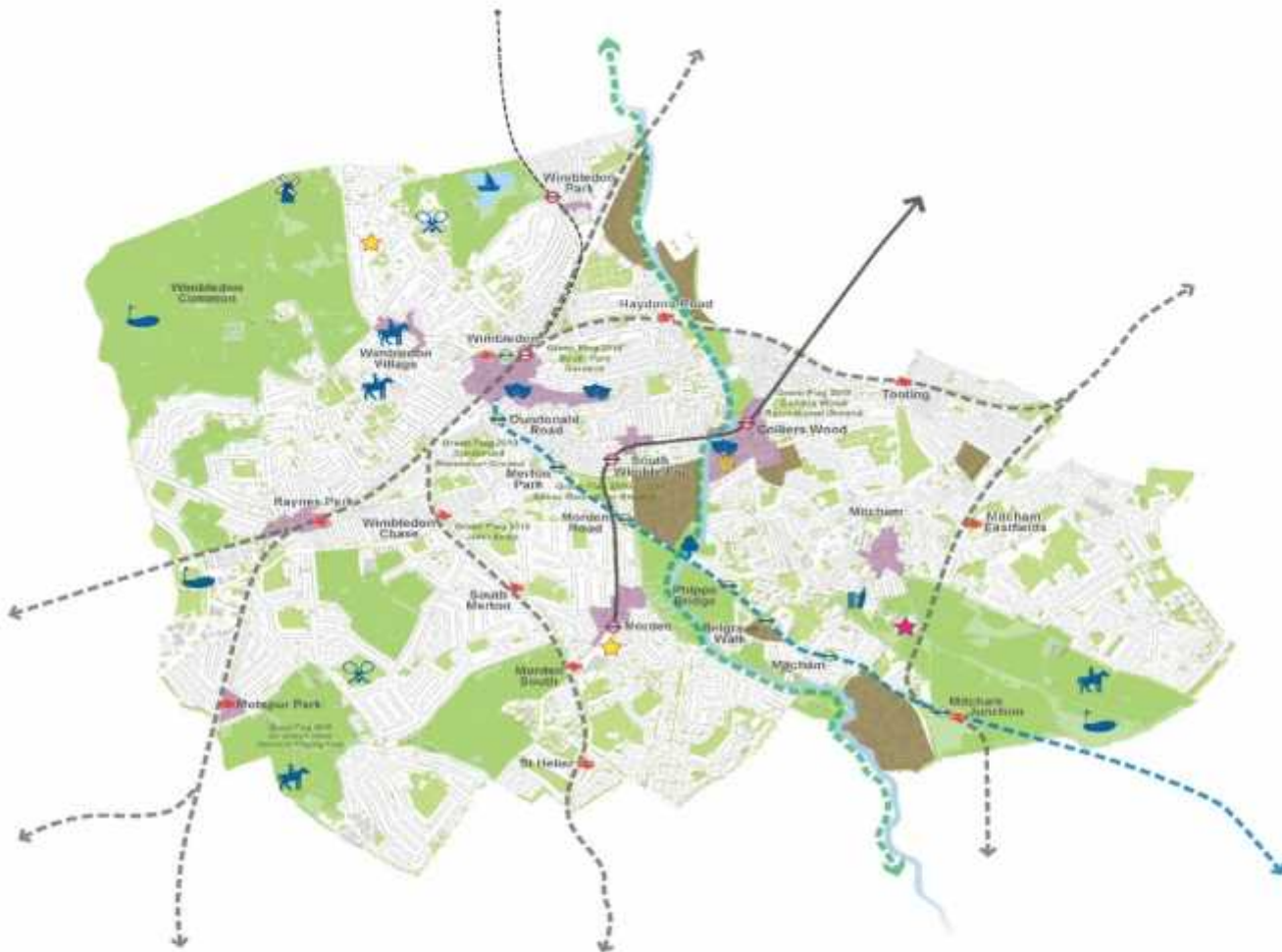


6.

Infrastructure









Merton Infrastructure



Connectivity

-  National Rail Stations
-  Underground Stations
-  Tram Stops
-  Rail Lines
-  Main Roads
-  Town Centres
-  Strategic Industrial Locations

Areas of Interest

-  Unique / Major Places of Worship
-  Wimbledon Windmill
-  River Wandle
-  Merton Priory
-  Canons House
-  Wandle Valley Regional Park

Lifestyle

-  Sailing
-  Golf Course
-  All England Tennis Club
-  Mitcham Cricket Green
-  Horse Riding
-  Deen City Farm
-  Theatre

Strategic Policy In6.1

Social and community infrastructure

Merton Council places high priority on the provision of social and community infrastructure, which is essential to support the projected population growth of the borough. Such facilities can be the heart of local communities and they are important for the quality of life of our residents.

We will:

- a. Ensure there is adequate provision of facilities for community and social infrastructure that are important for the quality of life of residents and which support the growing population, by protecting existing and, where required, securing new facilities and services that meet people's needs;
- b. Support the principles of developing the Wilson Hospital in Mitcham and support the provision of new or improved healthcare facilities in the borough, in accordance with Merton's Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS England requirements to meet the needs to Merton's projected population growth, especially in areas of regeneration or areas of deficiency;
- c. Require new development to provide for any necessary infrastructure;
- d. Work with partners to deliver adequate provision of services and facilities to match the projected population growth;
- e. Expect development proposals to identify, plan for and, where necessary, complete infrastructure prior to occupation;
- f. Support the aims to improve access to primary care facilities, which could extend GP surgery hours and support the re-use of social infrastructure and the re-location of service wherever possible;

- g. Support the multi-use of social, educational, cultural and recreational facilities;
- h. Resist the net loss of social and community facilities where a need has been identified;
- i. Ensure there is sufficient provision of facilities and services for education and training for all age groups to help reduce inequalities and support the local economy; this includes school and childcare places as well as promoting local employment opportunities and training programmes.

Justification

- 6.1.1. Taken as a whole social infrastructure includes community meeting spaces, places of worship and premises for the delivery of essential services including education, youth services, childcare and early years; health and social care; sport, recreation and play culture; policing and the emergency services. These can be state funded, privately funded or run by charities, free at the point of delivery or paid for. We will all have different needs for social and community infrastructure at different stages of our lives.
- 6.1.2. Ensuring that existing and new residents in Merton can access social and community infrastructure is essential for people to have a good quality of life. The council works closely with its partners, particularly the NHS, Transport for London and the Department of Education to ensure the necessary provision of healthcare, travel and school places to meet resident' needs.
- 6.1.3. We will safeguard and support improvements to social and community infrastructure and support the development of new facilities where there are identified gaps in provision.
- 6.1.4. We also support the shared use of community facilities by different service providers across the public, private and voluntary sector, for example as is being planned for at the Wilson Health and Wellbeing campus.

- 6.1.5. We are preparing an infrastructure delivery plan to support and inform this Local Plan, in co-operation with service providers, neighbouring councils, the Mayor of London, Merton Partnership and respondents to the consultation. We will seek planning obligations or use Community Infrastructure Levy to help fund borough-wide infrastructure needs arising from development.
- 6.1.6. As the way we shop is changing, so there are changes emerging to the way we access social and community services. Over the lifetime of this plan we will continue to work with infrastructure providers to identify changes in service provision and the infrastructure necessary to support them.

Policy In6.2

Delivering social and community infrastructure

Merton Council supports the provision and improvement of social and community infrastructure in the borough for those living, working and visiting Merton and to accommodate predicted population growth.

We will:

- a. Support proposals for new, or extensions to existing, social and community infrastructure where:
 - i. it provides for an identified need; and
 - ii. is of a high quality and inclusive design providing access for all; and
 - iii. it is provided in multi-use, flexible and adaptable buildings or co-located with other social infrastructure use which increases public access, where practicable; and
 - iv. the size of the development proposed is in relation to its context; and
 - v. appropriate access and parking facilities are provided, relative to the nature of scale of the development; and
 - vi. the use(s) do not have an undue impact on the amenities of nearby residents and businesses.
- b. Resist the loss of social or community infrastructure. Proposals involving the loss of such infrastructure will need to demonstrate clearly:
 - i. that the loss would not create, or add to, a shortfall in provision for the specific community use; and
 - ii. that there is no viable demand for any other community uses on the site.
- c. Where the council is satisfied that the evidence in (b) has been provided and the change of use away from social/community infrastructure use has been justified, redevelopment for other employment generating uses or affordable housing will be considered.

- d. Proposals for new primary and secondary schools, or for the extension or expansion of existing schools, will be supported where they help to deliver the council's strategy for provision of additional state-funded school places in the borough and where they meet the requirements set out in London Plan education policy.

Justification

- 6.2.1. The infrastructure needs for Merton will be primarily to support the additional new homes required over the period of the Local Plan. We have identified strategic priorities in health provision, education, transport infrastructure, water and sewerage provision and supporting future needs of emergency services. Where there is a capacity problem we will require the developer to fund appropriate improvements and where necessary ensure improvements are completed prior to occupation.
- 6.2.2. Community and social infrastructure covers a wide range of services and facilities that meet local and strategic needs and contribute towards a good quality of life, including healthcare, children's play, services for the elderly and disabled, libraries and museums, public toilets and places of worship. Many of these services are also a major source of employment in Merton; civic and government functions such as schools, the NHS, Transport for London, the fire brigade and other local government sectors are the largest employer in Merton with the greatest range of jobs in terms of salaries and skills.
- 6.2.3. Social infrastructure also plays an important role in developing strong and inclusive communities, providing opportunities to bring together different groups of people.
- 6.2.4. The council is currently undertaking a review of social and community infrastructure needs throughout the borough, which will be captured as part of the updated Infrastructure Needs Assessment.
- 6.2.5. In line with the London Plan, we strongly encourage the shared use and co-location of facilities, which assists service providers to work collaboratively and share

maintenance and management costs. Shared facilities that adopt principles from the Healthy Streets Approach; are easily accessible by public transport, cycling and walking will enable greater community inclusion and participation.

- 6.2.6. Applications proposing a loss of a community facility will have to show that full and proper marketing has been undertaken to demonstrate that community uses (D1 use class) are no longer viable on the site. Applicants will have to demonstrate that:
-) the site has been marketed for 30 months unless otherwise agreed with the council;
 -) all opportunities to re-let the site have been fully explored;
 -) the site has been marketed using both online and traditional marketing tools available; and
 -) the site has been marketed at a price which is considered reasonable (based on recent and similar deals or transactions).
- 6.2.7. Applicants should make it clear if there is no longer an identified community need for the facilities, or they no longer meet the needs of users and cannot be adapted. Similarly, if there is a wider strategy that allows for co-location of facilities in an alternative location that is accessible to the community that it supports, this should be made clear to the council.
- 6.2.8. Location and layout of facilities is often determined by the type and use of that facility, for example the local need of a fire station can be far wider than the local need of a primary school. We will require new development to ensure that facilities are easily accessible, well connected and will resist the loss of existing facilities in accordance with the London Plan and our policies above.
- 6.2.9. The council also recognises the importance of the relationship between green and social infrastructure, in line with the London Plan. We are committed to ensuring that there is adequate provision of community, social and open space facilities to improve the quality of life for residents.
- 6.2.10. A key aim for the council is to encourage healthier communities by improving health outcomes and reducing health inequalities. Infrastructure needs to be in place to support well-being, encourage the increase in sport and leisure facilities and support the provision of health services and housing for our community, particularly the vulnerable members of the community.

- 6.2.11. The council will continue to support new and improved childcare and educational facilities, in response to population changes and will work closely with partners and neighbouring boroughs where necessary to ensure that all children in Merton have access to good quality education.
- 6.2.12. We are also working closely with the NHS to ensure that primary healthcare will be provided to meet the needs of the changing population.
- 6.2.13. In line with the London Plan, the council supports the sharing of facilities between schools, colleges, sports and community providers for the wider community, particularly where these are located in areas that are highly accessible.

Strategic policy W.6.3

Waste management

- a) We support the objectives of sustainable waste management set out by the government in the National Planning Policy for Waste and the Mayor's London Plan.
- b) We will continue to work in collaboration with the neighbouring south London boroughs of Croydon, Kingston-upon-Thames and Sutton to maximise self-sufficiency and meet the apportionment tonnages required by the London Plan for south London. The South London Waste Plan set out the long-term vision, spatial strategy, policies and sites for the sustainable management of waste, how the strategy and policies will be delivered.
- c) The South London Waste Plan sets out the long-term vision, spatial strategy, policies and sites for the sustainable management of waste, how the strategy and policies will be delivered and a framework for monitoring policies against targets.
- d) We will increase recycling rates and address waste as a resource, looking to disposal as the last option in line with the waste hierarchy. To support recycling, the council will require integrated, well-designed waste storage facilities that will include recycling facilities for all new developments where appropriate.

6.3.1 In March 2012 the London boroughs of Croydon, Kingston, Merton and Sutton adopted the South London Waste Plan as part of each borough's Local Plans.

6.3.2 The South London Waste Plan provides the essential infrastructure to support housing growth in south London by safeguarding existing waste treatment sites, identifying sites and areas suitable for new waste facilities and includes planning policies that both ensure that waste arising in the boroughs are managed within the South London Waste

Plan area and that new or redeveloped waste treatment facilities have the least impact on nearby uses and the environment.

- 6.3.3 From 2018, the London boroughs of Croydon, Kingston Merton and Sutton intend to start work on a replacement plan, making the most of their strong track record and commitment to joint working and helping to deliver the new London Plan's policies and de-risk the delivery of essential infrastructure for south London.
- 6.3.4 Waste treatment is a strategic planning issue across London and a challenge for all successful urban areas. There is a significant, if not overwhelming need for new homes in south London which generates the requirement for essential waste treatment infrastructure to support this growth. More than a million people already live in south London and there is a significant challenge in providing such essential infrastructure within a heavily urbanised area.
- 6.3.5 South London is seeking to meet this challenge by delivering its share of the London Plan's waste policies while meeting the ambitious targets for new homes in the same geographic area. The London Plan sets the boroughs the target of managing 100% of London's waste within Greater London by 2026 and have zero waste going to landfill by 2026. It also sets targets for local authority-collected waste, commercial and industrial waste and construction, demolition and excavation waste (London Plan, March 2016, Policy 5.16).
- 6.3.6 With significant need for new homes and consequent commercial activity planned across London, the need to provide essential infrastructure such as waste facilities to meet this growth is therefore a regional strategic priority.