

# futureMerton news

March 2015 | Morden Edition



Our vision for Morden's streets and public spaces

## Update on Morden

Welcome to the first edition of our Morden town centre regeneration update. There is a lot of activity underway behind the scenes with key partners, working to ensure Morden becomes a more attractive and successful place for residents and businesses.

The council has been working closely with Transport for London (TfL) to assess the regeneration potential of Morden Station.

TfL has just announced this month that they will be seeking a development partner in 2015 to drive forward the council's regeneration ambitions. Merton is also bidding to attract millions of pounds worth of investment to Morden over the next few years.

The council will be preparing a consultation programme for businesses and residents for summer 2015.

[merton.gov.uk/moreMorden](http://merton.gov.uk/moreMorden)

# Making more of Morden

You may have already been involved in the early consultations on the council's ambitions for Morden town centre.

Initially, plans from the 2009 MoreMorden vision stalled due to the recession. The administration used the 'down-time' to make sure the council's vision for Morden was consistent with the council's Core Planning Strategy. Merton has been working with major land owners and TfL to develop credible plans. The council has improved the Civic Centre building, reaffirming its commitment to retaining jobs in Morden.

The council's regeneration team, Future Merton, is working to ensure that the vision for Morden is up-to-date and relevant to London's growth agenda and that

there is a clear, coordinated plan of investment for Morden over the next four years.

Morden is changing. Its residents are younger, the population more diverse and the number of people working in Morden has increased. More than 20,000 people use Morden Station every day. The area has a lot of disposable income that should benefit the town centre but people have told us that Morden is not an attractive town centre to enjoy. Morden has the potential to be better. We know that the town centre offer is not what residents and visitors expect and the look and feel of Morden's High Street can be improved.

Regeneration is complex, and requires a long term commitment. We have been investing time

and resources to ensure that plans are right for Morden, that they are funded and above all, that our vision is achievable and deliverable.

Keep updated:

[www.merton.gov.uk/moreMorden](http://www.merton.gov.uk/moreMorden)





Aerial view of how Morden town centre could look

## What we're working on

### Morden Station Development

Over the past three years we have been working with the main landowner, TfL, to agree a planning brief that will guide the redevelopment of the Morden Station site.

Morden Station is the catalyst to reinvigorate the town centre and the plans will provide new retail, restaurants, public spaces and much needed housing for the town centre. The council is now working with TfL to identify a development partner for Morden Station, with detailed proposals and planning applications anticipated in 2016.

Keep updated:

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### London Road & Morden Public Realm

One of the biggest challenges in Morden town centre is the busy A24 London Road, which divides the town centre in two. The bus station outside the tube at Morden is convenient for commuters

but presents an unwelcoming environment to visitors to Morden. Overall, the design and quality of streets and public spaces in Morden is under-par and the council has spent the past 18 months preparing the evidence base and research that will support a £9m package of works by Merton Council and TfL to overhaul Morden's public realm.

Merton is proposing to reduce the dominance of traffic, remove the gyratory, create new public spaces and achieve a step-change in the quality of Morden's High Street. There's a lot of testing still to do and the council will consult on options before a bid for funding is submitted to TfL in September 2015. If approved, the council hopes to deliver the improvements in 2017/18.

### Mayor's Housing Zone Bid

Future Merton has spent 2014 preparing a bid to gain Housing Zone status for Morden town centre from the Greater London Authority (GLA). This will look at

providing more much needed quality housing in the area.

Merton's bid is focussed on securing a development partner to establish proposals for the town centre which could encourage millions of pounds in investments to kickstart developments in Morden.

The GLA is supportive of the council's ambitions for Morden and, although it's early days, Merton will be working on the Housing Zone status bid to be ready for an announcement in summer 2015.

Keep updated:

[www.london.gov.uk/priorities/housing-land/increasing-housing-supply/housing-zones](http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/housing-land/increasing-housing-supply/housing-zones)

[merton.gov.uk/moreMorden](http://merton.gov.uk/moreMorden)



## Morden Leisure Centre

These are exciting times for Morden. We are drawing up plans and proposals for a new family friendly leisure facility for everyone to use to replace Morden Park Pools, which is nearing the end of its life. These plans have been informed by people's responses to the consultation we held in 2014 about what they would like to see in a new leisure centre. Thank you to everybody who responded.

In November 2014, Cabinet selected a preferred site for the new leisure centre, close to London Road and opposite the college on the other side of the access road to the car park. Morden Park Pools will remain open and operational until the new

leisure centre is built. Then it will be demolished and landscaped to return it to open space and improve the appearance of the park and the historic buildings in the area.

Latest on Morden Leisure Centre:

[www.merton.gov.uk/leisureformorden.com](http://www.merton.gov.uk/leisureformorden.com)

## Tramlink Extension

In July and August 2014, Merton and Sutton Councils asked residents businesses and others what they thought of a proposed new Tramlink running from Morden to Sutton town centres via St Helier Hospital.

Over 10,000 responses were

received and over 70% were in favour of the main route. We gave the results to TfL to encourage the Mayor of London's support and potential funding for the scheme.

The Mayor of London may decide to support further feasibility work to explore the potential for a Morden-Sutton Tramlink in more detail from 2015-16 onwards. If this happened, there would be further consultation on the details of the scheme, following the completion of the feasibility work.

[www.merton.gov.uk/trams](http://www.merton.gov.uk/trams)



Proposed Tram station at Morden Hall Road