

Merton Council Council

28 February 2018

Supplementary agenda 3

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BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 28 FEBRUARY 2018

CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT – AGENDA ITEM 4

That after Recommendation 1 a new Recommendation 2 below be added and the following Recommendations be renumbered accordingly:

- “2. That the cabinet take an early opportunity to review its financial strategy after the local elections in May 2018 by:
- Increasing revenue generation by a greater focus on commercial opportunities.
 - Appointing a dedicated officer responsible for revenue generation across Merton. Initiatives to include:
 - better management of the council’s property portfolio [‘sweating the council’s assets’]
 - offering residents additional value added services by leveraging the Merton brand; and
 - using new powers to maximise fees and charges, where appropriate, so that users pay an equitable contribution for the service they receive
 - Getting a grip on budget monitoring and plan to smooth closing the MTF5 budget gap over 4 years by maximising the support of our Strategic partners, including the NHS and Government, whilst also investing in capital projects, especially community infrastructure
 - Keeping council tax low i.e. in line with inflation and key indicators such as the uprating of pensions and benefits
 - Ending Labour’s ‘Austerity Merton’ and a new focus which values services and service users equally.
 - Restoring the link between paying towards the programmes residents vote for and their capacity to afford them
 - Enabling businesses to thrive so that the Council can maximise income benefits from the business rate pool”

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CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT 2 – AGENDA ITEM 4

To add at the end of the recommendations:

“Recommendation 1 A) as amended by the revenue implications of the purchase of Wimbledon Police Station, grant of 50% running costs and additional revenue costs of capital in the first year totalling £168k, offset by rent from the Met. Police and the abolition of free Christmas Parking leaving £108k to be funded from the contingency.

Recommendation 1 C) to be reviewed during 2018/19 to take account of the five-year impact of the above mentioned acquisition

Recommendation 1 D) as amended by the addition of a new scheme, the acquisition of Wimbledon Police Station at a cost of £7.411m including stamp duty, offset by a reduction in the acquisitions budget of £4.118m”

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