

# LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON APPOINTS

## NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

The London Borough of Merton has continued its transformation programme with the appointment of five new Executive Directors.

The new management team appointments follow on from the appointment of Hannah Doody as CEO in 2021, and the election of new Leader Cllr Ross Garrod in 2022.

The council approved a new management team structure last September as it embarks on a new long-term strategy around nurturing civic pride, building a sustainable future and creating a borough of sport.



**Polly Cziok** will take the role of Executive Director of Innovation & Change, joining from LB Hackney where she was Strategic Director of Engagement, Culture & Organisational Development.

**Lucy Owen** will join as Executive Director of Housing & Sustainable Development, having previously been Interim Chief Operating Officer at Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation.



**Dan Jones** will join from Tower Hamlets to become Merton's Executive Director of Environment, Civic Pride & Climate.

**Asad Mushtaq** completes the external appointments, moving from St Helens Council to become Merton's Executive Director of Finance & Digital.



**John Morgan** is appointed Executive Director for Adult Social Care, Integrated Care & Public Health having served as interim Executive Director.

**Jane McSherry**, previously Director of Children, Schools & Families, is assimilated into the role of Executive Director of Children, Lifelong Learning and Families.



Council Leader Ross Garrod said: "This administration has an ambitious and exciting agenda for Merton and we want to move at pace to deliver for our residents. Over the past year we've created a long-term vision for the borough, begun work on the borough's affordable housing programme, put in place capital funds to deliver our ambitions on civic pride, and launched a £2m cost of living fund to help residents.

"There's a lot of hard work ahead to drive those improvements and bring about a real culture-change in how the council operates; and to do that we need an outstanding top-team to support the Chief Executive. I'm delighted to have secured such a talented team of leaders and can't wait for the new team to get going."

Chief Executive Hannah Doody added: "We want to rebuild a sense of pride in Merton from the ground up; through cleaner streets, more affordable housing, improved town centres and opportunities to be involved in this great sporting borough, and this necessitated more capacity at executive level. These appointments are a major step towards delivering on our priorities.

"We're delighted to have appointed some of the most talented professionals in the sector, and it's an incredibly exciting time to be at the London Borough of Merton."

The new Executive Directors will take up their posts over the coming months.