

# Merton Council

## Council

**12 September 2018**

### **Supplementary agenda 3**

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Liberal Democrat amendment to Strategic Theme motion.

1. Delete the text that is struck through
2. Insert the underlined (red) text at the end.

As follows:

“This council notes with concern the increasingly poor performance of Veolia to undertake the waste management duties that it is contracted to do, and which Merton taxpayers have paid for.

~~As of 1st September, 1,277 people have signed the Conservative led public petition calling upon Merton Council to return weekly bin collections; and allow residents to retain their own waste bins, without being forced into the new system against their will.~~

In recent months the performance of Veolia has markedly deteriorated:

- Since the beginning of June the number of missed bin collections has increased by a third;
- Veolia has not hit its target for removing detritus from Merton’s streets since April;
- Veolia has failed to meet its target for clearing litter from the streets since early May,
- during June and July over 25% of sites were considered to be below standard.

Veolia’s performance has been unacceptable, and this council resolves to request the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel to establish a subcommittee to focus on Veolia’s performance and ensure that they meet their own targets. ~~The subcommittee will be open to residents groups to ensure that the voices of the people of Merton are heard and that they get value for money.~~ cross-party scrutiny task group, with meetings held in public, to focus on all aspects of Veolia’s performance under contract, and in particular to look at:

- Contract management arrangements by Merton and the South London Waste Partnership and their effectiveness, and the training and support given to officers in performing the above;
- Residents’ concerns about the roll out of wheelies, particularly the process for applying for assisted collections, exemptions from requiring wheelies at particular households, and bin-sharing arrangements – with a view to meeting residents’ individual needs moving forward.
- The full costs of and legal process required to restore weekly bin collections for residual waste, but also looking into the possibilities of other alternatives, such as weekly collections of hygiene waste and greater flexibility for households that might wish to opt out of wheelie bins.

And make appropriate recommendations to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel.”

**Motion now to read:**

This council notes with concern the increasingly poor performance of Veolia to undertake the waste management duties that it is contracted to do, and which Merton taxpayers have paid for.

In recent months the performance of Veolia has markedly deteriorated:

- Since the beginning of June the number of missed bin collections has increased by a third;
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- Residents' concerns about the roll out of wheelies, particularly the process for applying for assisted collections, exemptions from requiring wheelies at particular households, and bin-sharing arrangements – with a view to meeting residents' individual needs moving forward.
- The full costs of and legal process required to restore weekly bin collections for residual waste, but also looking into the possibilities of other alternatives, such as weekly collections of hygiene waste and greater flexibility for households that might wish to opt out of wheelie bins.

And make appropriate recommendations to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

## COUNCIL MEETING – 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER NOTICE OF MOTION

This council notes ~~with concern the increasingly poor the changes in the~~ performance of Veolia to undertake the waste management duties that it is contracted to do, and which Merton taxpayers ~~have paid for~~ pay for. As of 1st September, 1,277 people have signed the Conservative led public petition ~~which has not yet been received by the Council,~~ calling upon Merton Council to return weekly bin collections; and allow residents to retain their own waste bins, without ~~being forced into the new system against their will~~ having to adapt to the new system along with everyone else in the borough.

Council notes that the changes arise as a result of the need to make significant savings across council services due to more than 40% cut in funding from the Conservative government to local authorities which has necessitated making stringent efficiency savings, and the fact that significantly reduced funding levels often impact on the service levels required.

Council further notes that the introduction of a new wheeled bin service will save the council upwards of £1.6m a year, and that these savings have already been incorporated into the council's budgets for future years.

Council acknowledges nevertheless that:

~~In recent months the performance of Veolia has markedly deteriorated:~~

- Since the beginning of June the number of missed bin collections has increased by a third;
- Veolia has not hit its target for removing detritus from Merton's streets since April;
- Veolia has failed to meet its target for clearing litter from the streets since early May, during June and July over 25% of sites were considered to be below standard.

The Council resolves to continue to monitor Veolia's performance against the service level agreement, whilst also noting the savings afforded by this contract which can be used to help deliver otherwise underfunded services which protect the most vulnerable in our society. ~~has been unacceptable, and this council resolves to request the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel to establish a subcommittee to focus on Veolia's performance and ensure that they meet their own targets. The subcommittee will be open to residents groups to ensure that the voices of the people of Merton are heard and that they get value for money.~~

Cllr Daniel Holden Cllr Nigel Benbow Cllr David Dean

Motion now to read:

This council notes the changes in the performance of Veolia to undertake the waste management duties that it is contracted to do, and which Merton taxpayers pay for. As of 1st September, 1,277 people have signed the Conservative led public petition which has not yet been received by the Council, calling upon Merton Council to return weekly bin collections; and allow residents to retain their own waste bins, without having to adapt to the new system along with everyone else in the borough. Council notes that the changes arise as a result of the need to make significant savings across council services due to more than 40% cut in funding from the Conservative government to local authorities which has necessitated making

stringent efficiency savings, and the fact that significantly reduced funding levels often impact on the service levels required.

Council further notes that the introduction of a new wheeled bin service will save the council upwards of £1.6m a year, and that these savings have already been incorporated into the council's budgets for future years,

Council acknowledges nevertheless that:

- Since the beginning of June the number of missed bin collections has increased by a third;
- Veolia has not hit its target for removing detritus from Merton's streets since April;
- Veolia has failed to meet its target for clearing litter from the streets since early May, during June and July over 25% of sites were considered to be below standard.

The Council resolves to continue to monitor Veolia's performance against the service level agreement, whilst also noting the savings afforded by this contract which can be used to help deliver otherwise underfunded services which protect the most vulnerable in our society.

## COUNCIL MEETING – 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER NOTICE OF MOTION – STRATEGIC THEME MOTION

“This council notes, in the absence of any discussion on step free access to public transport in the Sustainable Communities Report, that:

1. The failure to provide complete step-free access to rail transport across the borough severely impacts the mobility of many residents of, and visitors to, the borough.
2. Despite the issue being raised periodically at full Council meetings-level over the years there ~~has been no meaningful progress to report.~~, it recognises that the decision to fund and provide step-free access is with the Department of Transport, Network Rail and Transport for London.
3. The matter cannot be left until the various issues that continue to arise in respect of Cross Rail 2 are resolved, although it is welcomed that the Mayor of London has committed Crossrail 2 will be 100% step-free, and that the Mayor also recently announced funding to make Wimbledon Park step free. -

This council resolves to ask:

1. ~~The Cabinet to draw up a strategy for~~ That the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel looks at undertaking a report as part of its work programme which highlighting highlights key accessibility issues at local stations, ~~and but also~~ outlining positive actions that Merton could take to help to mitigate these issues improve access. It also asks that it invites key witnesses From Transport for London, Network Rail and South West Trains to the panel if a report is brought; and that
2. The Cabinet ~~to consider how Merton can effectively lobby, assist and encourages and assists~~ bids to the Department of Transport’s “Access for All” and the Mayor’s ~~equivalent programmes to determine how Merton can secure monies to use in any potential match-funding bids.~~ Transport for London programme to make more stations in Merton step-free.

Councillor Hina Bokhari Councillor Paul Kohler Councillor Eloise Bailey

Motion now to read:

“This council notes, in the absence of any discussion on step free access to public transport in the Sustainable Communities Report, that:

1. The failure to provide complete step-free access to rail transport across the borough severely impacts the mobility of many residents of, and visitors to, the borough.
2. Despite the issue being raised periodically at full Council meetings., it recognises that the decision to fund and provide step-free access is with the Department of Transport, Network Rail and Transport for London.
3. The matter cannot be left until the various issues that continue to arise in respect

of Cross Rail 2 are resolved, although it is welcomed that the Mayor of London has committed Crossrail 2 will be 100% step-free, and that the Mayor also recently announced funding to make Wimbledon Park step free.

This council resolves to ask:

1. That the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel looks at undertaking a report as part of its work programme which highlights key accessibility issues at local stations, but also outlining positive actions that Merton could take to help to improve access. It also asks that it invites key witnesses From Transport for London, Network Rail and South West Trains to the panel if a report is brought; and that
2. The Cabinet encourages and assists bids to the Department of Transport's "Access for All" and the Mayor's Transport for London programme to make more stations in Merton step-free.



## COUNCIL MEETING – 12TH SEPTEMBER NOTICE OF MOTION

This Council ~~resolves to~~ notes that in June 2017 Merton council adopted in full the definition of anti-Semitism from the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, as adopted by Her Majesty's Government in 2016:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews.

Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-

Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish

collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country

cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to

harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed

in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative

character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and

in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited

to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.

- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.
- Anti-Semitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of anti-Semitic materials in some countries).
- Criminal acts are anti-Semitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.
- Anti-Semitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.”

[Council calls on Cabinet to have the definition included in the Hate Crime Strategy 2017-2021.](#)

Cllr Daniel Holden Cllr Nick McLean Cllr Edward Gretton

Motion now to read:

This Council notes that in June 2017 Merton council adopted in full the definition of anti-Semitism from the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, as adopted by Her Majesty’s Government in 2016:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews.

Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-

Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
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