



MERTON LOCAL PLAN – Examination
A submission by Wandle Valley Forum on Matter 2 – Spatial Strategy

May 2022

1. Wandle Valley Forum provides support and an independent voice for over 140 community groups, voluntary organisations and local businesses and for everyone who shares a passion for the Wandle. Many of our supporters are based in Merton. We have made representations throughout the consultation on Merton’s new Local Plan.
2. We wish to speak at the hearing on Matter 2.
3. We do not consider the Local Plan’s spatial strategy is *“positively prepared in terms of the Borough’s green spaces and biodiversity assets”*.
4. Policy O15.6 is a significant improvement on Policy CS5 for the Wandle Valley. We welcome this. Nevertheless, the Wandle should be much more central to the Plan’s spatial strategy. This is evidenced by the fact that the Sustainability Appraisal shows the Wandle Valley Regional Park policy impacts more sustainability objectives than any other policy in the Plan.
5. We believe this can be achieved by:
 - Recognising the Wandle Valley in the Spatial Strategy (Figure 1), Strategic Objectives and Spatial Vision (page 31)
 - Addressing the importance of green spaces, landscape, blue and green infrastructure and biodiversity in the Spatial Vision – which would be consistent with national planning policy
 - Addressing the implications of tall buildings on the Wandle, especially in Colliers Wood, where we have seen no evidence of any prior assessment in determining the area’s suitability for tall buildings (also considered under Matter 13)
 - Recognising the Wandle Valley includes the catchment of Norbury Brook/River Graveney
 - Providing a justified boundary for the Wandle Valley Regional Park which reflects the continuous hatched area in the All London Green Grid as explained in our earlier representations