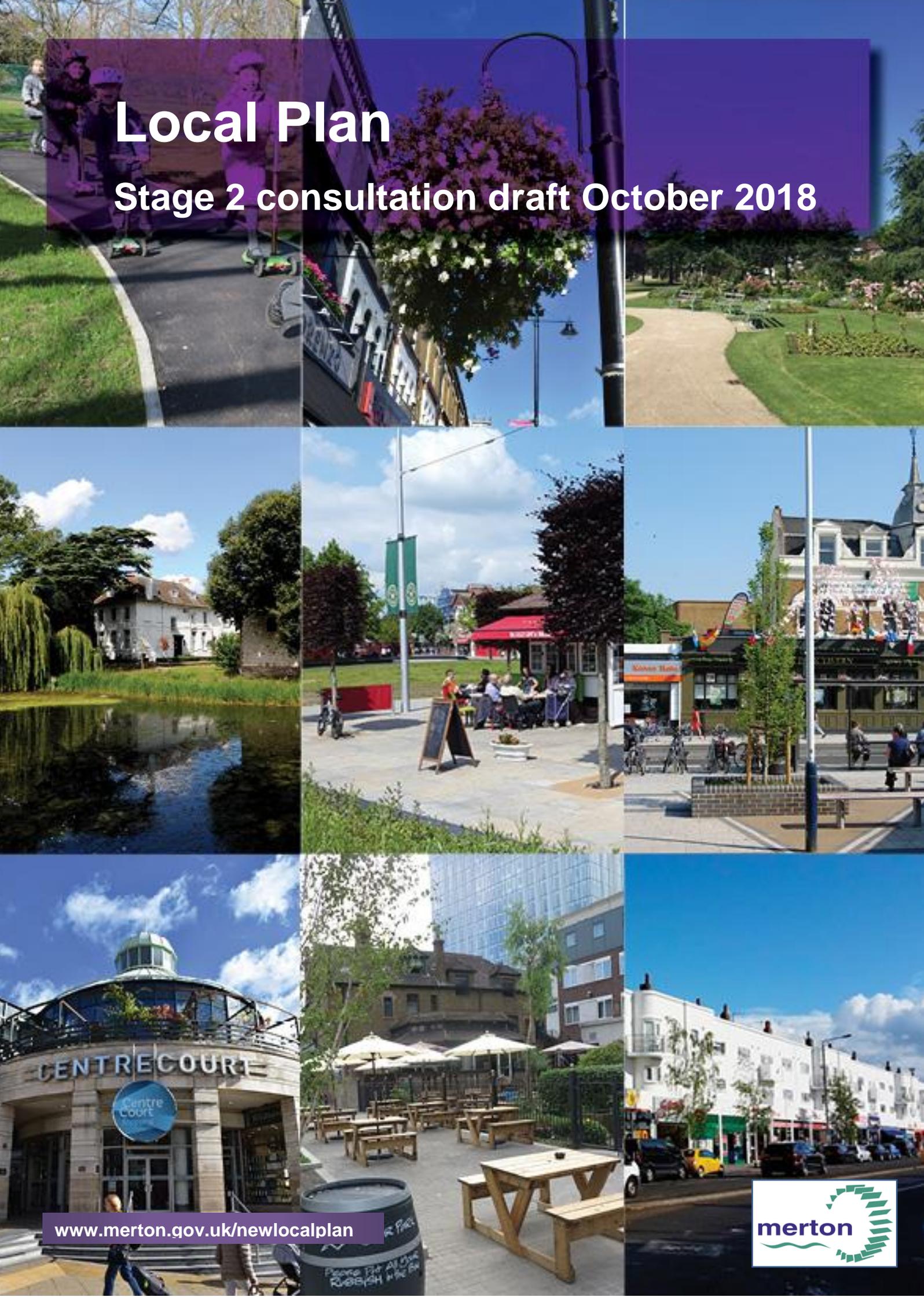


Local Plan

Stage 2 consultation draft October 2018



It gives me great pleasure to introduce Merton's draft new Local Plan. The new Local Plan will become a key planning document for the council, the local community and all interested groups and organisations.

The Local Plan once adopted will influence the how the borough develops and grows over the next 15 years through to 2035.

It will bring together strategic planning policies, detailed development policies and allocation site for future development into one planning document.

With a growing population, it also sets out how the council will guide development and new sites and the important infrastructure to support that need, such as new homes, jobs, schools, healthcare, and leisure; whilst continuing to protect the borough's important green spaces, heritage assets and natural environment.

Key to this will be the built environment, in the way our public realm and streets are designed provides opportunities for communities to interact and meet, but also in ensuring high quality design of new buildings throughout the borough

We want our residents, businesses and anyone with an interest in the borough to contribute and comment on this draft Local Plan as we move forward to Merton an even better place to live, work and learn.



Cllr Martin Whelton

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Housing and Transport

Foreword

The places where we live, learn, work and spend our free time have a major impact on our health and wellbeing, as well as on the economy and sustainability of our cities.

Our built environment is also a major driver of health inequalities, to the extent that where we are born can dictate how long and how well we live; a pattern which is unfortunately replicated all over the world. People living in more deprived areas are more likely to suffer from the negative influences that poor quality housing, unhealthy high streets, poor air quality and places where we feel unsafe and alone can have on our health.



Public Health Merton works across the borough with key players who hold the levers to influence our health and wellbeing; from colleagues at the council, to Merton residents, businesses and the voluntary sector. These players span a range of sectors such as planning, transport and education, all of which can contribute towards creating an environment that makes us healthier.

Merton Health and Wellbeing Board provides the system leadership to help us focus our efforts where we can have the greatest impact in our goal to take early action, prevent ill health, and reduce health inequalities. Many of the challenges it takes on, such as combatting childhood obesity, are complex and therefore solutions require the combined actions of many people and plans. This Local Plan provides a key opportunity for us to collectively combat such issues, for example by making it easy and safe for children to play outside, for people to access affordable, healthy food, to visit their friends and family, and access health and care services nearer their homes.

The Local Plan sets out a vision for what Merton will look like in the future. It will guide planning decisions related to our schools, high streets, parks, businesses and homes, and drive the borough towards achieving the inter-connected goals of sustainability, health and wellbeing, and inclusive economic growth.

We are committed to ensuring the Local Plan incorporates health and wellbeing into its policies and vision, with the aim of ensuring anyone born in Merton has a fair chance at a healthy life.

Cllr Tobin Byers

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Introduction

What is a Local Plan?

- 1.1. The Local Plan is a development plan document and is part of the Governments' planning system, which was introduced by the Planning Compulsory Act 2004.
- 1.2. The Local Plan set out the strategic planning framework for the Merton for 15 years from adoption, to 2035. It contains the strategic vision and objectives for the Merton as well as, development planning policies, site allocations and area and land designations (such as town centre boundaries, designated open space etc.) all of which will guide future development of the borough.
- 1.3. It covers subject such as new homes of all types, sizes and affordability and the essential infrastructure necessary to support them, healthy streets, travel and transport planning policies, improving air quality, retail, office and industrial development and meeting the challenges of climate change over the Plan's period.
- 1.4. Once adopted the Local Plan will supersede all existing polices in the Core Planning Strategy (2011), Sites and Policies Plan (2014) and the Policies Map (2014). It does not supersede the Estates Local Plan 2018 or the South London Waste Plan (2012) produced with the London Borough of Croydon, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames and the London Borough of Sutton which will remain in force to the end of the waste plan period in 2021. In addition, the new Local Plan (once adopted) will be the strategic framework for any Neighbourhood Plans.

Why are we seeking your views?

- 1.5. Government planning policy requires Local Plans to be kept up to date. Since the Merton's last Plan, there has been a number of changes to the planning system:
- 1.6. A revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) [2018], the first revision since 2012. The 2018 NPPF implements around 85 reforms announced previously through the Housing White Paper (2017) *Planning for the right homes in the right places*.
- 1.7. A new draft London Plan (2018) - under the legislation establishing the Greater London Authority (GLA), the Mayor is required to publish a London Plan and keep it under review. The new draft includes significantly higher minimum homes and jobs targets for the borough, based on new higher population forecasts and economic indicators.
- 1.8. Due to these significant planning changes we are now updating our Local Plan to ensure it meets our legal obligation to be in general conformity with the London Plan and the NPPF.
- 1.9. Updating our Local Plan means we can ensure that we get the right amount of development built in the right place at the right time so that the future needs of the borough are met. It also means we can more successfully resist unsatisfactory proposals from developers
- 1.10. Before starting to prepare the draft Local Plan we considered what Merton's communities had told us during other public consultations, including Local Plan stage 1 consultation held between October 2017 and January 2018. This helped us to establish a starting point of what are the priorities and concerns for our local community, businesses and stakeholders. These comments as well as, national planning policies and local research have feed into this draft Local Plan.

Have your say

We are seeking your views on Merton's draft Local Plan until **6th January 2019**

To comment, please write to us by either, quoting the policy or site number that you are commenting on

Email: future.merton@merton.gov.uk

Post: FutureMerton team
London Borough of Merton
London Road
Morden SM4 5DX

More information on Merton's draft Local Plan document can be found on the Merton Council website: <https://www.merton.gov.uk/newlocalplan>

Copies of the full document are also available to read at the Colliers Wood, Mitcham, Morden, Raynes Park and Wimbledon libraries.

For more information please email us at future.merton@merton.gov.uk or phone us at 020 8545 3837

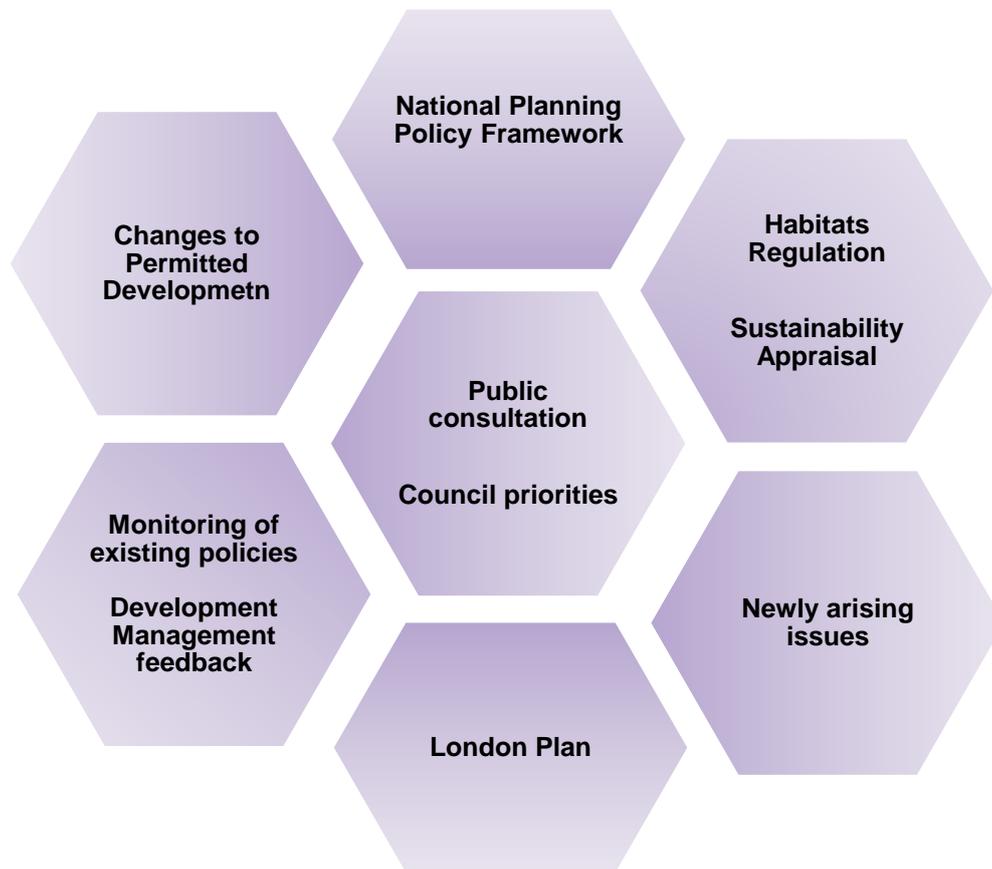
Next steps

The timetable for the production of the draft Local Plan is set out as follow

Draft Plan	October 2018 – January 2019
Public enquiry	Winter 2019
Adoption	2020

What influences the Local Plan?

Principle influences of Merton's Local Plan:



1.11. **The National Planning Framework (and its associated documents):** sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework Local Plans.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

1.12. **The London Plan:** is the Mayor of London's strategy for how London evolves and develops, it covers housing, transport and many other issues. The London Plan identifies housing capacity and policies for London as a whole, as well as for each borough. <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan>

1.13. **Merton's Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2009-2019**, locally known as the 'Community Plan'. The Community Plan sets out [Merton Partnership](#) vision for the borough and describes how the council and it partners will engage and involve the local community. The Plan covers five themes:

- Sustainable Communities and Transport
- Safer and Stronger Communities
- Healthier Communities
- Older People
- Children and Young People

1.14. **Monitoring of existing policies:** The council produces an Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) every year which analyses how our planning policies are performing <https://www2.merton.gov.uk/localplan/AMR>

Supporting documents

- 1.15. **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):** assesses the likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna and flora; in accordance with SEA Regulations 2004.
- 1.16. **Sustainability Appraisal (SA):** its purpose is to promote sustainable development by integrating social, economic, and environmental considerations into the preparation of new or revised plans and strategies.
- 1.17. **Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA):** provides legal protection for habitats of exceptional European importance.
- 1.18. **Equalities Impact Assessment:** at the decision making stage local authorities are required to assess how changes to policies and service delivery will affect different people and in 2011, the Equality Act extended protection against discrimination to nine 'Protected Characteristics'.
- 1.19. **Health Impact Assessment:** its purpose is to promote sustainable development by integrating health (including mental health) and wellbeing considerations into the preparation of plans or strategies; by identifying the key health and wellbeing issues and the groups that are likely to be affected by the implementation of the Plan.