Hello there,

I am Policy & Project Manager at the Town and Country Planning Association, but I provide the following comments in a personal capacity, as a resident of Abbotsbury Road in Morden.

The content of the documents looks great, and it's very hard to argue with much of it at all. I particularly welcome the intention to restore greenery and consistency to the frontages of residential buildings in the Morden area, opportunities for densification around Morden High street, and the identification of the need to improve the permeability of the major parks in the area.

However, it is a shame that the council missed the opportunity to present this information in a more accessible and engaging way. I worry that a series of large PDFs, with the main document being more than 80mb, would just be impenetrable for most members of the public. Indeed, many of the maps lack easy to read keys, or points of orientation. It's a shame when so much of this is so good and important.

Why not present the contents in HTML, on the web page? Or why not use a more dynamic approach to commentating on the contents? (Liverpool City Region have recently used interesting approaches to their consultation on their emerging Spatial Development Strategy).

Effective public engagement is critical for the legitimacy of local plans (and planning in general), and while it looks like the consultation work going into this has been extensive, and the policy it contains looks great, it is a shame it had to be presented like this.

Finally, I just wanted to point you in the direction of work we (at the TCPA) have recently being doing to develop a 'Healthy Homes Bill' and a series of evidence-based Healthy Homes Principles which councils can use to underpin their decisions on new development. The resources on the following page include an overview of the campaign, a copy of the bill, and a briefing that includes a template motion to council on adopting the principles locally:

https://www.tcpa.org.uk/healthy-homes-act

I'd be more than happy to discuss this further, keep up the good work!