(v) ANY ADVERSE EFFECT ON ROAD SAFETY OR TRAFFIC FLOWS;
(vi) THE CONCENTRATION OF SIMILAR FACILITIES IN THE SURROUNDING AREA;
(vii) THE DEMAND FOR CHILDCARE IN THE AREA AS IDENTIFIED IN THE
       CHILDCARE AUDIT.

Justification

3.145 These are facilities which are required in every residential area. It is important that
residential amenities are not adversely affected by the conversion of unsuitable dwellings
or the over-concentration of nurseries in one area. There is a relatively even distribution
of sessional day-care throughout the Borough, but deficiencies exist in terms of private
day nursery provision in both Mitcham and Morden areas. This is particularly serious in
Mitcham which has a higher than average proportion of under 5’s, but it is recognised
that the new Neighbourhood Nurseries Initiative will go some way to addressing the
needs of under 5’s in the Mitcham area.

HEALTH

POLICY C.8: HEALTH FACILITY SITES

PROPOSALS THAT WILL INVOLVE THE LOSS OF A HEALTH FACILITY SITE WILL NOT BE
PERMITTED, UNLESS IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE FACILITY IS NO LONGER
REQUIRED TO SERVE LOCAL NEEDS.

Justification

3.146 It is important to ensure that any redevelopment or change of use of sites used for
health facilities does not result in inadequate provision or poor accessibility for residents
of the Borough. The Council will seek locations for health developments that are
appropriately well served by Public Transport and accessible on foot/cycle as detailed in
Transport Policies of the Plan. The Council will work in partnership with Sutton and
Merton Primary Care Trust and other Health Organisations, to ensure that health facilities
in the borough are suitably located to meet the needs of residents, where appropriate
planning briefs will be proposed.

POLICY C.9: PROVISION OF HEALTH FACILITIES

THE COUNCIL WILL ENCOURAGE THE PROVISION OF HEALTH FACILITIES AND WILL:

(i) GRANT PLANNING PERMISSION FOR HEALTH FACILITIES WHICH ARE WELL LOCATED
       IN TERMS OF THEIR ACCESSIBILITY TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE AREA THEY INTEND
       TO SERVE AND PROVIDED THEY DO NOT ADVERSELY AFFECT THE AMENITIES OF THE
       AREA OR CONTRAVENE OTHER POLICIES OF THE PLAN;

(ii) SEEK TO SECURE PLANNING OBLIGATIONS TO IMPROVE HEALTH FACILITY
       PROVISION AND IDENTIFY NEW SITES;
(iii) REQUIRE FULL ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN;

(iv) IDENTIFY PRIORITY AREAS AND NEW SITES.

Justification

3.147 The Council generally wishes to encourage health facilities which are a valuable service to the community, but it needs to ensure they are well located and are not at the expense of other policies of this Plan. The Policy will ensure that valuable opportunities are not lost to provide additional health facilities on sites which might otherwise be developed for less suitable uses, while reducing the cost of providing these facilities by making use of planning gain opportunities. The opportunity to secure such facilities will be sought in appropriate cases through planning obligations with developers, in accordance with the provisions of government guidance. The Council wishes to ensure that full access and facilities are provided for people with disabilities and children. The Council in partnership with Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust and the South West London Support Services Partnership will seek suitable sites for health facilities and may produce planning briefs on these sites.

EDUCATION

POLICY C.10: DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOLS

PROPOSALS THAT RESULT IN LOSS OF SITES IN EDUCATIONAL USE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED EXCEPT WHERE:

(i) AN APPROPRIATELY LOCATED ALTERNATIVE SITE IS AVAILABLE, OR IT CAN BE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE EDUCATIONAL FACILITY IS NO LONGER REQUIRED AND THERE IS NO LIKELIHOOD OF THE LAND OR BUILDINGS RETURNING TO EDUCATIONAL USE IN THE FUTURE AND

(ii) THE NEW DEVELOPMENT WOULD MEET AN IDENTIFIED DEMAND FOR COMMUNITY, RELIGIOUS OR RECREATIONAL USE.

Justification

3.148 These educational uses include Nursery Units, Primary and Secondary age range Schools, as well as the Sixth-Form College and Special Schools. Utilising surplus educational land or buildings for other purposes enables the best use of land and building resources. In many cases schools and buildings could be easily and cheaply converted to provide other social, recreational or community facilities to satisfy the needs identified either in the immediate locality or Borough-wide.

3.149 Demographic changes and the effect on school rolls is under constant review. In rationalising the provision of schools in the Borough, it is necessary to ensure good accessibility for students of all ages. However, particular care is necessary for younger children who ideally should be able to attend a school in their