lead officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services

Lead member: Councillor Peter Southgate, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Contact officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services Julia.regan@merton.gov.uk
0208 545 3864

Recommendations:

1. That Council receives the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. Council is invited to receive the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission is required to produce an annual report outlining the work of the overview and scrutiny function over the course of the Municipal Year. The Commission has used the report as an opportunity to draw attention to some of the outcomes achieved during the year as well as covering in detail the work undertaken by each of the Panels and the Commission itself.
- 2.2. The report (attached as appendix 1) therefore includes:
 - a foreword by the 2018/19 Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Commission
 - a brief explanation of the term 'overview and scrutiny'
 - scrutiny achievements 2018-2019
 - a report from each Panel and the Commission on activities during 2018/19
 - a description of how local residents and local voluntary and community organisations can get involved in scrutiny
- 2.3. The report was approved for submission to Council by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 24 April 2019.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission would be in breach of the constitution if it did not produce an annual report and present it to Council.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission approved the content of the Annual Report. Each Panel Chair was consulted on the section relating to their work.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission received, commented on and approved the report at its meeting on 24 April 2019.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are none specific to this report.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission is constitutionally bound to produce an annual report for the overview and scrutiny function and to present the report to the full Council. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission would be in breach of the constitution if it did not do this.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. 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. Examples of how this aim is achieved are included in the annual report under the community engagement section.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. The Police and Justice Act 2006 requires every Council to have a scrutiny committee with the power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken by the Council and the other responsible authorities in the exercise of their crime and disorder functions.
- 9.2. In Merton this responsibility lies with the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and its work on these issues is described in the Commission's section of the Annual Report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. There are none specific to this report.

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

- Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018-2019

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1. None



Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19

London Borough of Merton

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19

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Foreword

Each new council develops its own distinctive character as new and continuing councillors learn to work together. In May last year, the local elections introduced 23 new councillors who promise to make a strong contribution to the work of scrutiny in Merton. Nearly all of them (21) have been fully involved in scrutiny activities in the past year, three have chaired task group reviews, two have taken the roles of performance leads for their panels, and one has become Vice Chair of his panel.

This is very encouraging. Elected members must take ownership of the scrutiny process if they are to represent the concerns of their residents, and this is evident in the range of topics scrutinised in the course of the year. Key external providers such as Veolia and Idverde have been held to account over (sometimes controversial) changes to service provision, the Borough Commander has responded to questions about the future of Wimbledon police station, and the CCG has been challenged over proposals to limit access to community podiatry services. The latter may seem a minor issue, but for an elderly person it could be the difference between leading an independent life and being trapped in their own home.

We have been successful in engaging the interests of the wider public when we have chosen topics for review that reflect their concerns. More than 750 responded to a survey on road safety around schools, and scrutiny sessions with Veolia and Clarion were well attended. With the support of scrutiny members, the Youth Parliament ran its own enquiry into making young people feel safe in Merton. They interviewed 742 young people, questioned witnesses and reviewed their findings. We would like to build on our work with the Youth Parliament, and bring more members of the public into our scrutiny reviews in the year ahead.

These aspirations for scrutiny would get nowhere without the dedicated support of our scrutiny officers, and I would like to thank Stella Akintan and Rosie McKeever, led by the unflappable Julia Regan, for all their hard work on our behalf in the past year. New and old members alike have every reason to be grateful to them.

Councillor Peter Southgate
Chair, Overview & Scrutiny Commission

What is overview and scrutiny?

Overview and Scrutiny was introduced by the Local Government Act 2000. Merton operates a Leader and Cabinet model, where the Cabinet makes the executive decisions of the authority on behalf of local residents.

Overview and Scrutiny's main roles are:

- holding the Cabinet to account
- improving and developing council policies
- examining decisions before they are implemented
- engaging with members of the public
- monitoring performance of the council and its partners

Scrutiny can look into services provided by other agencies and other matters of importance to the people of the borough. Scrutiny has legal powers to monitor and hold to account local health services (Health and Social Care Act 2001) and to scrutinise crime reduction and community safety issues (Police and Justice Act 2006).

Principles

Overview and Scrutiny at Merton is:

- open to the public
- informed by methodically gathered evidence
- based on careful deliberation and discussion
- conducted in an appropriate manner

How Overview and Scrutiny works in Merton

Merton Council has an Overview and Scrutiny Commission, which acts as a coordinating body supporting three Overview and Scrutiny Panels with individual areas of responsibility:

- Children and Young People
- Healthier Communities and Older People
- Sustainable Communities

Commission and Panel meetings take place throughout the year and members of the public are welcome to attend. Dates, agendas and minutes for these meetings can be found on the council website:

<https://democracy.merton.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

More information about Scrutiny at Merton can be found at

<https://www2.merton.gov.uk/council/decision-making/scrutiny.htm>

or by phoning the scrutiny team on 020 8545 3864 or emailing scrutiny@merton.gov.uk.

Scrutiny achievements 2018-2019

Scrutiny is a rewarding and influential role for councillors and has led to some real changes in policies, service provision and council budgets over the past year. The detail of scrutiny activity carried out by each of the scrutiny panels and the Commission is provided in the main body of this report. Some of the highlights are set out below.

Improvements to local services

Over the last year scrutiny has made continued to recommendations that have had a significant impact on services provided by the council, its partners and other external organisations. These include:

Homeshare scheme

The recommendation of a scrutiny task group review into the viability of a home share scheme for Merton has been accepted and the scheme is now being developed. Homeshare brokers a relationship between older people who have a spare room with a younger person who will give around ten hours of support with tasks around the home.

Changes to the access criteria for the community podiatry service

Merton Clinical Commissioning Group contacted the Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel about planned changes to the podiatry service that will limit access criteria to those with the highest need. The Panel sought re-assurance that all vulnerable residents would still receive support and made the following recommendations, all of which were accepted by Merton CCG:

- To translate information on this service into other languages
- To provide more information for people with low podiatry needs
- To promote the availability of training for carers organisations on basic foot management.

Holding external organisations to account

The Commission and each of the Scrutiny Panels have been able hold key external bodies to account through scrutiny of performance data and rigorous questioning of senior officials from a wide range of organisations that provide services that are of importance to local residents. These include Harris Federation, Police, NHS (CCG and hospital trusts), Clarion Housing, IdVerde and Veolia UK.

Changes to proposed budget savings

Cabinet responded positively to recommendations made by scrutiny asking them to reconsider two of the proposed savings – one on funding for premises occupied by voluntary sector grant recipients and the second on proposed closure of Morden Park House. Both proposed savings were withdrawn by Cabinet.

Involving the public in scrutiny

The involvement of local residents, community organisations and partners is an important part of the scrutiny process. The Commission and each of the panels have committed themselves to increasing public involvement this year and working to ensure that this is a meaningful and rewarding interaction for local residents.

A number of different approaches to public involvement have been used this year including:

- The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel has used social media (Twitter) to promote upcoming items at scrutiny and to encourage resident involvement and attendance. This has been particularly successful for the meetings attended by Veolia, Clarion Housing and IdVerde.
- The single use plastics task group carried out a survey of council staff to seek their views on how to reduce plastics in council buildings. A total of 171 staff responded with useful comments and suggestions. The feedback from the survey has formed the basis of many of the task group recommendations.
- The road safety around schools task group undertook a public survey to which over 750 parents and local residents responded with information about the situation in their neighbourhood and ideas on how this could be improved. This will be invaluable to the task group in helping them to identify recommendations for change.
- Five members of the Youth Parliament joined scrutiny councillors for an event to discuss and agree recommendations on actions that could be taken to help young people feel safe in Merton. This drew on the results of a consultation the Young Advisers had carried out with 742 young people aged 11-20.

Overview and Scrutiny Commission

The Overview and Scrutiny Commission is responsible for the scrutiny of cross cutting and strategic issues, crime and disorder and issues relating to the council's "corporate capacity". The Commission acts as a coordinating body in supporting the three Overview and Scrutiny Panels and has responsibility for developing and keeping scrutiny under review.

Scrutiny reviews

Road safety around local schools

This task group, established in response to concerns raised by two school governors and a local resident, has reviewed the aspects of road design, road user behaviour and enforcement activities that are currently affecting road safety in the vicinity of schools. The task group heard from more than 750 parents and residents, head teachers and council officers as well as examining information about initiatives in other boroughs and Londonwide.

The task group is in the process of reviewing all the evidence received and will submit its findings and recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission on 4 July and to Cabinet on 15 July 2019.

Recruitment and retention of teachers

The Commission has received an initial response from Cabinet plus a progress report on how it is implementing recommendations made by the scrutiny review of the recruitment and retention of teachers. A number of recommendations have already been implemented that will assist with using existing recruitment systems and structures more effectively and with promoting them more widely.

The cost of local accommodation was found to be a key factor affecting both recruitment and retention. To assist teachers to afford local rents, the task group recommended the introduction of an interest free loan to assist teachers with payment of rent deposits. The feasibility of this is currently being explored.

Involving young people in scrutiny

An event was run during Local Democracy Week 2018 to give young people some experience of and insight into the council's scrutiny processes. Five members of the Youth Parliament joined seven scrutiny councillors to discuss "what is Merton doing to help young people feel safe?" This question was chosen by the Youth Parliament to provide them with an opportunity to present and discuss the results of a consultation the Young Advisers had carried out with 742 young people aged 11-20.

A Police Sergeant and a council officer from Safer Merton also attended to outline their roles and to answer questions.

Cabinet subsequently endorsed the recommendations made by the Youth Parliament and the implementation plan is now being monitored by the Commission.

A proposal on how to more actively involve young people in scrutiny was agreed by the Commission, including to run another joint scrutiny exercise during Local Democracy Week in 2019.

Strategic issues and pre-decision scrutiny

The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive attended to set out their priorities for 2018/19, pressures on council and health services and on housing supply in London as well as the financial challenges facing the council. The Commission asked them questions on issues including revenue streams, commercial activity undertaken and planned by the council and how service performance concerns were being addressed with Clarion and Veolia.

The Commission commented on the annual report from Merton Partnership, particularly in relationship to community development work being planned with Merton and Sutton's Voluntary Service Councils.

In November the Commission received a report detailing how the council was preparing for Brexit, including contingency plans in the event of a 'no deal', and how the council could support EU residents to secure their rights around settled status. In response, members requested that councillors be provided with information so they could encourage EU residents within their wards to apply for settled status.

Briefings were provided on the council's target operating model (a strategic planning tool to anticipate and prepare for the future) and of the council's implementation of new statutory general data protection regulation (GDPR) requirements

The Commission has continued to examine delivery of the council's customer contact programme and has closely scrutinised details of the difficulties that had been experienced with the contract and the actions subsequently taken by the council. Members stressed the importance of learning from this project to future proof subsequent projects and to compartmentalize risk. They also stressed the importance of listening to the views and experiences of service users and staff.

The Commission welcomed progress made this year on the Equality and Community Cohesion Strategy action plan, particularly on narrowing the gap on educational attainment, the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), food poverty and welfare support.

Scrutiny of crime and disorder

Merton is now part of the south west London Basic Command Unit (BCU). The BCU Borough Commander attended twice this year to provide the latest crime data and answer questions on a wide range of issues including stop and search, anti social behaviour, gangs and knife crime. The Commission has closely questioned the Borough Commander on levels of crime, how BCU police resources are deployed in Merton and the future of Wimbledon and Mitcham police stations.

The Commission was pleased to hear of progress made in obtaining a long term injunction that will help the police and the council to respond promptly to Traveller encampments.

The Safer Merton Manager reported twice on work being undertaken by Safer Merton and the Community Safety Partnership, including detailed information on the CCTV service, anti social behaviour, victim support and hate crime. At the request of the Commission, an email was sent to all councillors setting out key messages about when to use the 999 and 101 police phone numbers so that this could be passed on to residents.

Call-in

No call-in requests were received by the Commission in 2018/19.

Finance and performance monitoring

The Commission scrutinised the London pilot of business rates retention and were reassured to hear that, to date, it had been of financial benefit to Merton and that this is being kept under review.

The financial monitoring task group has continued to monitor quarterly financial management reports and the budget outturn report. It has also scrutinised a number of budget areas and related issues in depth – budget forecasting, financial risk management, use of contingency funds and reserves, debt management, financial aspects of the Veolia and Ideverde contracts, learning from Lean reviews and a progress update on Merantun Development Ltd.

Scrutiny of the budget

Budget scrutiny was undertaken in November and January. At a strategic level, the draft business plan, medium term financial strategy and capital programme were examined. There was also detailed scrutiny of each of the proposed budget savings, alongside equality impact assessments for individual savings.

The Commission made a recommendation to Cabinet in November 2018 to express disappointment that Cabinet was not further advanced in identifying proposed savings for future years, whilst recognizing the difficult situation that Cabinet faced in relation to the size of the budget gap.

A further recommendation was made to Cabinet in January 2019 asking them to support the Local Government Association in lobbying government for a more sustainable basis for the funding of local government, to reconsider two of the proposed savings, and to re-review the future capital programme and the associated implications for the revenue budget. In response, Cabinet withdrew the two proposed savings – one on funding for premises occupied by voluntary sector grant recipients and the second on the proposed closure of Morden Park House.

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Areas of responsibility: scrutiny of issues relating to children and young people. This includes education, children’s social care, child protection and youth services.

Councillor Sally Kenny, Panel Chair: “It had been an honour and a privilege to chair the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel. I have learned a great deal during my first year as chair and have been delighted with the questioning and statements from Panel Members. Panel members have visited several schools and Merton College to look at the post 16 education offered in Merton. This was interesting and impressive. Panel Members also met with the Youth Parliament which was inspiring and uplifting to witness the talent, commitment and thoughtfulness of Merton’s young people.

Officers and outside groups provided updates, explained innovations and kept Members well informed of the marvellous work being undertaken and continued. They responded clearly to Members questions and provided follow up information when needed. It is rewarding that Merton’s Children and Young People’s Department is successful and is committed to develop and improve its practice to serve the young people of Merton in a productive approach. It is wonderful to be part of this process. Thank you to the scrutiny officers who support the panel, the officers and groups who update us and the Members who question and challenge to forge a close working relationship to ensure that Merton is a great place for young people to live. I am hopeful that in the future we can increase the involvement of young people in this work, in particular through Merton’s Youth Parliament”.

Scrutiny reviews

Prevent task group

Following on from the previous years’ work, the Prevent Duty task group recommendations report was presented to Cabinet on 25 June 2018. In January 2019 the Panel was updated with a six month review of the agreed action plan demonstrating how the recommendations of the Prevent Task Group have been implemented. It was decided at this meeting that going forward it should be included as a standing item in the Director’s Departmental Update.

Care leaver accommodation

The topic of care leaver accommodation returned to Panel in October 2018 and March 2019 this year, both times with a progress summary on the previously made recommendations to Cabinet on aspects to explore in order to further improve the Council’s support for care leavers in gaining suitable independent accommodation upon leaving care. The report made nine recommendations and the Panel was delighted to learn that the Director of Children Schools and Families, the Head of Social Care and Inclusion and Officers across the Children, Schools and Families and Community and Housing departments had worked together to develop an action plan to further explore and address the recommendations made. Update reports on the progress made against the action plan were welcomed as were the opportunities

for Panel Members to ask questions about areas not included, such as tackling anti-social behavior and encouraging independence.

Routes into employment for vulnerable cohorts

The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel originally set-up a task group to look at the housing, health, education and employment of care leavers or those with additional learning needs. However, this was refocused to look solely at the employment of these groups. The task group's report and recommendations were presented to the Panel for review in January 2018 which resulted in a request from the Panel to receive an update report after six months.

During the June 2018 review it was noted that the recommendations were largely met. The Panel resolved to review them further after six months' time.

Therefore the future Merton Programme Manager returned in February 2019. The Panel noted the update on the Coram research, the statistics on Apprenticeships within the Council, and the work of the 'Toward Employment Pilot' all contained in the report and congratulated Officers on the work achieved.

Children's Mental Health task group

The Panel set up a task group to consider how to improve mental health services for children and young people aged 11-25. The task group has considered how to embed prevention and resilience, mental health provision in schools and how to strengthen existing services. Task group members have met with a wide range of witnesses including; children and adolescent mental health services, charity groups, Merton youth parliament, young service users, senior council officers. The final report will be presented to the Panel in June 2019.

Pre-decision scrutiny

Harris Wimbledon Secondary Academy

Panel continued its work with officers to review progress on the delivery of the Harris Wimbledon secondary school. Members enjoyed a visit to Harris Wimbledon the day before Panel and then welcomed the attendance of Sir Daniel Moynihan, CEO of Harris Federation, and the Head teacher of Harris Academy Wimbledon, Joanne Larizadeh to the January 2019 meeting. Sir Daniel answered Panel Member Questions and stated the new build will be finished in 2020 will have 1150 pupils with 250 in the sixth Form.

Merton Safeguarding Children Board

The Panel received the annual report of the Merton Safeguarding Children Board (MSCB) in November 2018. Members used the session to understand how the board will continue its strong partnership working, what is being done to address the on-going concerns about the timeliness of health assessments, what support is provided to fathers to help them engage with the process how the service monitors illegal schools.

Health and wellbeing strategies for children and families

Officers from Public Health and the Clinical Commissioning Group provided the Panel with a progress update on the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2015-2018) theme: Best Start in Life (Early year's development and strong educational achievement). This was the final report on the 2015-2018 strategy.

The Panel was pleased to see the work that had been done to reduce waiting times for the first CAMHS appointment. Panel Members and Officers also discussed the range of work being done to combat childhood obesity. Officers also sought to engage the Panel members on the refresh of the Health and Well-being Strategy for 2019-2024 particularly in relation the 'Start Well' children and young people's theme.

Regional Adoption Agency

A report that summarised the business case for Merton entering regional adoption arrangements with nine other local authorities in South London as part of Adopt London South was brought to scrutiny in October 2018.

Panel members were reassured that Merton will continue to receive sufficient resources to meet the needs of local children and that it will not weaken the good work Merton has been doing. Merton received an outstanding rating for their adoption service during the last Ofsted Inspection. Panel resolved that progress with the Regional Adoption Agency be included in the department update report at future CYP scrutiny panels.

Children and Young People's Plan 2019-23

The Director of Children Schools and Families gave an overview of the report, highlighting that young people had identified outcomes which are important to them. Members of the panel were asked to discuss their priorities for the children and young people of Merton for the period 2019-23 and to provide their views to feed into the consultation and engagement activity underway to support development of the plan.

Performance monitoring

Performance monitoring data

The Panel has continued to review progress against a basket of agreed key targets (Key Performance Indicators) with Councillor Hayley Ormrod and Councillor Eleanor Stringer sharing the role of performance monitoring lead for the Panel. This item has been discussed on the majority of agendas with time allocated to the scrutiny of the data and for key points and clarifications to then be discussed at the meeting.

Education, Health and Care Plans

The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel has taken a lead over the last year on scrutinising the progress being made with the transfer of 1,023 SEN statements to Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). This work was run in parallel to meeting requests for new EHCPs within the newly introduced Government deadline of twenty weeks between the initial request for an EHCP being accepted and production of the resulting plan.

Monthly data on performance against the twenty week target for the production of new EHCPs was provided to the Panel regularly and made publicly available as part of the agenda for the Panel meetings.

During the June 2018 Panel, it was discussed that the department were just about to complete a formal consultation on the experience of parents/carers involved in the EHCP process. Panel resolved that the consultation results be shared with the members once completed. As agreed, the Assistant Director of Education presented the survey work report during the February 2019 Panel.

Schools annual report

The Panel received its annual schools report looking at the performance of Merton's schools over the academic year September 2017 to August 2018. The proportion of schools judged to be good or better in Merton rose from 88% to 93% over the course of the academic year. This proportion is above the London and national averages. All of the Council's secondary schools continued to be judged to be good, with the proportion judged as outstanding rising to 63% (well above national and local averages). School attendance in Merton is also above the most recent national and London comparative data for secondary and special schools, and in line with these averages for primary schools.

Financial monitoring

Members used the two budget and business planning sessions this year to explore the large budget gap of savings still to find for 2020-21, the work done regarding saving costs on School Transport and the impact of Government grants ending in the coming years.

Call-in

No call-in requests were received by the Panel in 2018/19.

Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

This Panel has responsibility for the scrutiny of issues relating to health, public health and adult social care. This includes promoting good health and healthy lifestyles, mental health issues, and reducing health inequalities for people of all ages.

Councillor Peter McCabe said *“There are many challenges across health services, particularly prevalent in adult social care due to our ageing population, funding pressures and rise in complex needs. Despite this, we as a Panel have found dedication and creativity amongst staff to provide high quality services to our most vulnerable residents.”*

Adult Social Care

The Panel received a comprehensive update of service provision within adult social care. The Panel were pleased that Merton has made a significant improvement in delayed discharges of care, moving from one of the worst outcomes in London to one of the best. To address the higher demand on services with less resources the team are focussed on helping people to remain independent in their own homes with re-ablement an increase in physiotherapy and a focus on prevention.

Homeshare Scheme Task Group

Last year the Panel conducted a task group review of the viability of a Home share scheme for Merton. Homeshare brokers a relationship between older people who have a spare room with a younger person who will give around ten hours of support with tasks around the home. The Panel were pleased that all the recommendations were accepted and will receive an update in the autumn of 2019.

Improving the Personal Independent Payment Process in Merton

The Panel maintains an on-going concern about Personal Independent Payment process regarding the on-going impact on Merton residents including:

- Overbooking at assessment centres
- Higher rate of appeals being overturned at tribunal by Merton residents
- There are no assessment Centres in Merton therefore people are required to travel out of the borough

The Panel have continued to seek changes with these issues and are calling for the Department for Work and Pensions to provide a ‘pop up’ assessment centre for Merton. The Panel worked alongside Merton Centre for Independent Living to conduct an audit of the Croydon and Wandsworth assessment centres and many of the recommendations are currently being implemented.

Changes to the access criteria for the community podiatry service

Merton Clinical Commissioning Group contacted the Panel about planned changes to the podiatry service. The proposed changes will limit access criteria to those with the highest need. The Panel sought re-assurance that all vulnerable residents would still receive support and made the following recommendations, all of which were accepted by Merton CCG:

- To translate information on this service into other languages
- To provide more information for people with low podiatry needs
- To promote the availability of training for carers organisations on basic foot management.

Adult immunisation programme

NHS England presented the Panel with the immunisation programme covering 2015-2018. The data highlighted that Merton along with most other London boroughs had lower uptake rates than the national average. Panel members put forward some suggestions on how services can be improved and highlighted that as the council is not responsible for promotion of immunisation, it is limited in what we can do to support this area within existing budgets. The Director of Public Health informed the Panel that they do their best to promote the importance of immunisations by using the material from national campaigns to highlight the issues locally.

Annual Public Health Report

The Panel received an update on tackling the health inequalities that exist between the East and West of the borough. The results painted a complex and somewhat unexpected picture. The data highlighted that the gap in life expectancy is closing for women but not for men. Also, self-reported wellbeing and mental health is worsening in more affluent areas. The Panel agreed that this is a significant long term piece of work and if interventions had not been put in place it is likely that the gap would be significantly worse.

Improving access to psychological therapies

Local news reports cited that NHS Merton was one of the 28 areas in the country were not meeting their targets for access to psychological therapies. The Panel invited NHS colleagues to attend and set out they are addressing this challenge.

The Director of Commissioning reported that the service has been re-commissioned with St George's University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust who are a larger and more experienced provider with the new service beginning on the 1st April 2019. The Panel were pleased to find that the funding been doubled for the service. Panel members highlighted the importance of reaching out to seldom heard communities such as those with long term conditions and carers.

Enabling Older People to live independently at home

The Panel heard about the measures put in place to support older people to remain in their own home. This work focussed on the importance of preventing ill health and early intervention. This approach is beneficial for service users as most people prefer the comfort of their own surroundings. This approach also provides cost savings to the council.

Merton Clinical Commissioning Group Primary Care Strategy

The Panel were asked, through the topic selection process, to look at strategies to improve access to GP Surgeries. They also had a wider look at primary care services. It was reported that this area had received significant increased funding by Merton Clinical Commissioning Group. This has led to an increase in morning and evening surgeries and more appointments available including weekends. Panel member raised a number of issues that need to be addressed including; ensuring older people are not disadvantaged by digital access, enabling doctors surgeries to collect fluid samples as people currently have to travel to different sites and continuing to tackle loneliness through the social prescribing process.

Supporting Frequent Attenders at Accident and Emergency Services

Frequent attenders are defined by primary care as those who attend A&E six times in 12 months. Many amongst this group will be vulnerable residents and the Panel were asked to look at the support provided to this group. There are a range of services in place to redirect people to appropriate provision such as mental health support and primary care. Panel highlighted the importance of making people aware of the correct service to approach in the time of an emergency or with a health issue including the 111 service.

Transitions from Children's to Adult Services for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disability – Task Group Review.

This year the Panel commissioned a task group to consider services for those who move from children adult provision. The task group decided to focus on special educational needs and disability. The task group spoke to a wide range of witnesses who highlighted that a good transition to adult life should focus on supporting greater independence and employment as a result the terms of reference were as follows:

- Review the transitions process and make recommendations for improvement.
- Review opportunities to increase volunteering and employment to reduce isolation amongst adults with SEND.
- Review support for those with substantial needs to ensure they are able to maintain independence and not revert to critical care in future.

The final report and recommendations will be presented to the Panel in June 2019.

Joint Scrutiny Committees

The Chair and vice-chair also participates in the South West London and Surrey Joint Health Scrutiny Committee looking at strategic issues affecting the South West London area.

The Chair is also sits on the Improving Healthcare Together 2020 Joint Health Scrutiny Committee with membership from Merton, Sutton and Surrey Councils. This body is reviewing the proposals for acute care re-configuration across the Epsom and St Helier Hospital sites. Merton continues to maintain support for the retention of a full range of services at St Helier Hospital.

Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Areas of responsibility: scrutiny of issues relating to housing, environmental sustainability, culture, enterprise and skills, libraries and transport.

Councillor Laxmi Attawar, Panel Chair: “2018/19 has been a busy year for Sustainable Communities Panel, that it has been necessary to include an additional meeting in our schedule. In my first year as chair of a relatively new panel I am pleased that we have overseen, scrutinised and reviewed the biggest change to the Borough’s waste collection scheme with the roll out and implementation of the wheelie bins. In the scrutiny process I have sought to encourage residents from across the Borough to participate to get views from a broad cross-section. In addition, a briefing was organised for all members on Housing and Homelessness which was successful and well attended.”

Anita Cacchioli, Interim Assistant Director Public Space “Participation in the scrutiny process has been valuable for the Public Space team, as well as its contractors. It has afforded the opportunity to share the service aims to increase recycling, save money through switching to residual waste collections every fortnight and make Merton’s streets cleaner by using wheeled bins to solve the issue of refuse not being contained; engage with councillors on the performance of the waste and street cleaning contract and grounds maintenance contract, to listen to concerns and to allow us or our contractors to explain the action being taken and demonstrate how this is beginning to improve the services; to consider the behaviour of residents and visitors to our borough in the context of littering and fly tipping and the work of the Environmental Enforcement team to bring about modified behaviour, prosecute or fine those caught negatively impacting on our environment; and finally the role public space protection orders and initiatives to implement new dog controls in the borough can play in bringing about improvement”.

Scrutiny reviews

Air Quality Task Group

The Sustainable Communities Panel conducted pre-decision scrutiny of the scope of review of parking levies which are a key way to influence decisions about vehicle purchases. The action plan to achieve the task group’s recommendations will continue to be reviewed every six months.

Crossover Task Group

The task group’s action plan was presented at the September 2018 Panel meeting with a recommendation of a limit of 2.5 annual permits to be issued per bay. Once this is reached no further crossovers should be allowed in that zonal area. A review to monitor the implementation of the recommendations is scheduled for June 2019.

Commercialisation Task Group

The Panel receives annual updates on the progress against the recommendations and performance reports following large scale events.

The Panel were assured that commercialisation and income generation remain a priority and that the Council are taking every opportunity to explore ideas and events through the Greenspaces team and pursue investment in the Morden area.

Housing Supply Task Group

The Panel has enjoyed regular updates on progress against the recommendations at six month intervals and received a summative and final report on this task group in March 2019. All recommendations were achieved. Housing Officers commented on how the Task Group recommendations helped to focus their minds and added value to their work.

Single Use Plastics Task Group

The Sustainable Communities Panel set up a task group to consider the council's role in reducing single use plastic. The task group decided to focus on reducing plastic in council buildings and met with the chief Executive of Plastic Free Pledge, Sustainable Merton as well as the public health and facilities management teams. A staff survey was commissioned and 171 responses were received. The findings were presented to the Panel in April 2019, who agreed the report should be sent to Cabinet for final agreement. If the recommendations are agreed by Cabinet, they will ask the relevant officers to take this work forward by producing a report/action plan.

Strategic issues and pre-decision scrutiny

The Panel has undertaken pre-decision scrutiny on a range of strategic issues and Council priorities. These include:

Highways and maintenance contract

Members' views on the scope for the re-procurement of the highways contract were sought in September 2018. A detailed specification and details of the full procurement process returned to scrutiny at its February meeting for pre-decision scrutiny (before this progressed to Cabinet for its decision).

Diesel levy implementation

The Council introduced the diesel levy surcharge in 2016. At the time of approval, Members requested the effect of the levy be reviewed after 2 years of its operation. The Panel received a report setting out the terms of reference for this review in February 2019.

This resulted in a reference to Cabinet recommending that they consider whether to extend/clarify the terms of reference for the diesel levy review and the review into emissions based charging to examine whether there is any evidence of the type of behavioural change that these schemes achieve.

Public health and air quality - a review of parking charges

At its meeting in January 2019 the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel received a report on a strategic approach to parking charges that was referred to the Panel by Cabinet at its meeting on 10 December 2018.

The Panel was asked to discuss and comment on the report and this resulted in a reference to Cabinet recommending that the results of the planned public consultation be shared with the Panel. This will happen at the Panel's meeting on 27 June 2019 prior to the report being received by Cabinet on 15 July.

The Panel also recommended they be given an opportunity in the next municipal year to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the findings of the 6-12 month review that will be carried out after implementation of the new charges.

Performance monitoring

Performance monitoring data

The Panel has continued to review progress of both the Environment and Regeneration and the Community and Housing Departments key performance indicators. This item has been discussed on the majority of agendas. The lead member for performance monitoring this year was Councillor Nick McLean who held regular pre-meets with the relevant officers to allow further time to be given to the scrutiny of the data and for key points and clarifications to then be discussed at the meeting.

Waste, recycling and street cleaning featuring

Monitoring the performance of the waste, recycling and street cleaning contract has formed a key part of the Panel's work. This topic featured on four agendas in this municipal year. There has been increased input from residents and the involvement of Veolia representatives allowing the Panel to highlight key concerns and look at how these are being addressed.

Planning enforcement

Updates on the performance of planning enforcement were given and although there is still a backlog of cases, Panel members noted that the dip in performance was formally addressed and targets are now being accomplished. The team has been stabilized with permanent staff and greater efficiencies in I.T continue to be explored.

Town Centre regeneration

The Panel was pleased to receive a presentation highlighting all that has been achieved in delivering work to date on the programme of town centre regeneration in March 2019.

Financial monitoring

The Panel used the two sessions on budget and business planning to focus on new savings proposals, replacement savings and to question officers on the content of the service plans.

“The Panel noted that there was not a savings item in relation to Christmas parking. Subsequently a reference to Cabinet requested that once the Christmas parking analysis is concluded, the results be brought to the Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel for comment.”

Scrutiny of external bodies

The Panel was pleased that Merton’s largest social housing provider, Clarion Housing, returned this year to update the Panel and answer questions on the estates regeneration. Residents were invited to speak at the Panel and as happened previously, the opportunity was taken to seek questions from all councillors and not just Panel members. These were sent to Clarion in advance with its responses being circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Clarion have agreed to return again in the next municipal year.

We welcomed representatives from Veolia UK, who provide Merton’s waste, recycling and street cleaning services, at the June 2018 and February 2019 Panels. These panels were used as an opportunity to discuss performance issues, hear resident feedback and receive updates on the service.

The Panel also received a report focused on the performance of the *idverde* contract. Areas of underperformance were discussed and *idverde* were asked to take responsibility for the shortcomings within the service and make improvements. The *idverde* representative in attendance reported additional staff have been employed to support the contract.

Different approaches

During the municipal year the Panel has explored different approaches to support it in achieving effective scrutiny.

Keen to reach out and engage Merton residents in the scrutiny process, Panel members have continued to use social media (Twitter) to promote upcoming items at scrutiny and to encourage resident involvement and attendance.

Before February’s Panel meeting on the performance of Merton’s waste, recycling and street cleaning services provided by Veolia UK, the Panel members held a pre-meet beforehand to agree on a themed line of questioning. It was felt this systematic approach was successful and had more impact in terms of scrutiny of the service in question. There are some minor practical difficulties in getting panel members together before the meeting starts, given members are travelling directly from work but these are difficulties that can be overcome if members are keen to reproduce this approach for further meetings.

Call-in

The Panel had no call-ins during this municipal year.

Get involved

The involvement of local residents, community organisations and partners is an important part of the scrutiny process and councillors are committed to responding to the views and concerns of residents.

Getting involved in scrutiny is one of the best ways to influence decision making at the council, as councillors will hear your experiences first hand. There are a number of ways you can get involved in the work of scrutiny at the council:

Suggesting an issue for scrutiny

The council's website contains an online form which can be used to make suggestions on issues and topics for future scrutiny:

<http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/scrutiny/scrutiny-getinvolved.htm>

Suggestions may also be made in writing, by email or by phone to the Scrutiny Team – contact details overleaf.

All suggestions received will be discussed by the relevant scrutiny Panel and the person who made the suggestion will be contacted to let them know what has happened to it.

Attending meetings

All scrutiny meetings are open to the public except where confidential information has to be discussed. A list of meeting dates and agenda items can be found on the council's website. <http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/committee.htm>

If you would like to attend a meeting simply come along to the meeting venue or, if you want more information, contact the Scrutiny Team – details overleaf.

Providing information and views

Members of the public can send in written views or speak on issues that are under discussion at the Overview and Scrutiny Commission or one of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

Information on current task group reviews and any deadlines for submission on information can be found on <http://www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny> or by contacting the Scrutiny Team – details overleaf.

Contact the Scrutiny Team

The Scrutiny Team provides independent and professional support and advice to the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and the three standing Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

You can contact the Scrutiny Team using one of the following methods: -

In writing:

Scrutiny Team
Democracy Services
Merton Civic Centre
London Road
Morden
Surrey SM4 5DX

By emailing:

scrutiny@merton.gov.uk

By phoning:

Julia Regan – Head of Democracy Services
020 8545 3864

Stella Akintan –Scrutiny Officer
020 8545 3390

Rosie McKeever – Scrutiny Officer
020 8545 4035

For further information about overview and scrutiny at Merton please access our web pages using the following address <http://www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny>

Committee: Council

Date: 3 April 2019

Subject: Petitions

Lead officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director, Corporate Governance.

Lead member: Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Alambritis.

Contact officer: Democratic Services, democratic.services@merton.gov.uk

Recommendation:

1. That Council receive petitions (if any) in accordance with Part 4A, paragraph 18.1 of the Council's Constitution.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report invites Council to receive petitions in accordance with Part 4A, paragraph 18.1 of the Council's Constitution.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1 Members are invited to present petitions at this meeting, and a response will be provided to the next ordinary Council meeting on 18 September 2019.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. None for the purposes of this report.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. None for the purpose of this report.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. None for the purpose of this report.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. None for the purpose of this report.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. None for the purpose of this report.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. None for the purpose of this report.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. None for the purpose of this report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11 APPENDICES

- 11.1. None

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1. None.

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