**The Borough**

Sutton is an outer London Borough with a population of over 190,146, situated over 17 square miles, and has an interesting mix of neighbourhoods. The Borough is bordered to the north, east and north west by the London Boroughs of Merton, Croydon and Kingston upon Thames respectively and Surrey to the south. Sutton is already one of the highest performing councils in the country and has great ambitions for its future.

This reflects the dynamism and sense of purpose that exists throughout the Council. The Council is made up of 54 councillors. The representation is:

* 45 Liberal Democrat
* 9 Conservative

The Liberal Democrat Group has controlled the Council since 1986; making it the longest running Liberal Democrat controlled Council in the country. Councillor Ruth Dombey is the leader of the Liberal Democrat Group and Leader of the Council. The adult social services agenda is of keen importance to the Council and is part of both the ‘fairer’ and ‘safer’ elements of our ‘fairer, safer, greener, smarter’ strap line.

The senior management team is led by Niall Bolger, Chief Executive, who has been at the Council since 2011, where he leads a robust working environment with a dynamic “can do” culture that promotes excellence and innovation, and drives the Smarter Council agenda, which is extending the concept of a ‘commissioning Council’ across the organisation.

The proportion of residents who are satisfied with Sutton as a place to live is high at 91%, and this is a long term positive trend. The quality of life is generally high, as is community cohesion. This overall position masks some important differences across the Borough. Whilst the majority of the Borough’s workforce is professional, managerial or skilled non manual, rates of unemployment are high amongst tenants living in social housing. The inequality of wealth is reflected in the very steep social gradient within the Borough. The southern parts of the Borough (with the exception of pockets within Beddington South and Belmont) are largely suburban in character and consist of relatively affluent areas. In contrast, the northern parts share many of the characteristics of inner London, with significant pockets of deprivation and limited access to social infrastructure. The most recent Indices of Multiple Deprivation has demonstrated an overall increase in deprivation within the Borough.