

**INNOVATION AND CHANGE DEPARTMENT**  
**Polly Cziok – Executive Director**



To all Members of the Council

**Democratic Services**  
**London Borough of Merton**  
**Merton Civic Centre**  
**Morden, Surrey SM4 5DX**

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***Date: 21 February 2024***

Dear Councillor

### **Notification of Cabinet Decisions**

The decisions of the Cabinet meeting held on Monday 19 February 2024 are attached.

The call-in deadline is Monday 26 February 2024 at Noon

The [call-in](#) form is attached for your use if needed and refers to the relevant sections of the constitution.

Yours sincerely

Democracy Services



# Decisions of the Cabinet held on Monday 19 February 2024

## Call-in deadline – Monday 26 February 2024

4	Merton Safeguarding Adults Board (MSAB) Annual Report 2022/23	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>A. That Cabinet noted the content of the Merton Safeguarding Adults Board (MSAB) Annual Report for the period 2022-23.</p>
5	Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>A. That Cabinet noted the content of the Merton Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) Annual Report for the period 2022-23</p>
6	Budget 2024/25 and MTFS 2024-28	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Cabinet considers and agrees the response to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission;</li> <li>2. That the Cabinet resolved that, having considered all of the information in this report and noted the positive assurance statement given by the Executive Director, Finance and Digital based on the proposed Council Tax strategy, the maximum Council Tax in 2024/25, equating to a Band D Council Tax of £1,521.98, which is an increase of below 5% be approved and recommended to Council for approval.</li> <li>3. That the Cabinet considered all of the latest information and the comments from the scrutiny process, and makes recommendations to Council as appropriate</li> <li>4. That Cabinet resolved that the Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-28 including the General Fund Budget and Council Tax Strategy for 2024/25, and the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2024-28 as submitted, along with the draft Equality Assessments (EAs), be approved and recommended to Council for approval subject to any proposed amendments agreed at this meeting;</li> <li>5. That the Cabinet resolved that, having considered all of the latest information and the comments from the scrutiny process, the Capital Investment Programme (as detailed in Annex 3 to the Capital Strategy); the Treasury Management Strategy, including the detailed</li> </ol>

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		<p>recommendations in that Section, incorporating the Prudential Indicators and the Capital Strategy as submitted and reported upon be approved and recommended to Council for approval, subject to any proposed amendments agreed at this meeting;</p> <p>6. That Cabinet noted that the GLA precept will not be agreed by the London Assembly until the 22 February 2024, but the provisional figure has been incorporated into the draft MTFS</p> <p>7. That Cabinet requested officers to review the savings proposals agreed and where possible bring them forward to the earliest possible implementation date</p> <p>8. That Cabinet noted that there may be minor amendments to figures and words in this report as a result of new information being received after the deadline for dispatch and that this will be amended for the report to Council in March.</p> <p>9. That Cabinet considered and approved the Risk Management Strategy.</p> <p>10. That Cabinet resolved that the Council’s Strategy for the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts 2022/23, as detailed in page 28-29 of the Capital Strategy be approved and recommended to Council for approval subject to any proposed amendments agreed at this meeting.</p>
7	Financial Monitoring Report	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>A. That Cabinet noted the financial reporting data for Quarter 3 (period 9), December 2023, relating to revenue budgetary control, showing a forecast net adverse variance at 31st December on service expenditure of £1.185m when corporate and funding items are included.</p> <p>B. That Cabinet noted the contents of Section 5 and appendices 5a to 5c and approve the adjustments to the Capital Programme in the 4 Tables <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>C. That Cabinet noted the adjustments to the Capital Programme in the table <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>D. That Cabinet approve the 15 revenue civic pride investing in neighbourhoods and climate action fund bids below as contained in Appendix 5d and summarised in the Table <a href="#">here</a>:</p>

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8	Fees & Charges Report	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>A. That Cabinet approved the proposed fee changes outlined in appendix 1 and appendix 2</p>
9	Review of Parking Charges	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That Cabinet agreed to:</p> <p>A. Consider the outcome of informal consultation, set out in Section 4 of this report, on the proposed revisions to parking charges set out in this report.</p> <p>B. Authorise officers to proceed to formal statutory consultation on the Traffic Management Orders required to implement the proposed revised charges for parking recommended in this report.</p> <p>C. Delegate authority to the Director of Environment, Civic Pride and Climate, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport, to finalise the Traffic Management Orders and the necessary statutory consultation documentation, to consider the outcome of formal consultation, and any operational matters relating to the implementation of the proposals set out in the report.</p> <p>D. Subject to the statutory consultation process, Members agree to approve the proposed charges set out in this report, in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revised charges for Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) Permits, as set out in paragraphs 2.10-2.17</li> <li>• Revisions to charges for electric vehicle permits, as set out in paragraphs 2.18-2.20</li> <li>• A reduction in the charge for Visitor Permits, as set out in paragraphs 2.21-2.24</li> <li>• Introduction of a £10 charge for Carer Permits, as set out in paragraph 2.25</li> <li>• Revised charges for CPZ visitors' day/half-day parking, as set out in paragraphs 2.26-2.29</li> <li>• Introduction of a £150 supplement on Permits for high CO2-emission vehicles, as set out in paragraphs 2.30-2.33</li> <li>• Revised charges for on-street parking, as set out in paragraphs 2.34-2.36</li> <li>• Revised car park (off-street) charges, as set out in paragraphs 2.37-2.38</li> </ul>

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		E. Officers will undertake within 6 months a review of the eligibility criteria, charging policy and gatekeeping protocols in respect of the Carer permit offer, taking account of the approaches taken by other relevant London boroughs, to be considered by Cabinet.
10	Parks and Greenspaces Service	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That Cabinet:</p> <p>A. Noted the potential options for the future delivery of the service and the estimated costs.  B. Agreed to an extension of the existing contract with idverde by 21 months (till 31 October 2026) to facilitate detailed consideration of all options for the future delivery of the Parks and Greenspace service.  C. Noted the delegated authority (as per the Contract Award decision 4 July 2016) to the Executive Director - Environment, Civic Pride and Climate (ECPC), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Local Environment, Green Spaces and Climate Change (LEGSCC), to complete negotiations and finalise a contract extension agreement with idverde, in accordance with the terms set out in this report. D. Noted the requirement to give both idverde and the London Borough of Sutton (as a joint procurer) notice of any intention not to renew the existing contract for a term of a further eight years – subject to this being waived by the parties</p>
11	Climate Delivery Plan - Year 4	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>A. That Cabinet adopted the Climate Delivery Plan – Year 4.  B. That delegated authority was given to the Executive Director for Environment, Civic Pride &amp; Climate in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Local Environment, Green Spaces and Climate to make minor amendments to the Climate Delivery Plan – Year 4</p>
12	Civic Pride Investing in Neighbourhoods Fund” and “Community Climate Action Fund” bid approvals, and allocation of	<p>RESOLVED :</p> <p>That Cabinet agreed:</p>

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	<p>funding to deliver the “Councillors’ Ward Allocation Scheme”</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To allocate £882,210 Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy and £166,000 Community Climate Action Funding, in line with Merton Council’s approved criteria, to recommended bids summarised in Appendix A covering: a) 25 bids received through the 2023 Civic Pride - Investing in Neighbourhoods and Community Climate Action Funds bidding round; and b) two top-up allocations of Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy Funding to successful bids from the 2021 and 2022 bidding rounds.</li> <li>2. To approve the award of funding being subject to:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) any conditions shown against each bid recommended for approval in Appendix B; and</li> <li>b) due diligence being carried out to ascertain the appropriateness of grants under the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and other relevant powers and policies applicable to the award of funding by the council to external organisations.</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. To delegate authority to the Executive Director, Housing and Sustainable Development in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Civic Pride to make any amendments to Civic Pride Investing in Neighbourhoods funding bid amounts recommended for approval, in line with Merton Council’s approved criteria;</li> <li>4. To allocate £370,000 Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy Funding to support the implementation the Councillors’ Ward Allocation Scheme from April 2024 to March 2026.</li> </ol>
<p>13</p>	<p>Council tax Empty Homes and Second Homes premium</p>	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>Cabinet recommended that Full Council determines that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For any dwelling within the area of the Council if, on any day, there is no resident of that dwelling and it is substantially furnished, the following shall apply:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the discount in s11(2)(a) of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 (LGFA) shall not apply to that dwelling; and</li> <li>• the amount of council tax payable in respect of that dwelling and that day shall be increased by 100 percent, where the dwelling has been empty for more than 1 year on</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

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		<p>1 April 2024.</p> <p>2. Where a dwelling within the area of the Council, if on any day there is no resident, and it is furnished:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● the discount in s11(2)(a) of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 (LGFA) shall not apply to that dwelling; and</li> <li>● the amount of council tax payable in respect of that dwelling and that day shall be increased by an amount up to 100 percent, with effect from 1 April 2025.</li> </ul>
14	Response to Children and Young People's Task Group Report - Review of Eating Disorders and Self-Harm affecting young people in Merton	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>A. That Cabinet noted the information contained in the report</p>
15	Civic Centre – Installation services and project management of a Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) System and Electrical Intake Works	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>A That Cabinet approved that a contract is entered into for the provision of a new VRF system at the Civic Centre, along with remedial works to the electrical power network with the preferred bidder listed in Appendix A</p>



## Merton Council - call-in request form

### 1. Decision to be called in: (required)

### 2. Which of the principles of decision making in Article 13 of the constitution has not been applied? (required)

Required by part 4E Section 16(c)(a)(ii) of the constitution - tick all that apply:

(a) proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome);	
(b) due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers;	
(c) respect for human rights and equalities;	
(d) a presumption in favour of openness;	
(e) clarity of aims and desired outcomes;	
(f) consideration and evaluation of alternatives;	
(g) irrelevant matters must be ignored.	

### 3. Desired outcome

Part 4E Section 16(f) of the constitution- select one:

(a) The Panel/Commission to refer the decision back to the decision making person or body for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns.	
(b) To refer the matter to full Council where the Commission/Panel determines that the decision is contrary to the Policy and/or Budget Framework	
(c) The Panel/Commission to decide not to refer the matter back to the decision making person or body *	
* If you select (c) please explain the purpose of calling in the decision.	

**4. Evidence which demonstrates the alleged breach(es) indicated in 2 above (required)**

Required by part 4E Section 16(c)(a)(ii) of the constitution:

**5. Documents requested**

**6. Witnesses requested**

**7. Signed (not required if sent by email): .....**

**8. Notes – see part 4E section 16 of the constitution**

Call-ins must be supported by at least three members of the Council.

The call in form and supporting requests must be received by 12 Noon on the third working day following the publication of the decision.

The form and/or supporting requests must be sent:

- **EITHER** by email from a Councillor's email account (no signature required) to [democratic.services@merton.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@merton.gov.uk)
- **OR** as a signed paper copy to the Head of Democracy Services, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX.

For further information or advice contact the Head of Democracy Services on 020 8545 3409