Our plan our future

It’s Merton | How would you like to shape the borough up to 2030?
Have your say on Merton’s LDF Core Strategy

www.merton.gov.uk/planning
What is Merton’s Core Strategy?

Merton Council is replacing its current planning policy called the Unitary Development Plan with the Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF is a new form of development plan that will look forward 15 years and set out strategies and policies for the development and use of land in Merton. The Core Strategy will be an important document in the Local Development Framework and will set out what can and cannot be built and what should be protected in Merton until 2030.

Why is this important?

Planning policy is important in guiding development in the borough, for example where new houses, shops and community facilities such as hospitals, libraries and schools should go. It also sets out guidelines for determining all planning applications and proposals.

What are your views on Merton’s draft Core Strategy?

Your views on this stage of the draft strategy’s development will be fed into Merton’s final Core Strategy. Please help to influence the future of Merton from 2011 to 2030 by sending us your comments and suggestions online or by completing the attached questionnaire.

What has happened so far?

The results of previous consultations together with research and Government guidance have helped us prepare this draft strategy. Below are the key stages in developing the Core Strategy:

To view or obtain further details on all draft Core Strategy consultation stages please go to www.merton.gov.uk/planning
Summary of Merton’s draft Core Strategy

Merton’s draft Core Strategy will:

a) Protect and enhance Merton’s village neighbourhoods and natural environment.
b) Maintain and improve:
   › Town centres - Wimbledon and Colliers Wood.
   › Local centres - Arthur Road, North Mitcham, Motspur Park, Raynes Park and Wimbledon Village.
   › Neighbourhood parades.
   › The public realm throughout the borough.
c) Recognise the suburban character of Merton when providing a mix of new homes, including family homes.
d) Support local community life through a diversity of local shops, community services, employment opportunities, education, recreational activities and other infrastructure that meet local needs.
e) Bridge the gap between eastern and western areas by regenerating Mitcham and Morden district centres.
f) Promote a diverse and resilient economic base, supporting Wimbledon as the borough’s Major Centre.
g) Make the most of Merton’s cultural and sporting assets and protect its open spaces.
h) Make Merton an easy place to get around by road, rail, cycling and walking.
i) Reduce the impacts of climate change, flooding, waste disposal, travel congestion, energy costs and utilities infrastructure.
What we would like you to do next

We welcome comments on any aspects of the draft Core Strategy. You can view the Core Strategy and background documents, and submit your comments either electronically via www.merton.gov.uk/planning or complete the enclosed questionnaire.

Merton’s draft Core Strategy consultation runs from Monday 7 September until Friday 16 October 2009.

If you have any questions regarding this consultation, would like to attend a meeting to discuss the strategy or be added or removed from our Local Development Framework consultation list, please contact us at:

Email: ldf@merton.gov.uk
Telephone: 020 8545 3814 or 020 8545 3041

What are the next steps following this consultation on the draft Core Strategy?

Once you return the response form to us we will carefully consider your comments. We will then use these results and continued research to change Merton’s draft Core Strategy where appropriate.

Councillors acting on your behalf will approve the draft Core Strategy before we send them to the Government’s Planning Inspector in 2010. At this time you will have another chance to comment on the strategy.

The Inspector will study the policies and ensure that we listened to your views and followed national guidance. The Inspector will then make decisions on the acceptability of Merton’s Core Strategy.

South London Waste Plan (SLWP) consultation:

You may also be aware that Croydon, Kingston, Merton and Sutton councils are currently seeking your views on the South London Waste Plan, which is part of the Local Development Framework (LDF). This separate consultation runs from Monday 20 July to Friday 16 October 2009. Further information on this consultation is available at www.merton.gov.uk/wasteplan, or alternatively e-mail southlondonwasteplan@rbk.kingston.gov.uk or telephone 020 8547 5375.
Q1. Do you support the overall spatial vision and strategic objectives of the draft Core Strategy?

☐ Yes    ☐ No
Chapter and Paragraph: ........................................
Comments: .........................................................

Chapter and Paragraph: ........................................
Comments: .........................................................

Q2. Do you think the draft Core Strategy shows it is justified through evidence of local community participation and research/fact finding? i.e. Based on robust and creditable evidence.

☐ Yes    ☐ No
Chapter and Paragraph: ........................................
Comments: .........................................................

Chapter and Paragraph: ........................................
Comments: .........................................................

Q3. Do you think that the draft Core Strategy is justified by being the most appropriate strategy for Merton?

☐ Yes    ☐ No
Chapter and Paragraph: ........................................
Comments: .........................................................

Chapter and Paragraph: ........................................
Comments: .........................................................

Q4a. Do you think the draft Core Strategy is effective?

☐ Yes    ☐ No
Chapter and Paragraph: ........................................
Comments: .........................................................

Chapter and Paragraph: ........................................
Comments: .........................................................

Q4b. If you answered no to Q4a then please tick which of the following points have not been met. The Government defines an effective core strategy as:

☐ a. Being deliverable
☐ b. Providing a sound infrastructure delivery plan
☐ c. Demonstrating that partners are signed up to it
☐ d. Being consistent with the strategies of neighbouring authorities
☐ e. Being flexible and able to be monitored
☐ f. Not having regulatory or national planning barriers to delivery

Q5. Do you think the draft Core Strategy is consistent with national planning policy? (Please complete as many as apply).

☐ Yes    ☐ No
Chapter and Paragraph: ........................................
Comments: .........................................................

Chapter and Paragraph: ........................................
Comments: .........................................................

Q6. Are there any other aspects of the draft Core Strategy you support /do not support? (Please complete as many as apply).

☐ Yes    ☐ No
Chapter and Paragraph: ........................................
Comments: .........................................................

Chapter and Paragraph: ........................................
Comments: .........................................................

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questions. Please return the completed form in the prepaid envelope provided.

If necessary, please continue on separate pieces of paper. Please reference the chapter and paragraph.
Equalities monitoring

To help us improve the way in which we communicate with our customers we would appreciate it if you could spend a few minutes answering the following questions. All information is given voluntarily, will be kept confidential and processed anonymously.

These questions do not relate directly to the subject matter we are contacting you about; They do however help us ensure that we communicate appropriately with all our customers.

Thank you for your time.

Are you:  □ Male  □ Female

What is your age group?

□ 15 or under  □ 35-39  □ 60-64
□ 16-19  □ 40-44  □ 65-69
□ 20-24  □ 45-49  □ 70-74
□ 25-29  □ 50-54  □ 75 or over
□ 30-34  □ 55-59

Do you consider that you have a disability?  Yes  □ No

How would you describe yourself (tick one box only):

White
□ White-English
□ White-Scottish
□ White-Welsh
□ White-Irish
□ Gypsy / Roma / Traveller
Any other White background (please specify)

Asian or Asian British
□ Indian
□ Pakistani
□ Bangladeshi
□ Tamil
Any other Asian background

Mixed Ethnicity
□ White & Black Caribbean
□ White and Black African
□ White and Asian
Any other Mixed background (please specify)

Black or Black British
□ Caribbean
□ African
□ Any other Black background
□ Please specify

Chinese and other ethnic groups
□ Chinese
□ Korean (please specify)

What is your faith / belief?
□ Buddhist  □ Christian  □ Hindu  □ Muslim  □ Jewish  □ Sikh
□ Other (please specify)

How do you describe your sexuality?
□ Heterosexual  □ Lesbian or Gay man  □ Bisexual  □ Trans
□ Prefer not to say

Buddhist  □ Christian  □ Hindu  □ Muslim  □ Jewish  □ Sikh
□ Other (please specify)

Trans
Our plan our future.
Merton’s draft Core Strategy questionnaire.

The Core Strategy will be an important document for Merton setting out what can and cannot be built and what should be protected until 2030. Please help to influence the future of Merton from 2011 to 2030 by sending us your comments and suggestions online or by completing this questionnaire.

Save time – do it online

We are encouraging all our residents and partners to comment on our draft Core Strategy using our online form. This means you don’t have to remember to put your completed questionnaire in the post and you are not restricted by civic centre opening hours. You can even read other people’s responses to the consultation. For the council, it means we can be more efficient and collate responses much quicker. So save time. Do it online!

You can view the draft Core Strategy, background documents, and submit your comments electronically via www.merton.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, if you would like to be sent a paper version of the consultation please contact the LDF team by emailing ldf@merton.gov.uk or telephoning: 020 8545 3814 or 020 8545 3041.

The deadline for responses is 5.00pm Friday 16 October 2009. We cannot accept any after this date. Please note that your responses will be publicly available but we will not display your contact details.

Merton’s draft Core Strategy questionnaire:

When completing the following questions please refer to the draft Core Strategy at www.merton.gov.uk/planning Alternatively reference copies are available in all Merton libraries.

Important information: please read before completing the questionnaire:
The Government requires core strategies to meet the three ‘tests of soundness’. These are defined as a strategy that is justified, effective and consistent with national policy. For more information on the ‘tests of soundness’ go to: www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/pins/appeals/local_dev/index.htm

To help complete the following questions about the draft Core Strategy we have set out an example response below. If you need further support please contact the LDF team on 020 8545 3841 or email us at ldf@merton.gov.uk

Example response

Q. Are there any other aspects of the draft Core Strategy you support/do not support?
Chapter and Paragraph: Chapter 25 (Justification); Paragraph 25.15
Comments: I think primary schools should be permitted to expand on playing fields so that my child can be educated locally.
Please note: If you have comments on more than one chapter, please complete as many comment boxes as apply. If necessary continue in the same format on a separate sheet of paper.
Our plan our future - Merton's Core Strategy

If you need any part of this document explained in your language, please tick box and contact us either by writing or by phone using our contact details below.

- Albanian
  Nëse ju nevojitet ndonjë pjesë e këtij dokumenti e shpjeguar në gjuhën e armës tuaj do ku mund të tejë nga kontaktoni duke na shkruar ose telefononi duke përdorur detajet e mëposhtme.

- Bengali
  এই দৃষ্টির কোনো অংশ আপনার ভাষায় বুঝতে চাইলে, নিচের নিচের টিকি নিন এবং টিকি শিখুন এর কোনো অংশের সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন। নিচের যোগাযোগের বিবরণ দেওয়া হয়েছে।

- French
  Si vous avez besoin que l'on vous explique une partie de ce document dans votre langue, cochez la case et contactez-nous par courrier ou par téléphone à nos cordonnées figurant ci-dessous.

- Korean
  만일 본 서류의 어떤 부분이라도 귀하의 모국어로 설명된것이 필요하다면, 상자에 표시하고 우리에게 전화나 서신으로 연락하십시오.

- Polish
  Aby otrzymać część tego dokumentu w polskiej wersji językowej proszę zaznaczyć kwadrat i skontaktować się z nami drogą pisemną lub telefoniczną pod podana adres lub numerem telefonu.

- Portuguese
  Caso você necessite qualquer parte deste documento explicada em seu idioma, favor assinalar a quadricula respectiva e contat-nos por escrito ou por telefone usando as informações para contato aqui fornecidas.

- Somali
  Haddii aad u baahan tahay in qayb dukumeentigan ka mid ah laguugu sharxo luqaddaada, fadlan sax ku calaamadeed sanduuna oo nagula soo xiriir warqad ama telefoon adigoo isticmaalaya macluumadka haikan hoose ku yaalla.

- Spanish
  Si desea que alguna parte de este documento se traduzca en su idioma, le rogamos marque la casilla correspondiente y que nos contacte bien por escrito o telefonicamente utilizando nuestra información de contacto que encontrará más abajo.

- Tamil
  எந்த பகுதியையும் வெளியில் காட்சி செய்ய இந்த வரையிட்டுடன் ஆன்டிக்கு வந்து, வந்து பயன்படுத்தி யொருசளிக்க முடியும். அந்த வரையிட்டு எல்லாப் பொருட்கள் கூறும் வண்டியை எந்த பகுதியையும் தீர்வு செய்ய வேண்டும்.

- Urdu
  اگر کوئی بخش یا حصہ کوئی زبان میں تفسیر کیا جا سکے تو کافی کر کے باقی بخش کوئی زبان میں تفسیر کرنا ہوتا ہے۔

Large print  Braille  Audiotape

Your contact:
Name...................................................
Address..................................................
............................................................
............................................................
Telephone.............................................

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