



# **London Borough of Merton Infrastructure Delivery Plan September 2022**

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## 1. Executive Summary

This Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) has been prepared as part of the evidence base to inform the development of the new Local Plan. It was prepared by Future Merton alongside the new Local Plan.

The new Merton Local Plan will cover the next 15 years and will allocate land for a range of uses, including housing, retail and employment. The IDP identifies the necessary infrastructure that will be required to ensure that future development is accompanied by the relevant services and facilities that are needed to sustain growth.

National and regional planning policy and guidance identifies the importance of infrastructure. As such this document has been reviewed and written in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) and the London Plan 2021.

The Local Plan sets out that the council will plan for 12,376 new homes over the plan period from 2021/22 to 2036/37. Delivery of this housing is required to meet the needs of the increase in population and growth; projected to be an overall increase of approximately 16,600 people.

The IDP identifies the anticipated strategic requirements for the provision of a range of different infrastructure types across the borough. These include transport, health, education, green and blue infrastructure, sport and leisure, community, utilities, climate change, economic development and emergency services.

The council must ensure that the necessary infrastructure required to support new residential and commercial development throughout the borough can be delivered at the right time, therefore addressing any existing shortfalls in provision.

This infrastructure report supports the Local Plan and it should also be used to inform major planning applications that come forward. It is the responsibility of site owners, promoters and developers to ensure sufficient information on infrastructure is submitted with any planning applications. For example, this can include transport assessments, strategic flood risk assessments and biodiversity assessments.

The public sector has previously been relied upon to provide and ensure the delivery of infrastructure. However, in the context of public sector funding restrictions, including the impacts from the Covid-19 pandemic, there will be an increased

reliance on infrastructure and service providers and the development industry to fund infrastructure going forward.

The table in Section 12 of this report sets out the main infrastructure required to support development over the Local Plan period. This list provides a current 'snap shot' and will continue to develop and be updated as further details become available on timing, costs and delivery mechanisms. The council will provide annual reports on the progress of infrastructure delivery throughout the borough, via the Infrastructure Funding Schedule, the first of which was published in December 2020. Further updates have been made to the IDP since July 2021 as additional evidence was made available.

## **2. Introduction**

### **2.1. Purpose**

The purpose of this document is to identify the infrastructure requirements necessary to support the anticipated growth and development across the borough over the 15 year Local Plan period. The council is required to demonstrate that the policies contained in the new Local Plan will be delivered in a sustainable way. As such, this document forms part of the evidence base for the new Local Plan.

In preparing the IDP and identifying and detailing infrastructure projects, contact was made with infrastructure and service partners and providers and relevant council departments and a review was undertaken of all the relevant strategies and reports. Requirements have been informed by demographic and household growth trends, housing needs and proposed development identified through site allocations.

The IDP provides a snapshot of a point in time and the projects set out in Section 12 will be subject to updates, particularly on timelines and costs. Regular engagement with infrastructure providers will help to ensure that the infrastructure projects identified for Merton can continually be updated to reflect needs.

### **2.2. Policy Framework**

The importance of infrastructure is set out in national policy, through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) and in the London Plan 2021. This document has been prepared to meet the requirements of both national and regional policy and guidance.

### **2.3. Community Infrastructure Levy**

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was introduced through the Planning Act 2008 and CIL Regulations in 2010, bringing forward a new charge allowing local authorities in England to levy on most types of new development in their boroughs. The proceeds of the levy help to pay for local infrastructure to support development in line with local authorities' development plans. Merton's CIL Charging Schedule came into effect on 01 April 2014 and sets out the charging rates across the borough. The adopted CIL rates are shown in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 – Merton’s CIL Rates

<b>Merton’s CIL Rates</b>		
<b>Use</b>	<b>Charge / sqm floorspace</b>	<b>Areas</b>
Residential	£220	Colliers Wood, Raynes Park and Wimbledon
	£115	Mitcham, Morden and West Barnes
Retail Warehouses / Superstores	£100	Throughout the London Borough of Merton

The Mayor of London's CIL (MCIL) is a separate charge on development, which has been applicable to new development since April 2012. The MCIL is collected by boroughs on the Mayor’s behalf, to contribute towards the funding of Crossrail.

80% of Merton CIL funds may be spent on strategic infrastructure items that benefit the whole borough, known as the ‘Merton Strategic CIL Fund’. Up to 5% of CIL funds can be used to administer CIL in Merton. The remaining 15% of the CIL funds received must be spent on priorities to address demands that new development place on our neighbourhoods in Merton.

## **2.4. Section 106 Developer Contributions**

A Section 106 (S106) agreement is a legal agreement that sets out the terms binding on a land owner or developer to provide, facilitate or fund the provision of infrastructure, services or other measures that may be needed for a development to be acceptable in planning terms.

With the introduction of CIL in 2014, a draft Merton Planning Obligations SPD was produced and consulted on in 2014. This document sets out the council’s approach in seeking planning obligations under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) since the introduction of CIL.

## **2.5. Infrastructure Funding Statement**

In accordance with the CIL Regulations, local authorities are now required to publish annual Infrastructure Funding Statements (IFS).

The purpose of an IFS is to provide for more transparency and accountability to developers and communities in terms of the use of CIL and S106 without precluding the use of both forms of investment in an integrated way to maximise the scope for infrastructure funding and delivery. These statements have replaced the Regulation 123 Infrastructure List in terms of local authorities setting out priorities for future CIL investment. The IFS also include information as to the items of infrastructure upon

which CIL and S106 investment has occurred or been allocated for a given financial year.

Merton's first IFS was published in December 2020 and relates to the 2019/20 financial year, setting out the spending priorities for Merton's CIL at that time. The latest version of the IFS was published in [December 2021](#). The council will look to use future IFSs to publish updates to its investment priorities for CIL and S106.



### **3. Anticipated Growth over the Local Plan Period**

This section looks at the scale and location of anticipated growth and development in the borough over the Local Plan period. It highlights the projected residential population arising from growth and sets out the housing and development trajectory for the borough.

Merton is an outer London borough with a current population in 2021 of 204,676, projected to increase to 210,416 in 2026 and 221,303 in 2036 (BPO projections dated March 2021). The Borough Preferred Option (BPO) population projections are calculated using the Merton housing trajectory, as published in the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) each year. This is considered to be the best estimate of assumed growth in Merton and is used for the Local Plan.

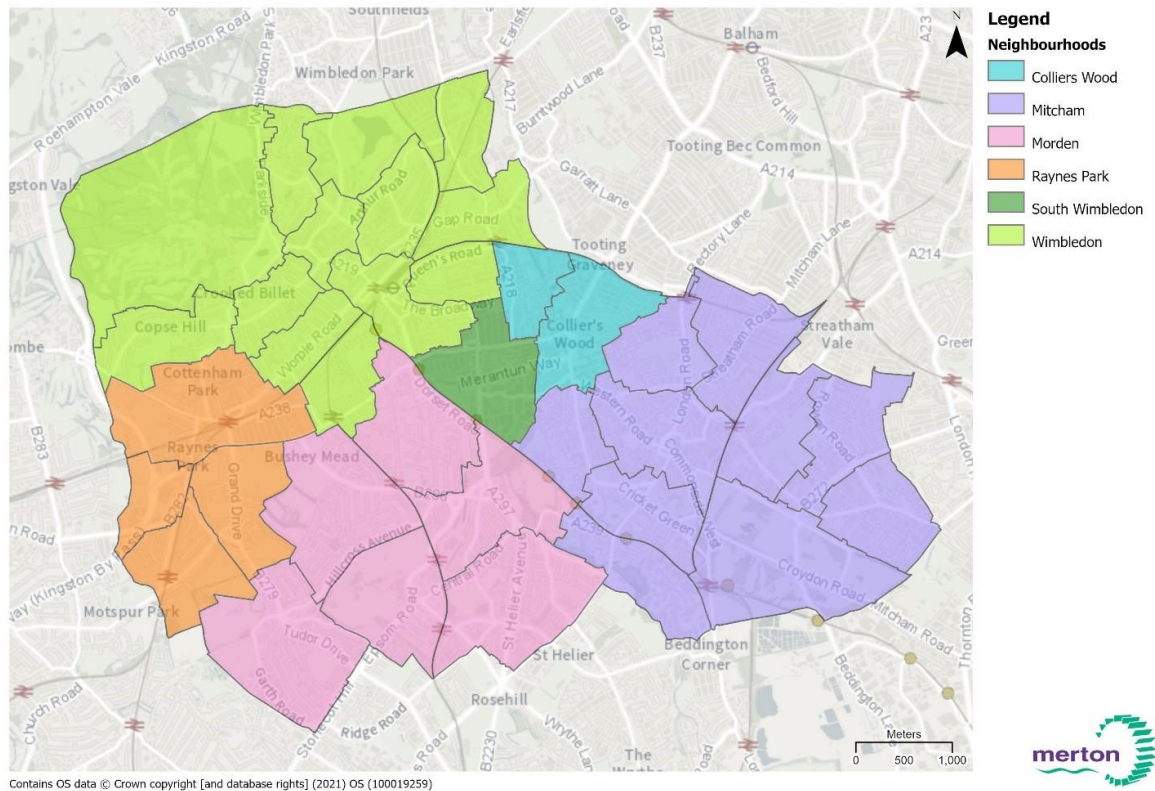
Over the next 15 years it is projected that the number of residents aged over 65 across Merton is projected to increase by a minimum of 43%. The population aged 85 and over is projected to increase by an even greater proportion, 52% (BPO March 2021). Local research supports the increasing need identified in the London Plan for housing designed for older people, including sheltered and extra-care.

Looking at the earlier stages of life there is projected to be little change in the number of people aged under 15, compared with increases or decreases shown for other age groups. Focussing on the student aged population of 18-23 years, there is projected to be a rise of around 3,300 or 33% between 2021 and 2036 (BPO March 2021).

As with many London Boroughs, Merton is facing ambitious, regionally set housing targets for the Local Plan period. Infrastructure needs will be driven by the projected population growth, housing targets and economic growth.

The Merton Strategic Housing Needs Assessment (SHNA) published in July 2019 identified that generally there is a need for more homes of all types and sizes throughout the borough. At the borough level, it is anticipated that new homes will be concentrated around the existing town centres and areas of the borough with good access to public transport and local services. These include Mitcham, Morden, Colliers Wood, South Wimbledon, Wimbledon and Raynes Park (Figure 3.1).

Figure 3.1 – Merton Neighbourhoods

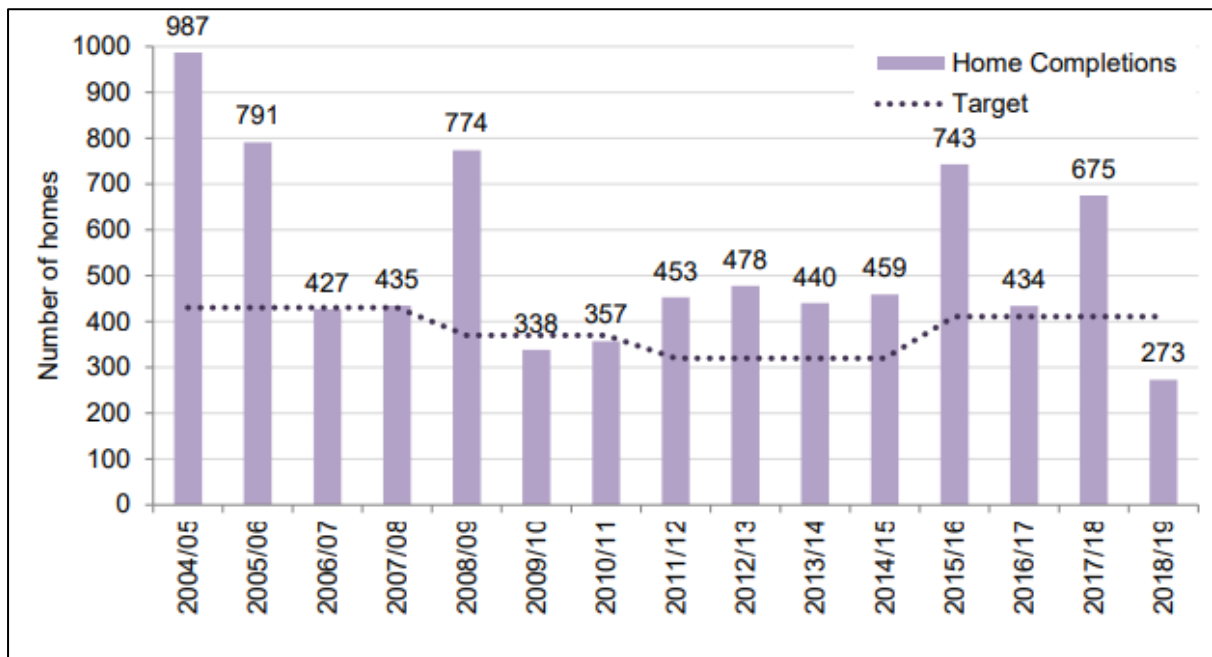


Source: Merton Local Plan (2021)

Figure 3.2 sets out the housing targets and completions for the borough over the past 15 years, illustrating that Merton has reached or exceeded these targets in all but 3 years, and overall has continued to meet housing demand.

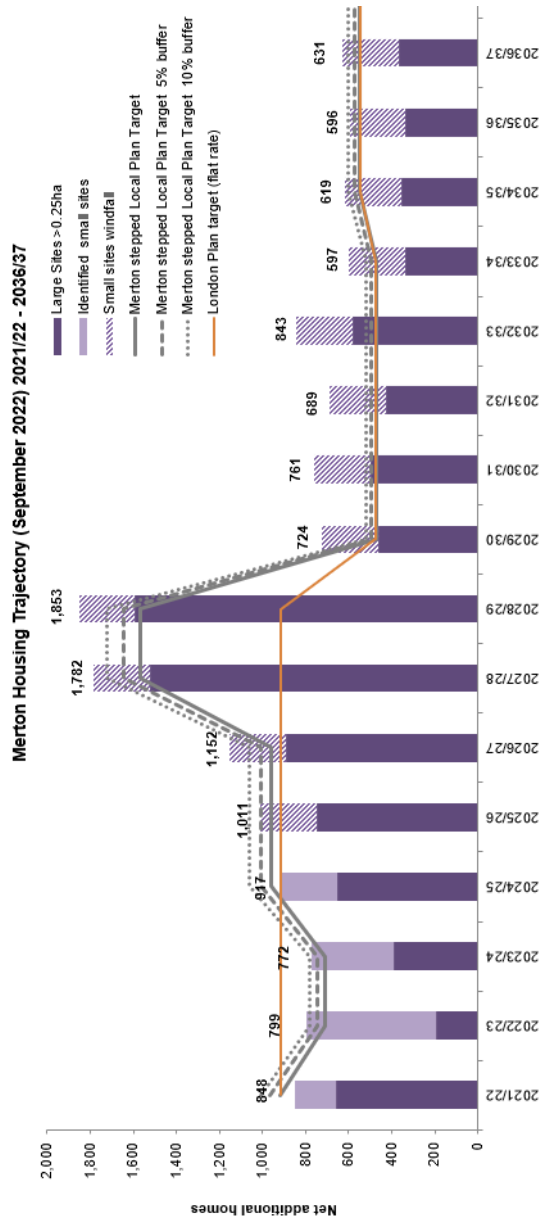
Merton’s annual housing target will start in 2021/22 at the London Plan 2021 target of 918 homes, be set at 712 homes per annum for the period 2022/23 - 2023/24, increasing to 962 for the period 2024/25 - 2026/27 and then increase to 1,567 for 2027/28 - 2028/29. This ensures that Merton’s Local Plan housing requirement for the Plan period 2021/22 - 2036/37, including the shortfall of 928 new homes, is met. Sites that have been identified for housing include both major and smaller site allocations, small sites, and windfall sites. Figure 3.3 illustrates the Local Plan housing trajectory across the borough.

Figure 3.2 – Merton Housing Targets and Completions 2004 - 2019



Source: Merton AMR 2018/19.

Figure 3.3 – Merton Housing Trajectory (2021/22 – 2036/37)



Source: Merton Local Plan (2021 with modifications, dated September 2022)

Figures published in the Mayor's London wide Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) for the new London Plan identified the need for 66,000 additional homes per year across London. Merton's ten-year target set in the 2021 London Plan is 9,180, more than double the former London Plan target of 4,107.

The new Local Plan also supports the delivery of new jobs. The development of key sites across Merton, particularly in the town centres and along the high streets will include the provision of commercial space, to ensure businesses continue to thrive in the borough.

Economic and social recovery from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic will be a priority for the UK, for London and for Merton for the short to medium term. There are already a variety of predictions as to how Covid-19 is likely to change the supply and demand for businesses and jobs. It is not yet known which of these will become a longer term reality and which might fall away as we start to recover from the impacts of the pandemic. This Local Plan continues to plan for space for businesses, jobs, apprenticeships and training in order to boost wages and local employment opportunities within the borough.

## 4. Transport and Healthy Streets

### 4.1. Merton's Third Local Implementation Plan (LIP3)

The LIP sets out Merton's Council's transport strategy and has been developed to align with and contribute towards the delivery of objectives set out in the Mayor's Transport Strategy. These include:

- Healthy streets and healthy people;
- A good public transport experience; and
- New homes and jobs.

LIP3 sets out a three year delivery programme for the period 2019/20 to 2020/22 and also outlines an indicative programme through to 2041. The programme is set against a background of predicted employment, population and freight growth and the demands it places on an increasingly congested transport system and the need to lessen and minimise the impacts on the environment and air quality.

The plan acknowledges a changing society and expanding health challenges, notably growing obesity in children and health inequalities in Merton, especially in the eastern parts of the borough. It seeks to reduce these inequalities by encouraging healthier lifestyles through increased physical activity, especially for short trips, and supporting better access to community facilities and essential services.

As an outer London borough, with lower levels of public transport accessibility in some areas, Merton has a challenging target that 73 per cent of all trips should be made on foot, by cycle or using public transport by 2041, compared to around 61% today.

### 4.2. Priority Projects and Delivery

To meet the ambitious targets set out in the Mayor's Transport Strategy and the LIP, the council and its partners will need to build on the progress over recent years and deliver transport projects that enable a greater shift to sustainable travel choices over the Local Plan period.

The Merton LIP is focused on tangible pedestrian and cycle improvements, in line with TfL's Health Streets approach and the Mayor's aim that *"Londoners do at least the 20 minutes of active travel they need to stay healthy each day."*

A number of transport and public realm schemes have been identified for delivery in the first five years of the Local Plan period. These include:

- Improvements to cycling and pedestrian route networks throughout the borough;
- Introduction of Dockless cycle schemes and e-bikes;
- Wider coverage of car clubs;
- Increasing the number and mix of on-street electric vehicle charge points;
- Improvements to the London Tram Network;
- Improvements to bus infrastructure and access across the borough; and
- Improvements to the public realm quality and accessibility in Wimbledon town centre and Mitcham, including Sandy Lane and Pollards Hill bus stop.

The funding and delivery of transport and public realm improvements will come from a number of sources, primarily from TfL and planning contributions. The council is working closely with TfL in 2021 to confirm the status of the LIP funding. Section 12 sets out further detail on funding sources for the various projects, although it should be noted that this list is not exhaustive and developers should consult the council and TfL's latest Transport Strategies for up to date information when preparing site information.

## 5. Health

### 5.1. Healthcare in Merton

The [Merton Story](#) (2019) is an annual snapshot of the local needs identified in Merton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The JSNA gives an overview of the health and wellbeing of Merton's residents and sets out the priorities for the Health and Wellbeing Board. The JSNA identifies the following key themes and challenges, which have been derived from the aim of having an overall healthy and safe borough, rich in assets:

- Inequalities and the health divide;
- Healthy lifestyles and emotional wellbeing;
- Child and family, resilience and vulnerability;
- Increasing complex needs and multi-morbidity; and
- Hidden harms and emerging issues.

[Merton's Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) (2019-24) is aligned with other strategies and plans across the Council including the Children and Young People's Plan, the developing Sustainable Communities Strategy and the Local Plan. The themes for the strategy are Start well; Live well; Age well in a Healthy place.

Merton's [Children and Young People's Plan](#) (2019-2023) sets out the priorities to make sure that Merton is a place where children and young people feel they can belong, stay safe, be healthy and can thrive.

As identified in the Merton Story 2019, health in Merton is, in general, better than in London and in England as a whole. Overall deprivation is lower than average. In terms of rank of average scores in Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019, Merton is the 213th least deprived local authority district (out of a total of 317). The borough is fortunate to have a good range of public and community assets which support good health such as green spaces, schools, libraries and voluntary sector activity. Merton is also well served by public transport, more so in the west of the borough than the east and has a road and path infrastructure to support cycling and walking. However, cycling rates are lower than some neighbouring boroughs. The voluntary and community sector in Merton is very active, with approximately 917 voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations providing a wide range of services and activities for residents across the borough.



However, there are significant social inequalities between the eastern and western parts of the borough, related to a range of factors including life expectancy, income and health deprivation. The Merton Story outlines that life expectancy for men living in east Merton is 79.3 years, shorter than the 82.2 years of men who live in the west of the borough. Similarly, for women, life expectancy for those who live in the east of Merton is 83.3 years, compared to 85.3 years for women in the west of the borough.

Data from the National Institute for Health Protection (formally known as Public Health England) indicates that the gap between the 30% most and 30% least deprived wards is larger than for total life expectancy: 9.4 years for men and 9.3 for women. Therefore, someone living in a deprived ward in the east of the borough will on average spend at least 9 more years in poor health than someone in a more affluent part of the borough. This may impact on the last years of working life, family life and on a healthy and fulfilling retirement. Risk factors such as tobacco use, an unhealthy diet, alcohol and drug use, obesity and high blood pressure can also have a large impact on premature mortality, or deaths under 75 years, which are found to be higher in the more deprived wards of east Merton.

The Merton Story identifies that the main causes of ill health and premature deaths in Merton are cancer and circulatory disease such as coronary heart disease and stroke. Unhealthy behaviours, such as smoking, lack of physical activity, an unhealthy diet and using drugs and alcohol, can all contribute to these types of deaths. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy aims to make healthy choices easier and more preferred, particularly for people in areas with lower socio-economic conditions.

The mental health of residents is just as important as their physical wellbeing. Public Health England figures indicate that in 2017, it was estimated that 25,300 adults in Merton were suffering depression and anxiety. While this is lower than the London and England average, it suggests that not all adults who experience mental health issues visit a GP.

The number of people in Merton with dementia is predicted to increase from 2,050 to 3,300 by 2035, with only 70% currently diagnosed (the Merton Story 2019).

Dementia is an umbrella term used to describe a range of progressive neurological disorders, that is, conditions affecting the brain. There are over 200 subtypes of dementia, but the five most common are: Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB), frontotemporal dementia

and mixed dementia. Some people may have a combination of different types of dementia and these are commonly called mixed dementia.

Because dementia is a general term, its symptoms can vary widely from person to person. People with dementia often have problems with:

- Memory
- Attention
- Communication
- Reasoning, judgement and problem solving
- Visual perception beyond typical age-related changes in vision

Early diagnosis can slow the disease progression and improve quality of life. Merton Council is an active member of the Merton Dementia Action Alliance (MDAA) and is working towards becoming a Dementia Friendly borough. The new Local Plan policies incorporate how dementia-friendly design through housing, transport and public realm can help to make communities more dementia-friendly.

## **5.2. Projections**

The London Healthy Urban Development Unit (HUDU) has provided a spatial analysis of the population projections for Merton, to illustrate the interactions between the different types of health services in the borough and how the changes in future population may impact on these services.

Figures 5.1 to 5.4 on the pages below show the Merton BPO population projections overlaid with the following health facilities, broken down by ward:

- Overall healthcare provision; health centres, primary care networks, GPs and hospitals;
- Primary care floorspace;
- Mental health care floorspace; and
- Acute health care floorspace.

Figure 5.1 – Merton BPO population projections and health provision (2020-2035)

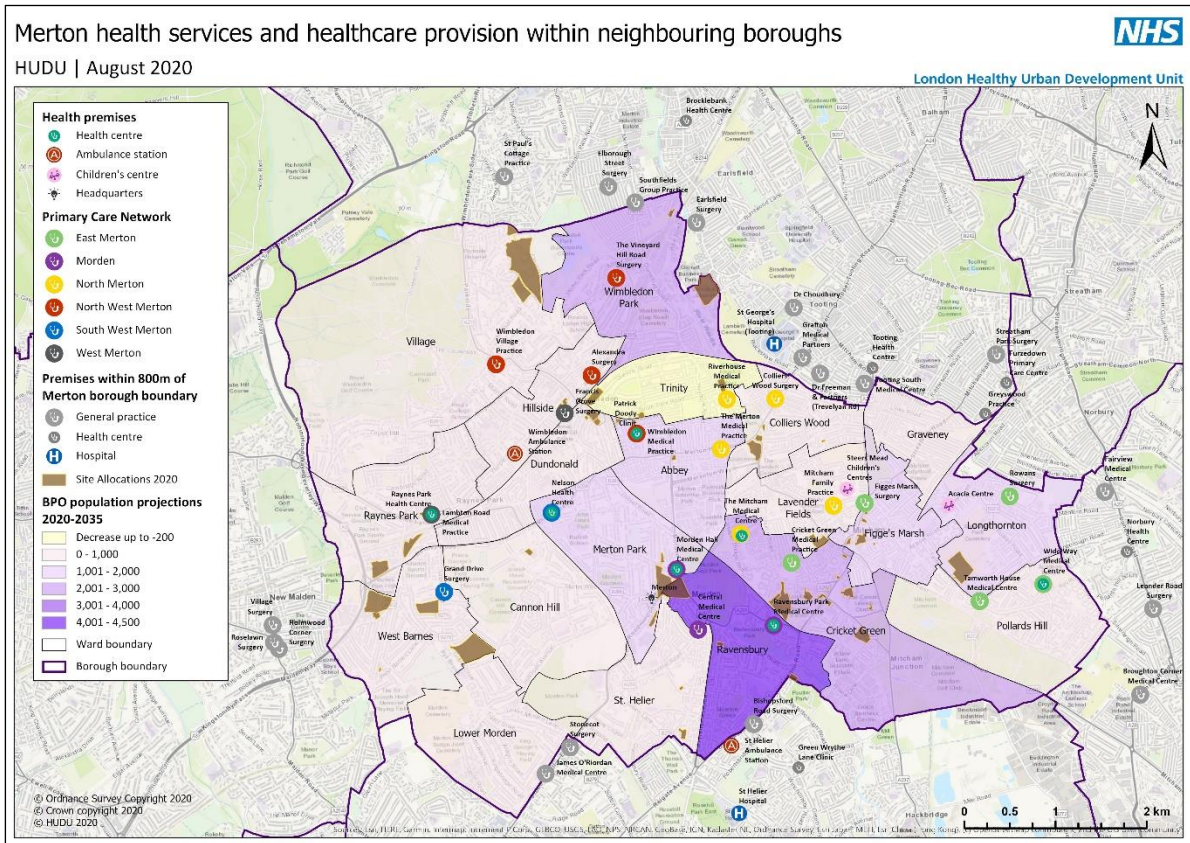


Figure 5.2 – Merton BPO population projections and primary care space (2020-25)

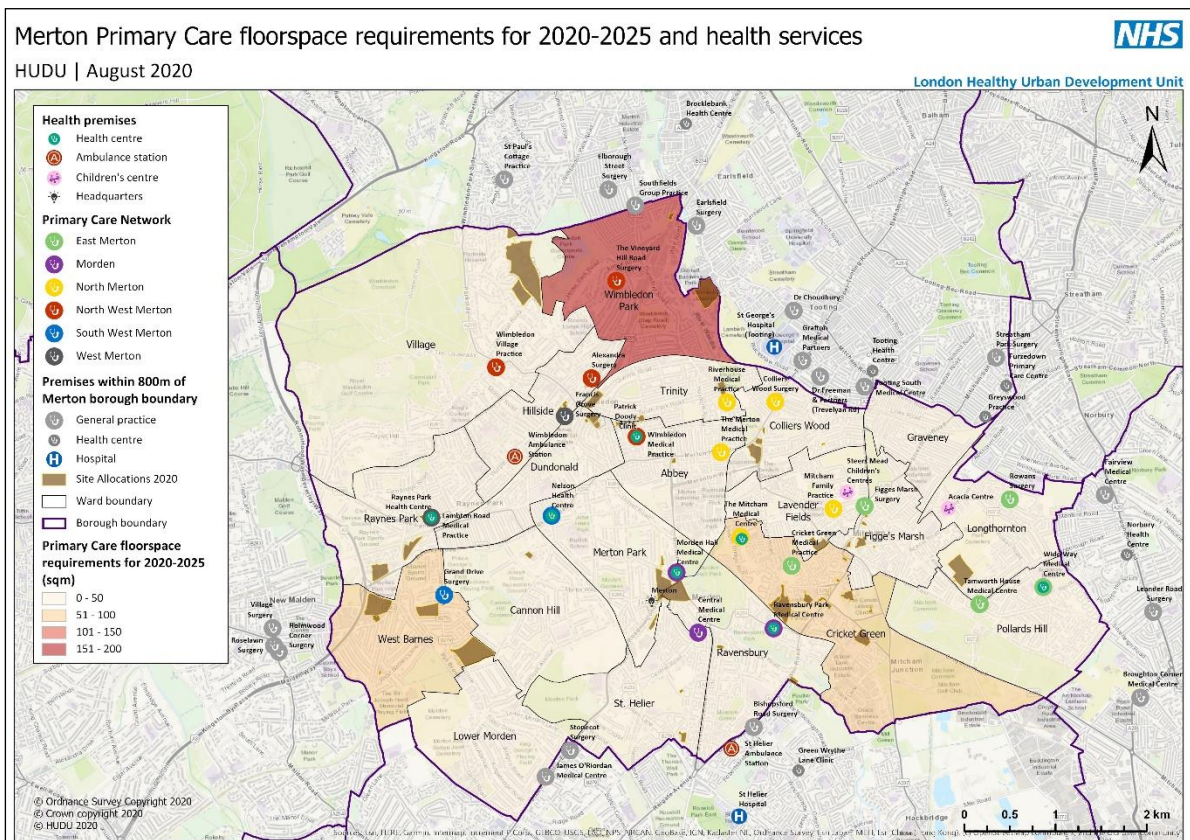


Figure 5.3 – Merton BPO population projections and mental health care (2020-25)

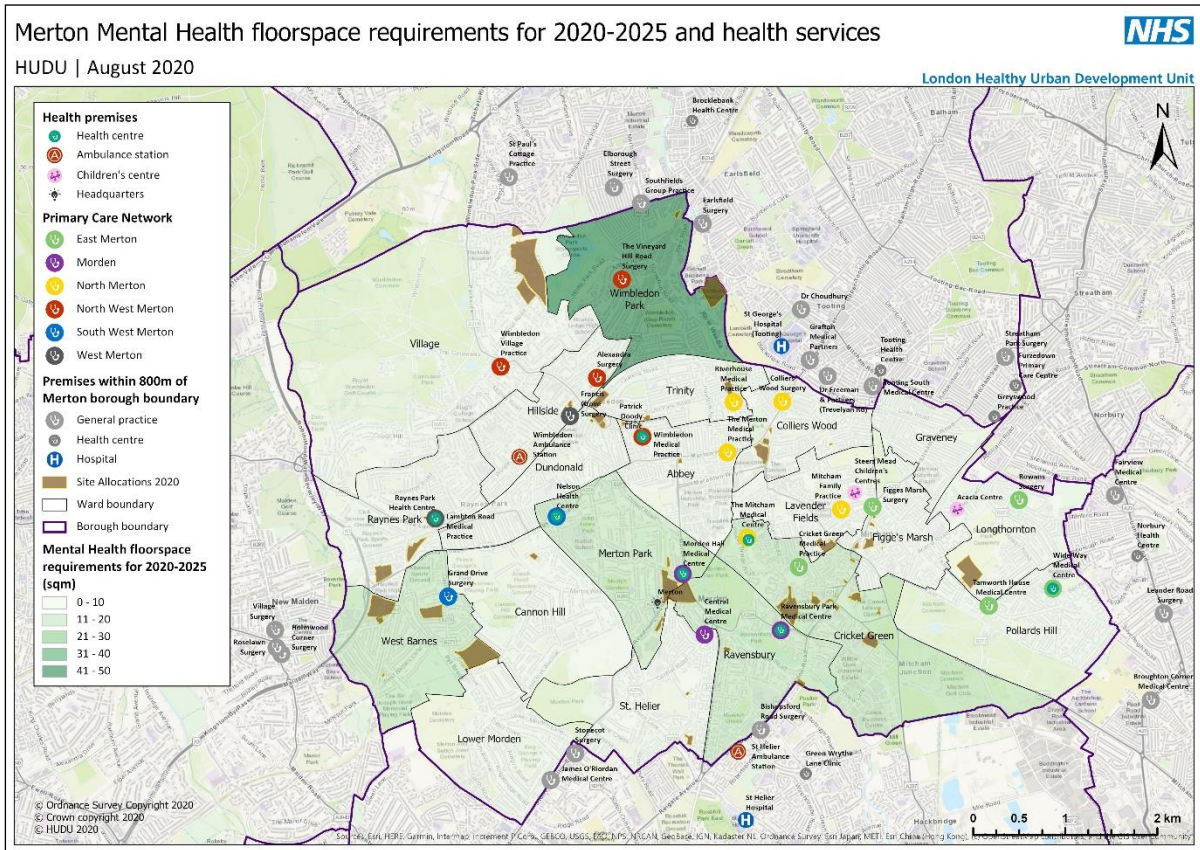
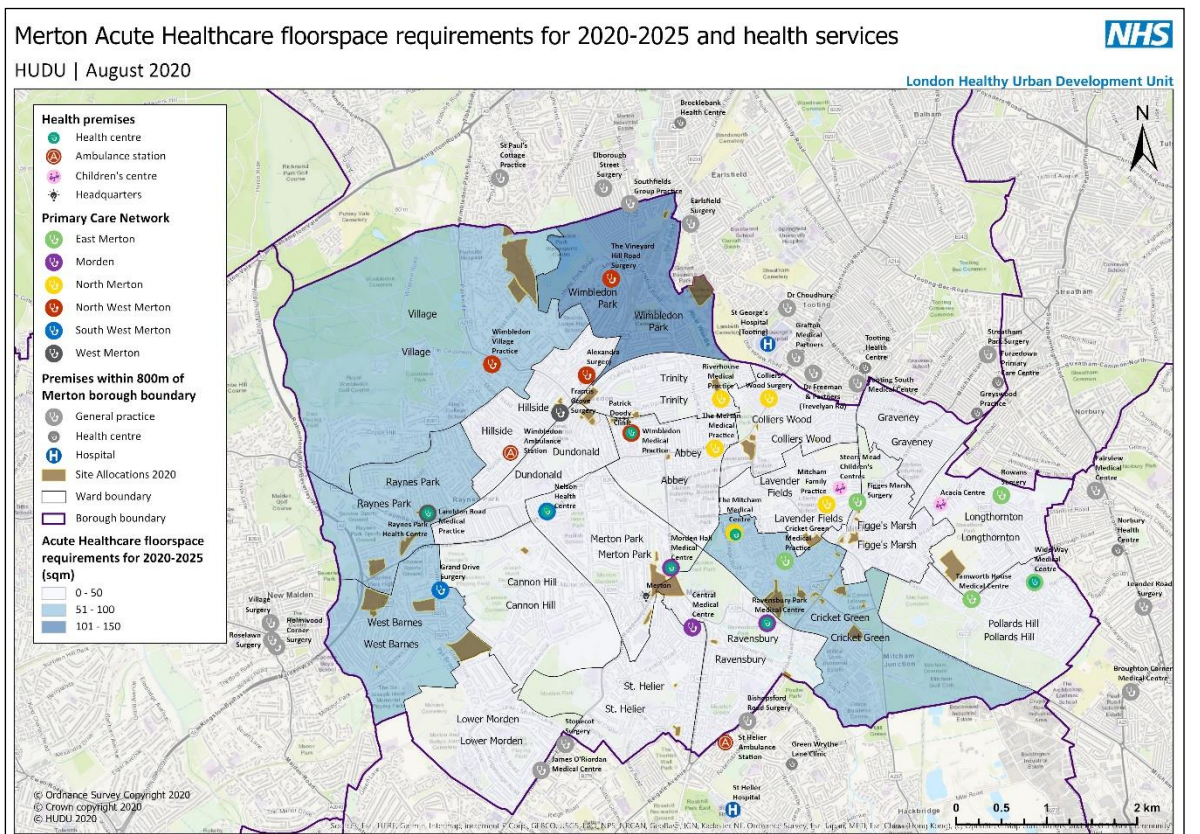


Figure 5.4 – Merton BPO population projections and acute health care (2020-25)



### 5.3. Merton Borough Health and Care Estates Strategy

A new [Merton Borough Health and Care Estates Strategy 2021](#) (MBES) has been prepared in partnership with Merton Borough Estates Group. The MBES reviews the needs of local health providers against the borough's housing and population growth and supports the delivery of Merton's Local Health and Care Plans. The MBES also takes into account some of the implications of Covid-19 on the healthcare system, although it is acknowledged that this is ongoing work and further information may be provided to the council as it comes forward.

Merton is unique to its neighbouring boroughs as there is no acute hospital within the borough. This results in residents travelling to the most convenient hospital close to where they live, either St George's University Hospital in Wandsworth, Epsom and St Helier Hospital in Sutton or Kingston Hospital in Kingston.

The MBES was prepared with input from the following:

- St George's University Hospital,
- Epsom & St Helier Hospital,
- south west London & St George's Mental Health Trust,
- central London Community Health Care Trust,
- Merton's 22 GP surgeries,
- Merton's Primary Care Networks (PCN),
- key findings from a recent Primary Care Estates Survey,
- NHS Property Services,
- community health partnerships,
- third party developer and privately owned and managed health premises,
- outputs from two workshops, and
- a SWOT Analysis.

### 5.4. Priority Projects and Delivery

The MBES 2021 identifies the key healthcare needs for the borough, setting out the areas and the projects that are considered to be a priority in meeting the health needs of the Merton population.

To meet the healthcare needs for the borough, a number of schemes have been identified for delivery over the Local Plan period. These include:

- Wimbledon Stadium PCN improvements.
- Colliers Wood new GP surgery.
- Rowans Surgery new premises at Rowan Park.
- Mitcham Health and Wellbeing Hub.

- Morden Road Health Centre, to be considered alongside Morden town centre regeneration.
- Expansion of healthcare capacity across the borough to respond to population and development growth.

The funding and delivery of these projects will come from a number of sources, further details of which are set out in Section 12.

## 6. Education

The council is responsible for school places in the borough and has a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient school places are available for every child. The Children Schools and Families (CSF) team provide annual reports and updates with regard to supply and demand of school places in Merton. These are the council's official school roll forecasts submitted to the Department for Education (DfE) and are based on the GLA Model 2 medium scenario (middle development scenario and middle migration scenario) which incorporates the borough housing development growth.

The information below has been taken from the September 2021 School Places Planning Strategy.

### 6.1. Primary Education

A baseline review carried out in summer 2021 identified that Merton has a total of 44 state funded primary schools.

After an unprecedented 35% increase in primary school pupil numbers in the 11 years to 2017/18 (a rise of 4,367 from 12,683 to 17,050), 2017/18 was the peak. Merton is now experiencing a significant fall, with a drop of 1,184 (7%) to 2020/21. This fall was not forecast at a London or national level prior to 2016 and seems to have been highly influenced by changing migration patterns as a result of the Brexit referendum and then Brexit itself. Reception year numbers decreased in 2020/21 for the fifth consecutive year and projections indicate further falls in future years.

Table 6.1 shows the actual and forecast numbers for reception year and total for primary schools between 2006/07 and 2025/26. Based on these figures, there are no primary school projects identified for the first 5 years of the new Local Plan period. This will be reviewed on an annual basis, but it is expected that the downward trend will continue for a number of years.

Table 6.1 – Primary Education Numbers (2006/07 – 2025/26)

School Year	Reception Roll	Total Roll
2006/07	1,879	12,683
2007/08	1,937	12,803
2008/09	2,140	13,102
2009/10	2,229	13,488
2010/11	2,285	13,920
2011/12	2,651	14,839
2012/13	2,599	15,479
2013/14	2,547	15,930
2014/15	2,627	16,557
2015/16	2,628	16,909
2016/17	2,524	17,048
2017/18	2,437	17,050
2018/19	2,305	16,686
2019/20	2,370	16,338
2020/21	2,279	15,866
2021/22 *	2,260	15,616
2022/23 *	2,289	15,533
2023/24 *	2,175	15,405
2024/25 *	2,144	15,264
2025/26 *	2,082	15,108

*\* forecast figures. These are the council's official school roll forecasts submitted to the DfE in July 2021 based on the GLA Model 2 medium scenario (middle development scenario and middle migration scenario) which incorporate borough housing development growth.*

## 6.2. Secondary Education

A baseline review carried out in September 2021 identified that Merton has a total of 9 state funded secondary schools.

The substantial increase of primary school pupils in the 11 years to 2017/18 then moved into the secondary schools, with the most substantial rise in demand for year 7 places coinciding with the opening of Harris Academy Wimbledon in September 2018. Since that time the numbers have declined and the continued downward trend of primary school pupils will carry into the secondary schools over the next few years. The level of demand will continue to be dependent on pupil retention, as there is extensive cross borough border moment.

Table 6.2 shows the actual and forecast roll, and how the council's year 6 to 7 transfer rate has varied. Numbers will continue to be reviewed annually.



Table 6.2 – Secondary Education Numbers (2006/07 – 2027/28)

School Year	Roll Year 7	Roll Years 7-11	Actual Year 6 to 7 transfer
2006/07	1,531	7,907	88.5%
2007/08	1,518	7,849	89.7%
2008/09	1,583	7,818	88.2%
2009/10	1,544	7,857	87.6%
2010/11	1,502	7,758	85.5%
2011/12	1,457	7,724	84.5%
2012/13	1,454	7,573	79.2%
2013/14	1,465	7,399	80.6%
2014/15	1,492	7,347	80.7%
2015/16	1,578	7,381	78.0%
2016/17	1,556	7,408	74.8%
2017/18	1,569	7,523	74.3%
2018/19	1,782	8,032	74.9%
2019/20	1,878	8,280	79.5%
2020/21	1,803	8,444	79.4%
2021/22	1,810	8,703	
2022/23 *	1,814	8,954	
2023/24 *	1,790	9,018	
2024/25 *	1,769	8,920	
2025/26 *	1,705	8,820	
2026/27 *	1,724	8,728	
2027/28*	1,725	8,638	

*\* forecast figures. These are the council's official school roll forecasts submitted to the DfE in July 2021 based on the GLA Model 2 medium scenario (middle development scenario and middle migration scenario) which incorporate borough housing development growth.*

Based on these figures and the recent delivery of a new school, there are no plans to implement any further mainstream secondary school expansions for the first five years of the Local Plan period and the council is not supportive of new schools in neighbouring boroughs close to the borough boundaries. The current strategy is to continue to work with the secondary schools to monitor numbers annually, to agree options for reductions in admissions numbers in the coming years.

### 6.3. Special Education Needs

The council caters for pupils with Special Educational needs and disabilities (SEND) through mainstream schools, specialist provision within mainstream schools (referred to as additional resourced provision), special schools, and the use of independent provision.

The growth in demand for SEND placements has received national attention, and recent growth has been significant in Merton. The number of children with Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in Merton more than doubled in the last 5 years, from 1,075 in January 2016 to 2,252 in January 2020. Table 6.3 provides actual EHCP numbers, showing a continual rise in numbers since 2016.

Table 6.3 – Merton Education, Health and Care Plan Numbers (2011/12-2020/21)

Year	Total EHCP	Change from previous year
2011/12	928	
2012/13	988	60
2013/14	1,039	51
2014/15	1,042	3
2015/16	1,075	33
2016/17	1,242	167
2017/18	1,518	276
2018/19	1,712	194
2019/20	1,928	216
2020/21	2,252	324

*Source: Merton CSF*

The council has been active in implementing special school expansions in recent years, including the following sites:

- New site for Perseid Upper
- Further expansion of Perseid Upper
- Additional Resourced Provision at Hatfield Primary School
- Additional Resourced Provision at Stanford Primary School
- Expansion of Cricket Green School
- Expansion of Melrose School
- Recently agreed expansion into Whatley Avenue

Despite recent school expansions, SEND places are currently full. The council is therefore reliant on independent schools, which is continuing to increase the overall costs. To respond to this forecast continued growth, the council has planned to provide an additional 80 SEND school places at Whatley Avenue, from September 2022. Additionally, there is a need to address the current over reliance on the independent sector and the council's CSF team is currently assessing options to ensure provision of sufficient special school places.

Reports provided by the CSF team in [June 2022](#) indicate that the number of increased places has not kept up with the increase in EHCPs. The CSF team has reached agreement with the Department for Education (DfE) in March 2022 as part of the 'Safety Valve Intervention Programme' with funding being provided by the DfE. The actual and projected fall in demand for primary school places, and the projected fall in demand for secondary school places offers the opportunity to deliver additional specialist spaces for a lower capital cost and make the best use of buildings. Funding and delivery information relating to education projects can be found in Section 12 of this document.

#### **6.4. Tertiary and Adult Education**

The council has no statutory obligation to provide tertiary education, however there are a small number of tertiary education facilities in the borough, providing higher level learning through adult education courses, apprenticeships and workforce training. These facilities include South Thames College (Merton Campus) and Wimbledon College of Arts; and Merton Adult Education.

These facilities have a regional and even a national catchment and can therefore impact on the local areas, for example, the numbers of students seeking local private accommodation in the borough, local transport patterns, and the types of local retail provided. Whilst there is no need for special provision to be made for such facilities, they form an important component of the borough's overall educational offer and in themselves can be significant contributors to the educational infrastructure of the borough.

The council is supportive of [apprenticeships](#) for local people in Merton, collaborating with other neighbouring boroughs through the South London Partnership to support local employment. There are no known tertiary education projects to be delivered in the first 5 years of the Local Plan.

#### **6.5. Early Years and Childcare**

Children under the age of 5 may require early years childcare. The council has a statutory duty under Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 to work in partnership with childcare providers to influence childcare provision, as far as is practicable, to ensure that there is sufficient childcare.

The Merton BPO 2021 indicates there are 13,718 children under the age of five living in Merton, representing 6.7% of the total population. This total is projected

to decline over the next 5 years to 12,653 in 2026, before then increasing slightly over the 10-year period to 13,250 in 2036 (5.9% of the total population).

The [Merton Childcare Sufficiency Assessment](#) (CSA) (2020) published in January 2021 provides an assessment of the sufficiency of Merton's childcare market place and how the council proposes to manage any shortfalls in a specific type or need in the borough. The CSA report identifies that the quality of childcare provision in Merton is consistently high.

The CSA recorded 377 childcare providers in the Borough, offering approximately 7,721 early years childcare places through childminders, nursery classes in primary schools and one special school and private and voluntary nurseries and preschools. The CSA reports that the childcare market in Merton remains stable, although it does identify that the impact of Covid-19 may have an effect on the market throughout 2021. It identifies that demand for childcare is likely to be reduced over the next 5 years, given that the 0-5 years and 5-11 years population groups both continue to fall.

The report identified further investigation was required in the next year to increase the number of places for funded 2 year olds in Figge's Marsh, Ravensbury and St Helier wards. This was due to these areas having lower supply and take up. A recently opened site in Ravensbury at the end of 2020 will assist this need. As two of these wards share a border with Sutton, it is acknowledged that families may be utilising childcare facilities in the neighbouring borough.

Wimbledon Park was also identified as an area of concern, with less than a quarter of eligible families taking up places and a lack of provision may be dissuading families as they have to look elsewhere for places.

It is difficult to provide a complete assessment of all early childcare needs, given that population data does not take into account the movement of children into neighbouring boroughs. The CSA is carried out annually, and will continue to be monitored. Major developments that come forward in the borough will need to liaise with the council to consider childcare needs early on in the planning process.

## 7. Green and Blue Infrastructure, Leisure and Recreation

### 7.1. Recreation, Sport and Leisure Facilities

To support the new Local Plan, the council commissioned studies to assess the quantity, quality, accessibility and availability of indoor and outdoor sports facilities in Merton. The [Merton Playing Pitch Strategy](#) (PPS) was adopted in October 2019 and the [Merton Indoor Sports Facility Study](#) (ISFS) was published in February 2020.

These documents provide a strategic assessment and an up to date analysis of supply and demand for grass and artificial playing pitches and indoor sports facilities in the borough. They were carried out in line with Sport England's published guidance and in conjunction with a number of national sports governing bodies (NGBs), including the English Cricket Board, Rugby Football Union, Football Foundation, Lawn Tennis Association, England Hockey, Badminton England, English Indoor Bowls Association, England Netball, Swim England, Volleyball England and Table Tennis England.

These documents identify that Merton has the following sports and playing pitches and indoor facilities:

- Football – 104 pitches across 28 sites
- Cricket – 39 pitches, 307 grass wickets and 1 artificial wicket
- Rugby union – 46 grass pitches on 15 sites
- Hockey – 8 pitches on 7 sites
- AGPs – 26 pitches, 11 of full size
- Tennis – 205 tennis courts across 30 sites
- Lawn bowling – 9 greens
- Athletics – 1 athletics site
- Water sports centre – 1
- Indoor swimming pools – 20
- Indoor sports halls – 13 (3 or more courts)
- Health and fitness suites – 20
- Fitness studios – 38
- Squash courts – 8
- Indoor tennis – 4

The PPS identifies that Merton has significantly higher levels of “Active” participation compared with Outer London and England (Sport England Active

Lives Survey) and playing pitches are generally well used throughout the borough. The value of participation in sport and physical activity is significant, and its contribution to the health, wellbeing and quality of life of residents should not be underestimated. The PPS also notes that residents will travel across and into neighbouring boroughs to access sports facilities.

The PPS supply and demand analysis identified that the projected growth in population and the increased participation in female sports and youth sports will mean that continued investment in sporting facilities will be needed over the lifetime of the Local Plan. This is to ensure that the number and quality of facilities is sufficient for the population needs.

The PPS recommends that playing pitches are protected in the borough, to ensure there remains sufficient sports provision for the population. The action plan sets out the issues and opportunities that have been identified across all Merton playing pitches, showing the priority sites, delivery timescales and costs involved in bringing these forward. Many of the items in the action plan relate to improvements to ancillary facilities, which will lead to a more efficient use of pitches across a number of sports and teams.

The PPS identifies that over the lifetime of the Local Plan, there is likely to be a shortfall in the provision of some sports pitches in the borough, with a number of recommendations and actions set out. As the majority of these are currently unfunded, it is the joint responsibility of landowners, sporting providers, clubs and other partners to work together and provide funding for, and the delivery of new, and improvements to, sports pitches. Section 12 sets out the list of priority projects and this will continue to be updated as new opportunities come forward.

There are three council leisure centres in the borough; Canons Leisure Centre, Wimbledon Leisure Centre and Morden Leisure Centre. All three facilities are operated by Greenwich Leisure Limited and provide access to a variety of sports and leisure activities including swimming, diving, gym, sauna, fitness classes, multi-use games areas, sports halls and squash courts. The council has made significant investment into the leisure centres, with the new Morden Leisure Centre opening in 2019, replacing the previous Morden Park Pools facility. Some improvements to the other leisure centres will be required over the Local Plan period, which have been identified and costed in the ISFS and referenced in Section 12.

## 7.2. Green Infrastructure

Green Infrastructure is a form of natural capital, which provides direct and indirect benefits to people. These benefits include clear air and water, cooling to lessen the impacts of climate change, provision of a better environment for walking and cycling, promoting healthier living and providing habitat for biodiversity and ecological resilience.

The Merton Green Infrastructure Study was published in 2020, providing an assessment of the quality, quantity, accessibility and use of open spaces throughout the borough. Merton has a relatively high proportion of open space, at 35% land cover, similar to the neighbouring boroughs of Kingston and Sutton, reflecting the characteristics of outer London. The quality assessment carried out in the study identified that 60% of open spaces can be classified as fair, good or very good, including parks, recreation and outdoor sports facilities, allotments and cemeteries. Of the 40% of green spaces that fall into the poor category, these were natural and semi-natural greenspaces, green corridors and education; thus showing a general trend that more formal open space areas are of a higher quality.

Merton has high accessibility to regional parks (98%) and metropolitan parks (99%) and a good level of accessibility to district (77%) and local (72%) parks. The Green Infrastructure Study identifies that there are some areas of deficiency in access to local parks, small open spaces and pocket parks throughout the borough. In these areas of deficiency (which appear as pockets of deficiency, fairly evenly spread across the borough) the lack of open spaces is evident, although there is some evidence of existing open space which is not publicly accessible. There are some areas (particularly noticeable around Raynes Park) where there are gaps in access to both district and local parks, and these areas should be targeted for improvements in accessibility through new developments that come forward.

There is good accessibility (84%) to nature through publicly accessible Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). In the small areas that are identified as having deficiency, there are a number of existing open spaces which could provide opportunities to enhance the natural environment.

Section 12 sets out the priority areas that have been identified for improvements to the quality, access and usage of open spaces in the first 5 years of the Local Plan period. These include improvements to access for the Wandle Valley Regional Park, Morden Hall Park and general upgrades to open spaces and play facilities as identified in the study.

### Burial Spaces, Cemeteries and Crematoria

There are 9 cemeteries in Merton, located widely in the north, south-west and east of the borough. These cover a variety of faiths and religions, catering for the diverse population in Merton and the wider area.

The council's parks and open spaces team manage the following four of these cemeteries:

- Merton and Sutton Joint Cemetery, Morden
- Church Road Cemetery, Mitcham
- Gap Road Cemetery, Wimbledon
- London Road Cemetery, Mitcham

The Greenspaces team has confirmed that recent expansions to Merton and Sutton Joint Cemetery and London Road Cemetery mean that there is sufficient burial capacity for 50-75 years. While improvements to other privately managed cemeteries may come forward throughout the borough, at this time it is considered there is sufficient burial space capacity for the Local Plan period. Burial needs will continue to be regularly reviewed and updated in this document as necessary.

### **7.3. Children's Play Facilities**

The Green Infrastructure Study (2020) includes a quality, quantity and accessibility review of all play spaces in Merton. These are defined areas set aside for children and young people in supervised or unsupervised environments, providing a variety of play equipment such as swings, slides, skateboard parks, outdoor basketball areas and other informal space for social interaction.

83 play areas were identified for survey in the borough and 82 were surveyed (1 was not accessible at the time of the survey). Of these, 21 were doorstep play spaces, 56 were local play spaces and 5 were neighbourhood play spaces. The majority of play spaces are located in the east, south and north of Merton, with fewer in the Wimbledon, Raynes Park and New Malden areas. Table 7.1 provides an indication of the quality of play spaces at the time of survey. Most of those identified as requiring improvement were located in the Mitcham sub-area.



Table 7.1 – Play area quality audit results

<b>Play Area Quality</b>	<b>Number of play areas surveyed</b>	<b>Proportion %</b>
Excellent	1	1.2
Good	14	17.1
Average, needs some improvement	50	61.0
Weaknesses, improvements needed	17	20.7
Serious weaknesses, improvements needed	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Green Infrastructure Study 2020

Access to play spaces was assessed in line with the standards set out in the Mayor’s SPG for children’s play spaces:

- 0-4 years – 27% of the borough is within an accessible walking distance (100m). There are some areas of deficiency identified in the north-west and south-west of the borough, particularly with formal play areas.
- 5-11 years – 76% of the borough is within an accessible walking distance (400m) of a play area of open space which could be used for informal recreation. Much of the provision of play in Morden and Wimbledon is delivered by open spaces, rather than formal play areas.
- 12 years and over – More than 95% of the borough is within an accessible distance (800m) of a play area or an open space which could be used for informal recreation. There is a lack of formal play areas in the west of the borough where most of the play provision is delivered by open spaces for informal recreation.

It is identified that some improvements will be needed to play spaces in the borough over the Local Plan period. These are referenced in Section 12, as set out in the Green Infrastructure Study.

#### **7.4. Flood Risk Management**

As a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), the council provides a significant amount of guidance in accordance with nation planning requirements to ensure that flood risk is understood and managed effectively and sustainably in the borough. Merton’s joint [Strategic Flood Risk Assessment \(SFRA\)](#) was produced in partnership with Wandsworth Council and key risk management organisations

including the Environment Agency, Thames Water, Network Rail and Transport for London.

The [Merton Sustainable Drainage Design and Evaluation Guide SPD](#) was adopted in June 2020. This sets out how sustainable drainage systems should be fully integrated from the start of the design process along with other aspects of development design.

A number of flood risk schemes have been identified for delivery over the Local Plan period. These include:

- Delivering reservoir safety through improvements to Wimbledon Park Lake; and
- Surface water flood risk alleviation schemes in critical drainage areas including Raynes Park Town Centre and Southfields grid.

The funding and delivery of flood risk management projects will come from a number of sources and will require funding and collaboration between the council, landowners, neighbouring boroughs, Thames Water, the Environment Agency and other stakeholders. Section 12 sets out further details.

## 8. Community, Culture and Safety

### 8.1. Community, Culture and Safety

The [Merton Community Plan](#) (2020–2026) was endorsed by the council on 18 November 2020. This Plan sets out the long term community ambition for the borough, with an overall aim to increase social capital and improve resilience and wellbeing, particularly for those parts of Merton with the lowest socio-economic outcomes. Over the summer of 2021, the council also undertook the [Your Merton: our biggest ever conversation survey](#), which helped to identify community priorities. This is in addition to the annual [Merton Resident Surveys](#) that take place each year.

The Community Plan has eight thematic priorities which were agreed by the relevant Thematic Networks of the Merton Partnership (Safer Merton, Health and Wellbeing, Children’s Trust and Sustainable Communities and Transport). These priorities are based on strong evidence and engagement. The development of the Plan was also supported by a bespoke piece of social research conducted by M.E.L Research to ensure the voice of ‘seldom listened to’ groups fed into the development of the Community Plan.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on Merton, its residents, local businesses and communities. Community organisations, faith groups, local businesses and thousands of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds have worked in partnership with the council to help those in need across the borough.

Social and community infrastructure can cover a wide variety of uses; these can be publicly or privately funded, run by charities, free at the point of delivery or paid for. There are a variety of different needs for social and community infrastructure at different stages of people’s lives. These types of infrastructure also play an important role in developing strong and inclusive communities by providing opportunities to bring together different groups of people.

The council is supportive of a range of social and community uses sharing flexible spaces, encouraging co-location where possible. By having a range of services in a well-located and easy to access place, greater support can be given to those in the community who need it and services can support the changing priorities and needs in the borough more easily.

#### Libraries

There are seven libraries operating in the borough in the following locations; Colliers Wood, Mitcham, Morden, Pollards Hill, Raynes Park, Wimbledon and

West Barnes. The libraries offer a range of community services for all ages, both in person and online. This includes book hire, e-library, holding of events, room hire, provision of arts spaces, volunteering activities, Merton memories collection, the hiring of computers and use of printing facilities.

The Morden library also houses the Heritage and Local Studies Centre, which tells the story of Merton and its people through a changing programme of exhibitions and events. The Centre also offers educational services for local schools and adult learners as well as access to a wide range of local history resources.

### Community Services and Facilities

The [Merton Family Services Directory](#) provides a user friendly webpage resource to enable residents to find community groups and places in their neighbourhood. This includes 12 community centres, 5 adult and community education services, 19 community and cultural groups, 12 faith groups and the 7 libraries.

[Merton Connected](#) (formerly Merton Voluntary Service Council (MVSC)) works to support, enable and champion the voluntary, community and faith sectors in Merton, aiming to create a thriving community where people's lives are enriched by voluntary and community action.

[The Merton Children and Young People's Plan](#) (2019-2023) sets out the strategic priorities for securing improvements to the well-being of children and young people. The plan identifies how these priorities will be delivered through a multi-agency partnership approach.

## **8.2. Priority Projects and Delivery**

To ensure community, cultural and safety needs in the borough are met, a number of schemes have been identified for delivery over the first five years of the Local Plan period. These include:

- Major project improvements to the libraries, including:
  - The provision of a new purpose built West Barnes library through the redevelopment of the site (identified as a Site Allocation in the new Local Plan);
  - The replacement and upgrade of self-service technology in all libraries to ensure these facilities remain fit for purpose;
- Improvements to Wimbledon Theatre;
- Improvements to Merton Priory Chapter House;

- Extension to Pollards Hill Youth Club to house a new IT learning hub;
- Improvements to Bond Road Family Centre – provision of outdoor play facility;
- Investment in CCTV infrastructure; and
- Improvements to community safety measures for public spaces.

The funding and delivery of these projects will come from a number of sources, including the council's capital programme, strategic CIL, planning contributions and external funding. Section 12 sets out further details.

## **9. Town Centres and Economic Development**

### **9.1. Pop-up and Meanwhile Uses**

The recent growth of flexible and temporary uses in town centres and along high streets, such as pop-ups and meanwhile use spaces, is a testament to the ability of these spaces to stimulate the vibrancy and vitality of a place. These spaces not only contribute to the safety and security of a town centre, by bringing vacant land back into use, but they also boost the local economy and provide much needed employment for local people.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the global economy, on unemployment, business closures and structural economic changes across the world. The UK, London and Merton were affected by the profound decline in jobs and rise in business closures. It is not yet known the exact nature of the economic recovery, although economic and social recovery from the effects of Covid-19 will be a priority for Merton in the short to medium term.

There are already a variety of predictions as to how Covid-19 will change the supply and demand for jobs and business space. It is not yet known which of these will become a longer term reality and which might fall away as we start to recover from the impacts of the pandemic. To support local businesses, the borough's economic and cultural development and to ensure job growth for a wide range of salaries and skills, the provision of pop-up uses and meanwhile spaces will assist creative and cultural industries to recover from the impacts of Covid-19.

### **9.2. Priority Projects and Delivery**

To ensure the economic and cultural needs of our town centres are met, a number of schemes have been identified for delivery over the first five years of the Local Plan period. These include:

- Crown House Creative co-working hub and knowledge exchange;
- Development of appropriate flexible spaces for creative businesses; and
- Provision of pop-up and meanwhile uses in town centres and along high streets.

The funding and delivery of these projects will come from a number of sources, including the council's capital programme, strategic CIL, planning contributions, private investment and government funding. Section 12 sets out further details.

## 10. Utilities and Digital Infrastructure

### 10.1. Water and Wastewater

All water companies in England and Wales are required to produce a Water Resources Management Plan setting out how they will secure water supplies for at least the next 25 years. This involves looking in detail at the availability of water supplies and forecasting demand, and assessing options to re-balance any gap between supply and demand. The statutory duty to ensure adequate water infrastructure is provided to meet the needs of new residential development in Merton sits with the local water companies. There are two parties responsible for the provision of water and sewerage to properties in Merton; Thames Water Utilities Ltd (Thames Water) and Sutton and East Surrey Water (SES).

In March 2020, Thames Water's new [Water Resources Management Plan](#) (WRMP) was approved by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. This plan covers the 80-year period from 2020 to 2100 and sets out how water resources will be managed efficiently alongside developing new supplies of water.

In August 2019, SES also published their revised [WRMP](#) which sets out the proposals to meet forecast demand for water supplies over 60 years from 2020. The first five years of the plan will be delivered through the SES Business Plan 2020 to 2025.

Local Plan feedback received in 2021 confirms that Thames Water will work with developers and the council to ensure that any necessary infrastructure reinforcement is delivered ahead of the occupation of development. Local network upgrades can take 18 months to complete and strategic water and sewage treatment work upgrades between 3 and 5 years. Thames Water provided site specific comments on each of the Site Allocations, identifying where improvements to water, sewerage/water network and waste water treatment infrastructure would be required. Developers will be expected to liaise with Thames Water in the early stages of the planning process.

Local Plan feedback received from SES Water in 2021 set out considerations for rainwater harvesting, grey water recycling, water efficiency measures and catchment management. No specific comments were received in relation to the Site Allocations or Local Plan growth.

At this stage, there are no specific projects that have been identified in Merton to deliver water or wastewater improvements in the borough. Where there is a capacity problem and no improvements are programmed by the statutory undertaker, then developers will need to contact the relevant water authority to agree what improvements are required and how they will be funded and delivered. Any upgrades required will need to be delivered prior to any occupation of development.

## **10.2. Gas and Electricity**

National Grid Electricity Transmission plc owns and maintains the electricity transmission system in England and UK Power Networks (UKPN) owns the electricity distribution network. National Grid Gas plc also owns and operates the high pressure gas transmission system in the UK, whereby gas leaves the transmission system and enters the distribution networks at high pressure. Southern Gas Networks (SGN) owns and operates the local gas distribution network in Merton.

Local Plan feedback received from National Grid in 2019 and 2021 identified proposed development in the Local Plan on sites which crossed or are in close proximity to National Grid assets. The guidance and information provided by National Grid has been incorporated into the relevant Site Allocations to ensure any future development considers the requirements for gas and electricity assets in the borough.

Local Plan feedback received from SGN in 2021 set out that the projected Local Plan growth was not expected to have an impact on the capacity of the gas network in the borough. Through modelling undertaken by SGN, it was identified that the Intermediate Pressure (IP) and Medium Pressure (MP) tiers of the network are relatively robust in the Merton area, and the addition of the proposed sites does not pose a risk to the operation of the system or the capacity.

No comments have been received to date from UKPN on the Local Plan.

The council declared a Climate Emergency on 10 July 2019 and adopted the 2020 Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan on 18 November 2020. The Action Plan sets a vision for Merton to be a low carbon borough and identifies a number of actions for how the vision can be achieved. The plan identifies that 81% of the boroughs emissions currently comes from buildings and energy and that low carbon alternatives will need to be adopted going forward in order to meet the council's targets. While these are long term plans overall, changes will need to start being made over the Local Plan period.



At this stage, there are no specific projects that have been identified in Merton to deliver gas or electricity improvements in the borough however the council is committed to further conversations with the gas and electricity infrastructure suppliers to understand how a move towards low carbon energy sources may come forward over the Local Plan period.

### **10.3. Decentralised Energy Networks and District Heat Networks**

The use of decentralised energy and local secondary heat sources is expected to play a significant part in reducing emissions from buildings in London and meeting the Mayor's zero carbon target. All major development proposals will be expected to comply with London Plan policies on decentralised energy networks and decentralised energy.

The council will require all proposed major development and regeneration schemes within any identified heat network opportunity areas to fully explore and utilise decentralised energy, subject to technical and financial viability.

Heat-mapping and feasibility studies undertaken by AECOM in 2017 and 2018 identified two district heat network opportunity areas in Merton linked to two major regeneration schemes: Morden town centre and South Wimbledon at High Path estate.

No specific projects have been identified for delivery over the first five years of the Local Plan.

### **10.4. Digital Infrastructure and Telecoms**

The provision of high speed communications infrastructure is key to ensuring economic growth and social wellbeing. The council recognises that digital services are integral to the residents and businesses in Merton; they enhance civic inclusivity, social participation and the local economy.

Telecommunications and digital infrastructure is provided across the borough through a variety of private network suppliers. In order to meet the needs of the population and housing growth over the Local Plan period, these networks will need to expand accordingly. Future digital connections should be provided with a focus on affordability, security and resilience and should provide access to services from a range of providers. This includes publicly accessible Wi-Fi and connections for flexible and affordable workspaces in the borough.

While most of the borough experiences good digital connectivity, Ofcom does identify that there remain some areas with low or poor connectivity which are unable to receive a minimum download speed of 30Mbit/s. The council is supportive of the expansion of digital services into these areas.

The installation of connectivity infrastructure to increase digital, mobile and smart technology and provide enhanced coverage, resilience and connectivity has been identified as essential delivery for the Local Plan period. As these services are provided by private suppliers, it is not identified within the council's funding portfolio. However, this is an essential piece of infrastructure and as such, has been identified in Section 12.

## **10.5. Waste Management**

This section provides an update on Merton's waste management infrastructure. The management of Local Authority Collected Waste within Merton is organised by the South London Waste Partnership between the London boroughs of Sutton, Kingston, Croydon and Merton. These four boroughs, in their capacity as Waste Planning Authorities are responsible for producing the new South London Waste Plan (SLWP), which will set out the planning framework for all waste management within the four partner boroughs between 2022 and 2037.

The preparation of the new SLWP commenced in 2018. At the time of writing, the draft SLWP had been submitted to the Secretary of State in January 2021, with the hearings held in September 2021. Consultation on main modifications to the Plan took place between July and September 2022. Adoption is expected in 2022.

The draft SLWP sets out the relevant planning policies for waste management applications and safeguards sufficient sites for waste facilities to manage the quantity of waste that the London Plan has apportioned to the four partner boroughs for the plan period. It identifies five key issues, which were analysed and evidenced, having the following outcomes:

1. Cross boundary issues. The draft SLWP identifies that net self-sufficiency can be achieved for the four boroughs and that the facilities which receive South London waste should be able to do so into the future.
2. How much waste to plan for? The draft SLWP identifies that sufficient capacity could be provided for those waste streams that required additional capacity to meet their 2036 target.
3. Scarcity of land. The draft SLWP will provide for sufficient management capacity for waste uses without stifling other land uses which have a high demand.

4. Waste Transfer Facilities. The draft SLWP encourages more reuse and recycling on waste transfer stations.
5. Climate Change. The draft SLWP works towards reducing the amount of waste going to landfill, making major waste developments zero carbon, making minor waste developments as close to zero carbon as possible and providing opportunities for the circular economy to expand.

The draft SLWP is supported by an assessment of the boroughs' capacity to manage all relevant types of waste, identifying that the four boroughs can meet their waste targets through the following strategy:

- Only safeguarding existing waste sites;
- Encouraging the intensification of appropriate sites ; and
- Only allowing new sites following a sequential test with robust evidence demonstrating: a local need, that cannot be met on existing waste sites, where waste will be managed as high up the waste hierarchy as practicable and where all other Local Plan requirements are met, including location criteria.

The draft SLWP also includes a monitoring framework and a commitment to publish a range of relevant matters, including management capacity, in a Waste Annual Monitoring Report.

## 11. Emergency Services

Emergency services in Merton play a vital role in protecting people and providing an efficient and effective response to emergencies. Emergency services tend to have their own catchment areas and the delivery of these services is generally planned and operated on a London wide basis.

### 11.1. Police Services

The Metropolitan Police Service is responsible for policing across the borough and in London. Currently there are two police stations within Merton, located in Wimbledon and Mitcham. There are also a number of [Safer Neighbourhood Teams](#) which help to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour.

Merton is considered to be one of the safest London boroughs. [Merton Data Hub](#) indicates that in the year ending September 2020, Merton had the 6<sup>th</sup> lowest crime rate in London (67 crimes per thousand residents). Anti-social behaviour and violent and sexual offences were the most prevalent crimes in the borough, accounting for 27% and 10% respectively.

Responses received in 2019 and 2021 from the MPS in response to the Local Plan, set out a number of policing infrastructure items they consider to be essential to mitigate the impacts of crime. This includes equipment such as ANPR technology, staff set up costs, vehicles, mobile IT and Police National Database. It is noted that there is currently no agreed calculation formula to enable the collection of such financial contributions through the planning system, although this is understood to be in development. The MPS also identify a car pound facility within south-west London as being a potential future need. Although this is not a specific infrastructure requirement for the delivery of Merton's Local Plan, officers have put the MPS in touch with the council's Property Team for exploratory conversations.

While there are no Merton-specific policing projects that have been identified for delivery through this plan, it is recognised that some elements of policing infrastructure may be requested through planning contributions or CIL, where possible through the planning system.

### 11.2. Fire Services

The London Fire Brigade are the responsible London-wide authority for the provision of fire services, an area which includes Merton. There are two fire stations in Merton, located in Mitcham and Wimbledon. Other nearby fire stations

in neighbouring boroughs include New Malden, Tooting, Wandsworth, Sutton and Norbury. Details of these fire stations and the number of incidents responded to in 2020 within Merton are provided in Table 11.1.

Table 11.1 – Fire Stations and responses in Merton in 2020

<b>Fire Station</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Incidents responded to in Merton (2020)</b>
Mitcham	421-445 London Road, Mitcham CR4 4BJ	629
Wimbledon	87 Kingston Road, Wimbledon SW19 1JN	724
New Malden	180 Burlington Road, New Malden KT3 4RW	182
Tooting	91 Trinity Rd, London SW17 7SQ	4
Norbury	1327 London Rd, London SW16 4AU	142
Wandsworth	45 West Hill, London SW18 1RL	18
Sutton	43 St Dunstons Hill, Sutton SM1 2JX	49
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,748</b>

(Source: London Fire Brigade Incident Records 2020)

In 2020, the average response time in Merton was 5 minutes 07 seconds for the first fire engine and 7 minutes 03 seconds for the second fire engine. These times have steadily improved annually since 2016 ([Fire Facts incident response times 2020](#)). Statistics from 2017 indicate that the LFB respond to a variety of calls involving road traffic collisions, fire alarms and other special services, in addition to fire-specific incidents. In 2017 fire incidents only accounted for 368 of the 1,818 incidents in 2017, or 20%.

There is no evidence of a deficit in existing service provision and this has not been raised by the LFB in consultation with the council for the Local Plan. No specific projects have been identified for funding in this report, although if further evidence comes forward, it will be reviewed and this report may be updated if appropriate.

### 11.3. Ambulance Services

The London Ambulance Service (LAS) NHS Trust is the provider of ambulance services for London, including Merton. Of the 70 ambulance stations operated in London, there is only one within Merton which is located at Nursery Road, Wimbledon SW19 4JA. Other nearby ambulance stations in neighbouring boroughs include Battersea Rise (Wandsworth), New Malden (Kingston), Bishopsford Road and Dorset Road (Sutton).

The NHS Merton CCG Annual Report (2019/20) identifies that London Ambulance response times in Merton exceeded the 90% target, with a performance measure of 94.44%, continuing to deliver a good service to residents.

The [LAS Strategy 2018](#) provides details on how the ambulance service will change and improve the provision of urgent and emergency care to London between 2018 and 2023. NHS England's new service specification for integrated urgent care (IUC) (2017 specification) responds to the need for simpler, better coordinated access to urgent care. This follows the objective for high quality clinical advice to be provided to patients over the telephone, video call and digital messaging with the aim of reducing the number of patients advised to go to their GP or to an emergency department as a precautionary measure.

No comments have been received from LAS on the Local Plan and there are no ambulance service projects identified as a result of growth over the Local Plan period. If further evidence comes forward, it will be reviewed and this report updated if appropriate.

## Section 12 – Delivery of Infrastructure

The Infrastructure Delivery Schedule has been prepared to clearly identify the priority infrastructure projects in Merton to be delivered over the Local Plan period. The following pages contain two tables which identify:

1. Short term projects to be delivered over the first 5 years of the Local Plan; and
2. Longer term projects that are identified for delivery in the medium to long term.

The council will provide annual reports on the progress of infrastructure delivery throughout the borough, via the Infrastructure Funding Schedule. The first of these was published in December 2020 and the latest version was published in December 2021.

The council's capital programme is monitored via Merton Cabinet through financial monitoring reports. These are published for each of the relevant Cabinet meetings and are available on the [website here](#).

Infrastructure Delivery Plan – Schedule (2021/22 - 2025/26)

Ref	Merton Project	Project Information	Lead Delivery Partners	Ward	Identified on LBM Capital Programme	Committed Funding	Funding Gap	How Funding Gap Could Be Met
<b>Community, Culture and Safety Projects</b>								
CP1	Major project improvements to borough libraries	New West Barnes library (Site RP8)	LBM	West Barnes	Yes	Developer funded	£200,000	Planning contributions Development cost
CP2	Major project improvements to borough libraries	Replacement and upgrade of self-service technology in all libraries (5 year rolling fund)	LBM	West Barnes Hillside Colliers Wood Figge's Marsh Morden Park Pollards Hill Dundonald	Yes	No	£350,000	Planning contributions
CP3	Wimbledon Theatre	General Improvements to the theatre.	Ambassador Theatre Group	Abbey	No	No	TBC	External funding, Planning contributions
CP4	Merton Priory Chapter House improvements	Phase 2 sensory garden and interpretation works.	LBM, Merton Priory Trust	Colliers Wood	No	No	TBC	External funding, Planning contributions
CP5	Provision of new community facilities, improvements and changes to community facilities	To improve and upgrade community facilities and to provide new community facilities to meet future needs caused by population growth.	LBM	Borough wide	No	No	TBC	Development cost, Planning contributions, Merton capital and revenue, external grants
CP6	Provision of new community facilities, improvements and changes to community facilities	Pollards Hill Digital Divide – Extension to Pollards Hill Youth Club to house a new IT learning hub.	LBM	Pollards Hill	Yes	£237,600 (SCIL)	TBC	Planning contributions
CP7	Provision of new community facilities, improvements and changes to community facilities	Bond Road Family Centre Outdoor Play Facility.	LBM	Lavender Fields	Yes	£55,000 (SCIL)	£0	N/A
CP8	CCTV Investment	CCTV cameras and infrastructure upgrade	LBM	Borough wide	Yes	£1,365,000 (SCIL) £1,340,000 (Merton Capital)	TBC	Planning contributions
CP9	Community Safety	Physical security measures to public spaces to ensure community safety.	LBM	Borough wide	No	£125,000	£0	Planning contributions, government funding



Ref	Merton Project	Project Information	Lead Delivery Partners	Ward	Identified on LBM Capital Programme	Committed Funding	Funding Gap	How Funding Gap Could Be Met
<b>Green and Blue Infrastructure, Leisure and Recreation Projects</b>								
GP1	Parks and Open Spaces	Upgrades to improve quality, access and park usage and to meet energy efficiency targets. Includes paddling pools, play water features, play grounds, playing pitches, pavilions and ancillary buildings (Merton Green Infrastructure Strategy 2020 and Playing Pitch Strategy 2019).	LBM	Borough wide	Yes - part	SCIL Merton revenue CIL Other funding	TBC	Planning contributions, CIL
GP2	Sports and Recreation improvements	Provision of a new Hockey Pitch and Multi-Use Games Area	LBM, others TBC	St Helier	Yes	SCIL £135,000	TBC	External funding, CIL
GP3	Wandle Valley Regional Park	Enhancing assets within the park and improving access to the park, including improvements to the Wandle Trail.	Wandle Valley Regional Park Trust, LBM	Wimbledon Park Trinity Colliers Wood Abbey Lavender Fields Merton Park Cricket Green Ravensbury St Helier	No	No	TBC	Planning contributions, External funding
GP4	Improvements to Morden Hall Park	Improving the pedestrian and cycling linkages to the park's green spaces and enhancing the park's assets.	National Trust LBM, TfL Development partner	Ravensbury Merton Park Abbey Cricket Green	No	No	TBC	Planning contributions, Morden Town Centre Regeneration, External funding.
GP5	Improvements to Leisure Centres	Upgrades and expansions to the borough's leisure centres (Merton Indoor Sports Study 2020).	LBM	Trinity Cannon Hill Cricket Green	No	No	TBC	Planning contributions, CIL, External funding.
<b>Air Quality Projects</b>								
AP1	Air Quality	Improve air quality and monitoring in the Air Quality Focus Areas of Morden, Mitcham, Raynes Park and Wimbledon as identified in the Merton Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP).	LBM	Borough wide	No	No	TBC	Mayor's Air Quality Fund, Planning contributions, LIP, Construction industry funding, Government funding.

Ref	Merton Project	Project Information	Lead Delivery Partners	Ward	Identified on LBM Capital Programme	Committed Funding	Funding Gap	How Funding Gap Could Be Met
<b>Health Projects</b>								
HP1	Wimbledon Stadium Primary Care Network (PCN) improvements	Increased capacity and health improvements for Primary Care Networks.	Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), NHS Property Services (NHSPS), NHS	Wimbledon Park	No	£400,000	£0	N/A
HP2	Colliers Wood new GP Surgery	Relocation of branch and main surgery sites into one new fit for purpose building.	CCG, NHS	Colliers Wood	No	£1.4m	£0	N/A
HP3	Rowan Park GP Surgery	Relocation of Rowans surgery to new, fit for purpose premises with additional community space.	CCG, LBM	Longthornton	No	£6m	£0	N/A
HP4	Mitcham Health and Wellbeing Hub	Development of a health and wellbeing hub to deliver enhanced primary care.	NHSPS, CCG, NHS	Cricket Green	No	No	TBC	NHS, Government funding, Planning contributions.
<b>Education Projects</b>								
EP1	Special Education Needs	Increasing capacity for special education school places, including expansion of Social Emotional Mental Health and Autism Spectrum Disorder facilities.	LBM	Borough wide	Yes	£2.8m Strategic CIL	TBC	N/A
<b>Digital Infrastructure and Telecoms Projects</b>								
DP1	Digital Infrastructure and Telecoms	Installation of connectivity infrastructure to increase digital, mobile and smart technology and provide enhanced coverage, resilience and connectivity.	Telecoms and digital providers	Borough wide	No	No	TBC	Private investment, Planning contributions

Ref	Merton Project	Project Information	Lead Delivery Partners	Ward	Identified on LBM Capital Programme	Committed Funding	Funding Gap	How Funding Gap Could Be Met
<b>Transport and Healthy Streets Projects</b>								
TP1	Cycling and Pedestrian Infrastructure	Improvements to cycle and pedestrian links, including routes, lighting, crossing facilities, and development of a strategic network of cycle routes. Upgrades of existing cycle parking facilities and secure cycle parking hubs at Morden, Mitcham, Colliers Wood and Wimbledon.	LBM, TfL	Borough wide	No	No	£7.9m	TfL LIP, Planning contributions
TP2	Dockless Cycle Schemes	Introduction of dockless cycle schemes and e-bikes.	LBM, TfL, Neighbouring boroughs, Private delivery partners	Borough wide	No	No	TBC	TfL LIP, Planning contributions
TP3	Car Clubs	Encourage wider coverage of car clubs.	LBM Private delivery partners	Borough wide	No	No	TBC	Planning contributions
TP4	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	Increase the number of on-street electric vehicle charge points	LBM, TfL, Private delivery partners	Borough wide	Yes	No	TBC	TfL, Planning contributions
TP5	Local Street Cleansing	Creation of a Street Cleansing Sub-Depot to house the Mitcham street cleaning surgery to improve the response to local street cleansing issues	LBM, Veolia ES UK (street cleansing term contractor)	Lavender Fields Figges Marsh Cricket Green Longthornton Graveney Pollards Hill	Yes	£55,000 (SCIL)	£0	N/A
TP6	Bus network improvements	Service enhancements to meet existing and future demand, accessible bus stops and bus stop improvements, bus priority schemes, decarbonisation of the bus fleet and exploration of demand-responsive bus services.	TfL	Borough wide	No	No	TBC	TfL LIP, Planning contributions

Ref	Merton Project	Project Information	Lead Delivery Partners	Ward	Identified on LBM Capital Programme	Committed Funding	Funding Gap	How Funding Gap Could Be Met
TP7	Wimbledon town centre public realm	Major scheme to improve the public realm and accessibility by cycling, walking and public transport, including improvements to the station. Will involve modification of one-way road system, reallocation of road space and schemes for sustainable management of deliveries and servicing.	LBM	Dundonald Trinity Hillside	Yes	£1.1m (SCIL)	£800,000	Planning contributions, external funding
TP8	Wimbledon Village and Town Centre	Street lighting improvements in Wimbledon town centre and Wimbledon village	LBM	Dundonald Trinity Hillside Village	Yes	£800,000 (SCIL)	£0	N/A
TP9	Haydons Road North public realm	Haydons Road North Public Realm Improvements	LBM	Wimbledon Park	Yes	£400,000 (SCIL)	£0	N/A
TP10	Station Step Free Access	Improvements to Motspur Park Station to provide step free access	Network Rail SWR, DfT	West Barnes	Yes	£690,000	£0	Planning Contributions, Network Rail, Government funding, TfL
TP11	Pollards Hill Bus Shelter	Revitalising a disused bus shelter and amenity block to create an indoor and outdoor community space	LBM	Pollards Hill	Yes	£250,000 (SCIL & NCIL)	TBC	Planning contributions, external funding
TP12	Sandy Lane Public Realm	Improvements to the public realm around Sandy Lane, Mitcham	LBM	Graveney Figges Marsh	Yes	£221,000 (SCIL)	TBC	Planning contributions External funding
<b>Town Centres and Economic Development Projects</b>								
TCP1	Pop ups and meanwhile uses	Provision of pop-up and meanwhile uses in town centres and high streets to support local businesses and the borough's economic and cultural development.	LBM, Local businesses	Borough wide	No	No	TBC	Government funding, External funding, GLA, Planning contributions
TCP2	Flexible work spaces and creative business units.	Development of appropriate flexible spaces for creative businesses.	Landowners, Local businesses	Borough wide	No	No	TBC	Private investment, Government funding, External funding
TCP3	Crown House Creative	Co-working hub and knowledge exchange via	LBM	St Helier Ravensbury	Yes	£150,000 (SCIL)	£0	N/A

		development of the space old HSBC bank.		Morden Park					
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Ref	Merton Project	Project Information	Lead Delivery Partners	Ward	Identified on LBM Capital Programme	Committed Funding	Funding Gap	How Funding Gap Could Be Met
<b>Flood Risk Projects</b>								
FP1	Delivering Reservoir Safety	Merton has to ensure that Wimbledon Park Lake meets the requirements of the Reservoirs Act (1975) and must deliver a scheme by January 2022. The park is within a grade 2 listed landscape.	Landowners, AETLC, The Wimbledon Club, Thames Water, Environment Agency, Heritage England, LBM	Wimbledon Park	Project completed 2022	Project completed 2022	Project completed 2022	Project completed 2022
FP2	Surface Water Flood Risk Alleviation Schemes in Critical Drainage Areas.	Two surface water flooding schemes are proposed to deliver green infrastructure interventions to help reduce surface water flooding and reduce hardstanding. Schemes are: 1. Raynes Park Town Centre 2. Southfields Grid.	Neighbouring borough – LB Wandsworth, Environment Agency, Thames Water, Network Rail, Crossrail	Raynes Park Wimbledon Park / Southfields	No	No	£750,000	Government funding, Planning contributions, Thames Water, Environment Agency.

## 2026/27 – 2036/37

The projects listed in the table below are expected to be delivered in the longer term, between 2026/27 and 2036/37 in the borough.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Lead Delivery Partners</b>
School places needs	Increasing the number of primary and secondary school places and special education places in response to borough needs, based on an annual assessment of school placement provision within the borough.	LBM
Station Step Free Access	Provision of step free access for all railway stations in the borough.  e.g. Raynes Park Station, estimated cost £23m, currently unfunded – potential funding sources include South West Railways (SWR), Network Rail, Department for Transport, Planning Contributions and Thameslink.  e.g. Proposals to safeguard Wimbledon Chase station redevelopment to ensure step free access can be delivered in the future.	Network Rail SWR, DfT Thameslink
Health infrastructure	The council will work with the Merton CCG and NHSPS to identify health infrastructure needs throughout the Local Plan period.	LBM, CCG NHSPS, NHS, GP surgeries, Developers
Health Infrastructure, Morden Road Medical Centre	Development of an enhanced health care facility to meet local needs, for consideration alongside the Morden Town Centre regeneration.	NHSPS, CCG, NHS, GP owners
Climate Action Plan	Continued implementation and monitoring of the Merton Climate Action Plan to meet the borough's carbon reduction target to make Merton carbon neutral by 2050.	LBM
Public realm improvements	Continued improvements to the borough's public realm and healthy streets networks, to provide enhanced walking and cycling infrastructure throughout the borough.	LBM, TfL
Morden town centre regeneration highways and public realm improvements	Significant transport and highways improvements in and around the town centre, including relocation of the bus standing facilities from the front of the underground station. Improvements to the public realm, including cycle and pedestrian accessibility improvements.	LBM, TfL, Developers

Project	Details	Lead Delivery Partners
Integration of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) within cycle infrastructure	Ensure that SUDS are fully integrated with cycle scheme to ensure wider benefits are delivered across the borough for people, ecology, water and air quality and to reduce peak flows to the Thames Water sewer network.	LBM, Thames Water
Electric vehicle charging points infrastructure	Continued delivery of electric vehicle charging infrastructure throughout the borough.	LBM, TfL
London Tram Network improvements	<p>Service improvements including step free access from Dorset Road to Morden Road tram stop.</p> <p>Replacing the single track with double tracks between Morden Road and Phipps Bridge tram stops to increase capacity.</p> <p>Potential new Tram stop at Willow Lane to enhance public transport access to Willow Lane Industrial Estate.</p> <p>Street running spur extension from Morden Road tram stop. Delivery will require reallocation of road space and local widening secured through negotiation with landowners as opportunities arise.</p>	TfL
Gas and Electricity	Continued improvements to the borough's gas and electricity networks.	UKPN, National Grid, SGN
Emergency Services	Improvements to borough policing, fire and ambulance emergency services for community safety.	Metropolitan Police Service, London Fire Brigade, London Ambulance Service
Water and Wastewater	Continued improvements to the borough's water and wastewater networks.	Thames Water, Sutton and East Surrey (SES) Water