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**Designing Out Crime Officer**

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11th December 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Response to Merton's new Local Plan**

Thank you for allowing me to comment on your new Local Plan. I am a Designing Out Crime Officer with the Metropolitan Police Service.

I am responsible for Merton borough and administer the MOPAC 'Secured by Design' (SBD) scheme. Our team has a proven track record, backed by academic research, of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in new, and refurbished developments by working with planners, architects and developers at the design and planning stage.

Considering your consultation document, and paying particular consideration to prioritising the tackling of major crimes within Merton borough within the Strategic vision and objective; Health and Wellbeing; Housing; Design; Infrastructure; Economy and Environment and the seven places I would request the following statement be a consideration within all those areas.

*The design and layout of the physical environment and physical building security is key to creating safe environments and reducing crime and disorder. Designing out crime 'Secured by Design' accreditation and the incorporation of its principles should be core, and form part of planning any new development, town centres, public spaces, transport hubs and streets.*

There are numerous references within the consultation document to Designing out crime and SBD, therefore the document does show commitment to the existing and future residents of the borough. As an addition to the comments on The Design and Access Statement (point 5.3.17 in your document), I believe it would be vital for an applicant to also demonstrate how designing out crime principles have been considered within their proposals. SBD accreditation on developments will and is proven to reduce crime and its fear for residents and businesses. It is also vital in today's world of demand reduction, cost savings, and the drive for sustainability.

Item 5.2.7 in your consultation document outline provision of defensible space and its importance in providing clear buffer and the creation of a sense of security. These areas are key factors within SBD. A requirement for an applicant to consult with us and achieve SBD accreditation would guarantee these policy objectives' are met. The accreditation also helps to ensure that a development achieves its requirement under Approved Document Q.

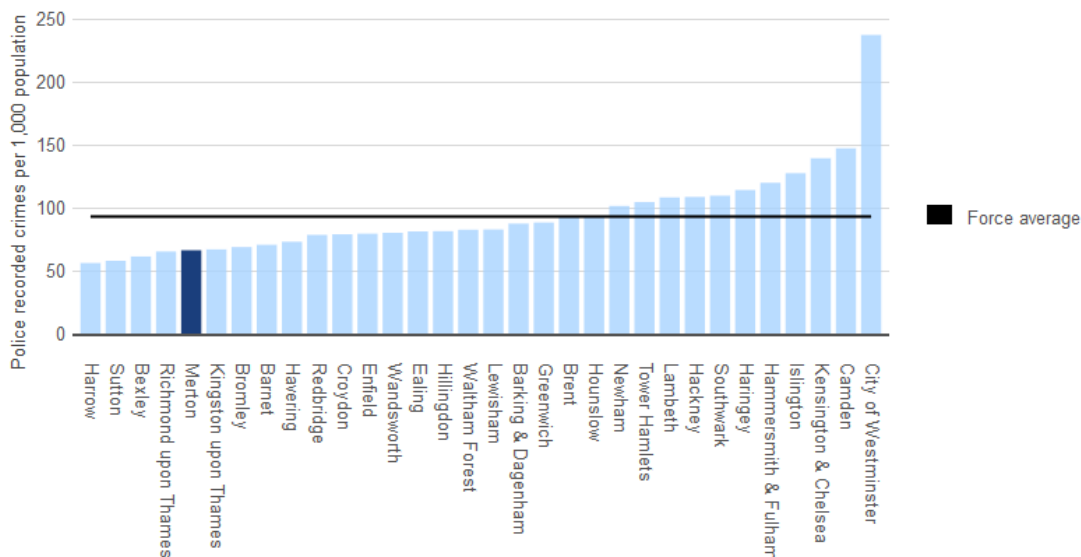
In this regard, due consideration should be paid to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which places a duty on local authorities to do all they can to reasonably prevent crime and disorder in their area. Embedding designing out crime and SBD within the document fits fully with this obligation; the success of the scheme is highlighted later.

I would also like to reference Chapter 7 of the London Plan which states:

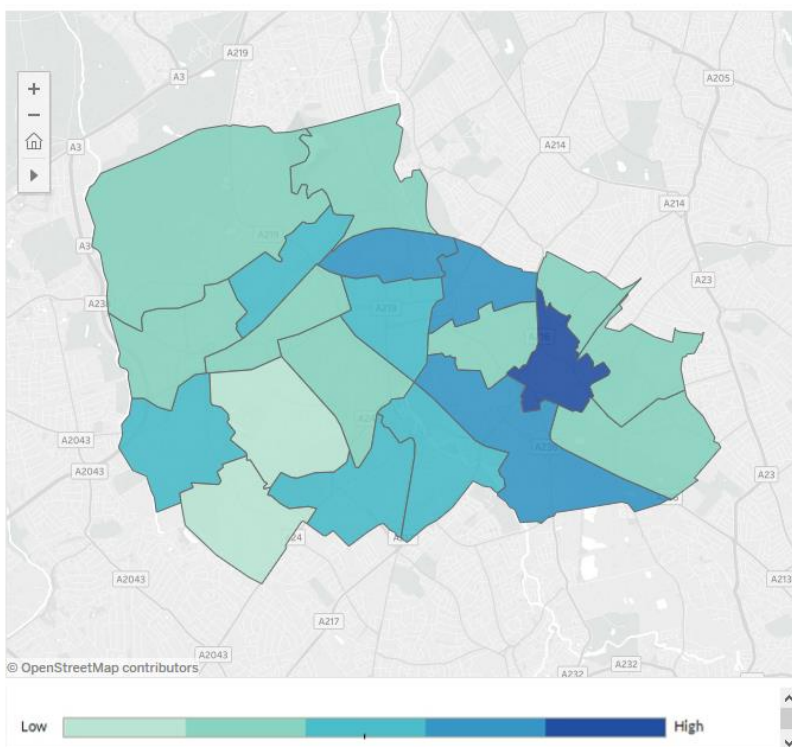
*"Measures to design out crime should be integral to development proposals and be considered early in the design process, taking into account the principles contained in Government guidance on 'Safer Places' and other guidance such as Secured by Design published by the Police."*

The annual crime rate in Merton compared with other boroughs in Metropolitan Police Service area show it to be below average as shown in the diagram below.

In the year ending June 2018, the crime rate in Merton was lower than average for the Metropolitan Police force area.



The map below shows the Merton borough divided into wards. Although Merton borough, as a whole, has a low crime rate Figges Marsh Ward has a high crime rate and Cricket Green, Colliers Wood and Trinity wards have above average crime rates.



The consultation document in 5.2.1. under Good urban design states 'Building places based on sound and established principles of good urban design is a fundamental element of successful place-making. It is a holistic approach to the physical arrangement of our environment. It encompasses issues of layout, land use, security, economic development, regeneration, community and social life and the general appearance and attractiveness of places. It is also key to achieving the sustainability of our environments by building places that have inherent longevity and an ability to adapt to changing circumstances inexpensively.

This links with the environmental benefits of the Secured by Design scheme which are supported by independent academic research consistently proving that results in reducing crime and the fear of crime, with up to 75% decreased chance of being burgled, 25% less vehicle crime and a 25% reduction in criminal damage. The scheme is also successful at reducing anti-social behaviour, through a raft of measures including robust communal door standards, access control and careful design and layout of new estates. High crime can be a factor in why people move home and in Merton, some residents receive Housing Benefit, security improvements may well be outside their budget. This will place residents at greater risk of repeat victimisation and is in no way sustainable.

The Secured by Design scheme can deliver safe and sustainable homes and businesses through techniques in crime prevention utilising independently tested products proven to resist forced entry. My colleagues and I strive to ensure that new developments across London reach the highest possible security standards, mainly through partnership working with the relevant Planning Departments and requesting conditions to comply with Secured by Design. By including a requirement in your new Local Plan that new application must evidence how they will **comply** with Secured by Design, after proper consultation with Designing out Crime Officers, we will be better placed to deliver secure developments and schemes across the London Borough of Merton.

Thank you again for seeking my opinion in relation to this important document. If you require any clarification of any of my comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above address.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Simcox DCCO". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

PC Pat Simcox,  
Designing Out Crime Officer – SW

#### Sources

Crime statistics at [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) and [www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk)  
Secured by Design information from [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com)

This report gives recommendations. Please note that Crime Prevention Advice and the information in this report does not constitute legal or other professional advice; it is given free and without the intention of creating a contract or without the intention of accepting any legal responsibility. It is based on the information supplied and current crime trends in the area. All other applicable health, safety and fire regulations should be adhered to.

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8th January 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Merton Local Plan 2020 Transport Chapter**

Thank you for allowing me to comment on your Transport Chapter of Merton Local Plan 2020. I am a Designing Out Crime Officer with the Metropolitan Police Service.

I am responsible for London Borough of Merton and administer the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) 'Secured by Design' (SBD) scheme. Our team aims to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in new, and refurbished developments by working with planners, architects and developers at the design and planning stage through to the builds completion.

Considering your consultation document, paying particular consideration to prioritising the tackling of major crimes on the boroughs streets and public transport systems as within Strategic Policy T6.4 Supporting an inclusive and better connected transport network and Policy T6.6 Transport impacts of development I would request the following statement be a consideration within all those areas.

*The design and layout of the physical environment and physical building security is key to creating safe environments and reducing crime and disorder. Designing out crime 'Secured by Design' accreditation and the incorporation of its principles should be core, and form part of planning any new development, town centres, public spaces, transport hubs and streets.*

There is no current reference in the consultation document to security, fear of crime, Designing Out Crime or SBD, therefore the document does not show sufficient commitment to the existing and future residents of the borough. Designing Out Crime consultation and Secured by design accreditation on developments will and is proven to reduce crime and its fear for residents and businesses. It is also vital in today's world of demand reduction, cost savings, and the drive for sustainability.

Justification 6.5.2.in your consultation document mentions upgrading existing facilities and providing safe, legible continuous and well-connected walking and cycling routes and in 6.5.3 cycle parking facilities should be secure, provide non-standard cycles, be covered and give good access to the street. These are key considerations within SBD principles.

Policy T6.7 Car parking and servicing mentions in paragraph d. That car parking in retail and leisure development is limited to short stay use, conforms to a nationally recognised safety mark; this safety mark is Park Mark which is part of the Police Crime Prevention Initiatives (Police CPI) and managed by the British Parking Association. Police CPI also owns and operates SBD. Both Police CPI and SBD are subsidiaries of MOPAC.

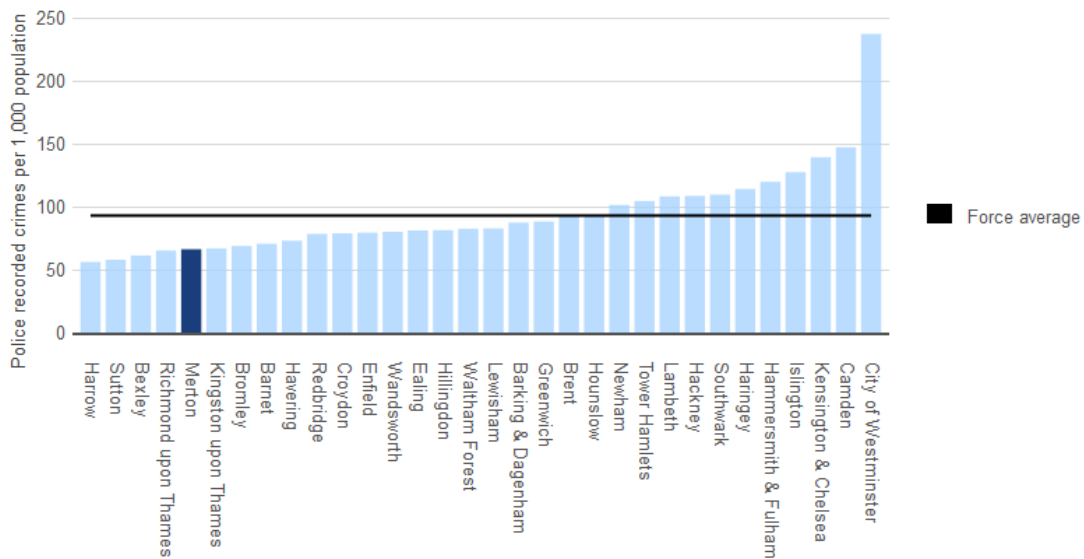
Also due consideration should be paid to Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 which places a duty on local authorities to do all they can to reasonably prevent crime and disorder in their area. Embedding Secured by Design principles within the document fits fully with this obligation; the success of the scheme is highlighted later.

I would also like to reference Chapter 7 of the London Plan which states:

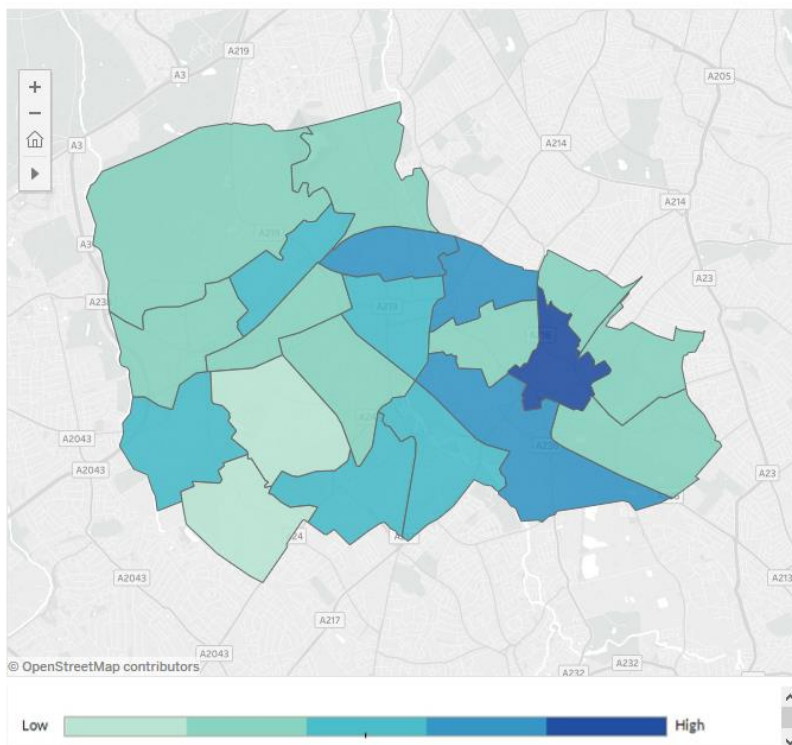
*"Measures to design out crime should be integral to development proposals and be considered early in the design process, taking into account the principles contained in Government guidance on 'Safer Places' and other guidance such as Secured by Design published by the Police."*

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I believe it would be essential for safety, crime and security to be taken as considerations within the Transport document. Any proposals should demonstrate how designing out crime standards have been considered.

The environmental benefits of the Secured by Design scheme which are supported by independent academic research consistently proving that results in reducing crime and the fear of crime, with up to 75% decreased chance of being burgled, 25% less vehicle crime and a 25% reduction in criminal damage. The scheme is also successful at reducing anti-social behaviour, through a raft of measures including robust communal door standards, access control and careful design and layout of new estates. High crime can be a factor in why people move home and in Merton, some residents receive Housing Benefit, security improvements may well be outside their budget. This will place residents at greater risk of repeat victimisation and is in no way sustainable.

The Secured by Design scheme can deliver safe and sustainable developments in Merton with homes and businesses healthier, and more connected where everyone is able to travel around in safety within a high quality environment through techniques in crime prevention including utilising independently tested products. My colleagues and I strive to ensure that new developments across London reach the highest possible security standards, mainly through partnership working with the relevant Planning Departments and requesting conditions to comply with Secured by Design. By including a requirement in your Local Implementation Plan including the Transport chapter that new transport schemes **comply** with Secured by Design, after proper consultation with Designing out Crime Officers, we will be better placed to deliver secure schemes across the London Borough of Merton.

Thank you again for seeking my opinion in relation to this important document. If you require any clarification of any of my comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at the above address.

Yours sincerely,

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