

Merton Council

Council

21 November 2018

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Council Meeting – 21st November 2018

Notice of Motion

[This council supports the Conservative government's Modern Slavery Act 2015 which brought into law new measures to prevent modern slavery, such as the creation of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, sweeping new legal powers and the creation of the National Referral Mechanism which legally obliges local authorities to notify the Home Office of any suspected cases of Modern Slavery.](#)

The council notes:

1. Though slavery was abolished in the UK in 1833, there are more slaves today than ever before in human history. Figures from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) suggest that there are more than 40 million people in modern slavery across the world, with nearly 25 million held in forced labour.
2. There were 3,805 victims of modern slavery identified in the UK in 2016. A rising number but still well below the 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims estimated by the Home Office.
3. Modern slavery is happening nationwide. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment. This can include sexual and criminal exploitation.

The council believes:

- a. That action needs to be taken to raise awareness of modern slavery and the fact that it is happening all over the UK.
- b. That the current support for victims is not sufficient and needs to go beyond the 45 days they are currently given by the government.
- c. That councils have an important role to play in ensuring their contracts and supplies don't contribute to modern day slavery and exploitation.
- d. An important step is adoption of the Co-operative Party's Charter Against Modern Slavery which states:

The council will:

1. Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.
2. Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
3. Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
4. Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.

5. Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery. Page 123 Agenda Item 15
6. Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
7. Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
8. Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
9. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
10. Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.

The council calls on cabinet:

1. ~~1.~~ To adopt the Co-operative Party's Charter against modern slavery to ensure our procurement practices do not support slavery.
2. ~~2.~~ [Publish a Merton Modern Slavery Statement in accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.](#)
3. To consider the wider impact of modern slavery on the borough, and work to ensure that all forms of modern slavery are eliminated in Merton.

Motion now to read:

This council supports the Conservative government's Modern Slavery Act 2015 which brought into law new measures to prevent modern slavery, such as the creation of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, sweeping new legal powers and the creation of the National Referral Mechanism which legal obliges local authorities to notify the Home Office of any suspected cases of Modern Slavery.

The council notes:

1. Though slavery was abolished in the UK in 1833, there are more slaves today than ever before in human history. Figures from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) suggest that there are more than 40 million people in modern slavery across the world, with nearly 25 million held in forced labour.
2. There were 3,805 victims of modern slavery identified in the UK in 2016. A rising number but still well below the 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims estimated by the Home Office.
3. Modern slavery is happening nationwide. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment. This can include sexual and criminal exploitation.

The council believes:

- a. That action needs to be taken to raise awareness of modern slavery and the fact that it is happening all over the UK.
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2. Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
3. Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
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8. Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
9. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
10. Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.

The council calls on cabinet:

1. To adopt the Co-operative Party's Charter against modern slavery to ensure our procurement practices do not support slavery.
2. Publish a Merton Modern Slavery Statement in accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
3. To consider the wider impact of modern slavery on the borough, and work to ensure that all forms of modern slavery are eliminated in Merton.

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To add the words in red and underlined below after “2. To consider the wider impact of modern slavery on the borough, and work to ensure that all forms of modern slavery are eliminated in Merton”, so that the motion now reads:

The council notes:

1. Though slavery was abolished in the UK in 1833, there are more slaves today than ever before in human history. Figures from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) suggest that there are more than 40 million people in modern slavery across the world, with nearly 25 million held in forced labour.
2. There were 3,805 victims of modern slavery identified in the UK in 2016. A rising number but still well below the 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims estimated by the Home Office.
3. Modern slavery is happening nationwide. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhuman treatment. This can include sexual and criminal exploitation.

The council believes:

- a. That action needs to be taken to raise awareness of modern slavery and the fact that it is happening all over the UK.
- b. That the current support for victims is not sufficient and needs to go beyond the 45 days they are currently given by the government.
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1. Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.
2. Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
3. Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they

do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.

4. Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
5. Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
6. Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
7. Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
8. Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
9. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
10. Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.

The council calls on cabinet:

1. To adopt the Co-operative Party's Charter against modern slavery to ensure our procurement practices do not support slavery.
2. To consider the wider impact of modern slavery on the borough, and work to ensure that all forms of modern slavery are eliminated in Merton by reviewing any relevant Council policies and procedures in light of the LGA Safer and Stronger Communities Board/Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner guide, *Tackling modern slavery: A council guide*.
3. As part of the above, to consider how it can ensure a joined-up approach to the issue given the different services that may come into contact with potential modern slavery, considering: the identification and referral of victims; support for victims through relevant services, eg safeguarding children and adults with care and support needs and through housing/homelessness services; community safety services and disruption activities.

Council Meeting – 21st November 2018

Notice of Motion

Merton's migrant communities contribute a huge amount to the borough, and are the heart of the borough's cultural identity.

Merton Council ~~expresses dismay at the 'hostile environment', and the financial and emotional impact this has had on the Windrush generation and their families, including children and grandchildren.~~ supports the swift action taken by the Conservative government to ensure that the Windrush generation are fast tracked towards British citizenship. The Conservative government has:

1. Waived the Citizenship fee;
2. Waived the requirement to carry out a Knowledge of Language and Life in the UK test;
3. Waived the fee for any children of the Windrush generation who apply for citizenship;
4. Ensured that those members of the Windrush generation who have retired abroad are able to return to the UK with all fees waived.

The council notes:

1. the work of organisations the JCWI, BME Lawyers 4 Justice, the Runnymede Trust, MPs and the All Parliamentary Group on Race who have been campaigning on these issues, and
2. the role the Caribbean High Commissions have played in lobbying the Government.

The council resolves to:

1. Write to the ~~Prime Minister Home Secretary~~ to support his actions and seek an update on the progress that has been made, call for an independent public enquiry into the Windrush scandal,
2. ~~Demand the Government f~~ully supports advice agencies in their work to achieve justice (and compensation for all losses, injury and damages to date where necessary) for all Merton residents of the Windrush generation,
3. Review our own policies and procedures to ensure we support those affected,
4. Support the government's policy of waiving all ~~call for~~ fees for naturalisation, ~~to be waived for all those who have been affected, and~~
5. Support the government's work to ~~Op~~pose the criminalisation of Windrush families.

Motion now to read

Merton's migrant communities contribute a huge amount to the borough, and are the heart of the borough's cultural identity.

Merton Council supports the swift action taken by the Conservative government to ensure that the Windrush generation are fast tracked towards British citizenship. The Conservative government has:

1. Waived the Citizenship fee;
2. Waived the requirement to carry out a Knowledge of Language and Life in the UK test;
3. Waived the fee for any children of the Windrush generation who apply for citizenship;
4. Ensured that those members of the Windrush generation who have retired abroad are able to return to the UK with all fees waived.

The council notes:

1. the work of organisations the JCWI, BME Lawyers 4 Justice, the Runnymede Trust, MPs and the All Parliamentary Group on Race who have been campaigning on these issues, and
2. the role the Caribbean High Commissions have played in lobbying the Government.

The council resolves to:

1. Write to the Home Secretary to support his actions and seek an update on the progress that has been made,
2. Fully support advice agencies in their work to achieve justice (and compensation for all losses, injury and damages to date where necessary) for all Merton residents of the Windrush generation,
3. Review our own policies and procedures to ensure we support those affected,
4. Support the government's policy of waiving all fees for naturalisation
5. Support the government's work to oppose the criminalisation of Windrush families.

Full Council 21st November

Amendment to Council Tax Support Scheme 2019/20 recommendations:

Recommendations:

1. That the uprating changes for the 2019/20 council tax support scheme detailed in the report be agreed, in order to maintain low council tax charges for those on lower incomes and other vulnerable residents

2. That Council adopts the new 2019/20 scheme.

3. That Council agrees to implement the council tax technical reforms concerning the increased empty property premium from 1 April 2019 and subsequent years following the amendments to Section 11B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

4. That, in order to ensure Merton is dealing fairly and equally with all local residents, Council asks officers to draw up a report based on the experience of other outer London boroughs, which outlines the various options available to Merton for the introduction of an alternative Council Tax Support Scheme in 2020/21 subject to consultation and operating in line with the principle that all households pay something towards the services for which they have a right to vote.

Recommendations now to read:

1. That the uprating changes for the 2019/20 council tax support scheme detailed in the report be agreed, in order to maintain low council tax charges for those on lower incomes and other vulnerable residents

2. That Council adopts the new 2019/20 scheme.

3. That Council agrees to implement the council tax technical reforms concerning the increased empty property premium from 1 April 2019 and subsequent years following the amendments to Section 11B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

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AMENDMENT TO NOTICE OF MOTION COUNCIL 21ST NOVEMBER 2018

Merton Council notes that as a result of the ongoing cuts by the Government, Merton schools:

-) Must bear the brunt of unfunded National Insurance increases
-) Will suffer inadequate High Needs Block Funding, leaving our most vulnerable pupils without the support they need

Despite this context of cuts, Council notes:

-) That 91% of Merton's schools have been rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, and results continue to improve.

Council regards:

-) The Chancellor's Budget announcement for £400 million for schools to spend on 'little extras' as insufficient compared to the £2.5 billion that has been cut since 2015. Furthermore, the £400 million is a one off payment so does not deal with the long term funding crisis in schools.

The Government's treatment of state education undermines the efforts of teachers, support staff, students and parents across the UK who work hard to maintain high standards. Therefore, Merton Council resolves:

-) To join other councils in resisting the Government's ongoing cuts to school budgets and call for more funding to be invested in education
-) To call on the Government to fully fund the pay increase for teachers that is independently recommended by the School Teachers' Review Body
-) To call on Cabinet to investigate all opportunities for using Community Infrastructure Levy or other funding to establish a "schools bonus fund" that can be used by schools to help maintain schools and improve their infrastructure.

Motion now to read:

Merton Council notes that as a result of the ongoing cuts by the Government, Merton schools:

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-) Will suffer inadequate High Needs Block Funding, leaving our most vulnerable pupils without the support they need

Despite this context of cuts, Council notes:

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Council regards:

-) The Chancellor's Budget announcement for £400 million for schools to spend on 'little extras' as insufficient compared to the £2.5 billion that has been cut since 2015. Furthermore, the £400 million is a one off payment so does not deal with the long term funding crisis in schools.

The Government's treatment of state education undermines the efforts of teachers, support staff, students and parents across the UK who work hard to maintain high standards.

Therefore, Merton Council resolves:

-) To join other councils in resisting the Government's ongoing cuts to school budgets and call for more funding to be invested in education
-) To call on the Government to fully fund the pay increase for teachers that is independently recommended by the School Teachers' Review Body
-) To call on Cabinet to investigate all opportunities for using Community Infrastructure Levy or other funding to establish a "schools bonus fund" that can be used by schools to help maintain schools and improve their infrastructure.

NOTICE OF MOTION COUNCIL

21ST NOVEMBER 2018

Merton Council notes that as a result of the Conservative ~~ongoing cuts by the~~ Government's Education reforms; ~~Merton schools:~~

) ~~Must bear the brunt of unfunded National Insurance increases~~

) ~~Will suffer inadequate High Needs Block Funding, leaving our most vulnerable pupils without the support they need~~

Despite this context of cuts, Council notes:

) That 91% of Merton's schools have been rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, and results continue to improve.

) 1.9 million more children are in Good or Outstanding schools compared to 2010;

) School funding will rise by £2bn over the next two school years, bringing the total annual investment in education to a record high of £43.5 billion in 2019/20;

) 15,500 new teachers have been hired since 2010.

Council regards:

) The Chancellor's Budget announcement for £400 million for schools as a clear sign of the Conservative government's commitment to education. ~~to spend on 'little extras' as insufficient compared to the £2.5 billion that has been cut since 2015. Furthermore, the £400 million is a one-off payment so does not deal with the long term funding crisis in schools.~~

The Government's reform ~~treatment~~ of state education has enabled thousands of children from deprived backgrounds to attend high quality academy schools. The system has been so successful that Merton Council has committed to establishing the Harris Academy in Wimbledon. ~~undermines the efforts of teachers, support staff, students and parents across the UK who work hard to maintain high standards.~~ Therefore, Merton Council resolves:

) To join other councils in resisting supporting the Government's ongoing reforms and record investment in state education. ~~cuts to school budgets and call for more funding to be invested in education~~

) To call on the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Education to write to the Secretary of State for Education supporting the ongoing reforms and the academy program. ~~Government to fully fund the pay increase for teachers that is independently recommended by the School Teachers' Review Body~~

Motion now to read:

Merton Council notes that as a result of the Conservative Governments Education reforms,;

) That 91% of Merton's schools have been rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted, and results continue to improve.

) 1.9 million more children are in Good or Outstanding schools compared to 2010;

) School funding will raise by £2bn over the next two school years, bringing the total annual investment in education to a record high of £43.5 billion in 2019/20;

) 15,500 new teachers have been hired since 2010.

Council regards:

) The Chancellor's Budget announcement for £400 million for schools as a clear sign of the Conservative government's commitment to education.

The Government's reform of state education has enabled thousands of children from deprived backgrounds to attend high quality academy schools. The system has been so successful that Merton Council has committed to establishing the Harris Academy in Wimbledon. Therefore, Merton Council resolves:

) To join other councils in supporting the Government's ongoing reforms and record investment in state education.

) To call on the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Education to write to the Secretary of State for Education supporting the ongoing reforms and the academy program.

COUNCIL MEETING – 21ST NOVEMBER
NOTICE OF MOTION – STRATEGIC THEME

Council notes that as an employer:

We are committed to:

-) promoting equality of opportunity and social inclusion
-) eliminating unlawful discrimination
-) promoting good relations between employees and communities of all backgrounds.

And we have made a commitment as a Disability Confident employer.

To further strengthen this work, this Council supports the Social Mobility Pledge and resolves to request the Cabinet to agree to its formal adoption:

Partnership

We will build on the work we do partnering with schools or colleges to provide coaching through quality careers advice, enrichment experience and / or mentoring to people from disadvantaged backgrounds or circumstances.

Access

We will further provide structured work experience and / or apprenticeships opportunities to people from disadvantaged backgrounds or circumstances.

Recruitment

We will adapt-continue to assess open-employee recruitment practises which-to ensure they promote a level playing field for people from disadvantaged backgrounds or circumstances.

Motion now to read:

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We are committed to:

-) promoting equality of opportunity and social inclusion
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Partnership

We will build on the work we do partnering with schools or colleges to provide coaching through quality careers advice, enrichment experience and / or mentoring to people from disadvantaged backgrounds or circumstances.

Access

We will further provide structured work experience and / or apprenticeships opportunities to people from disadvantaged backgrounds or circumstances.

Recruitment

We will continue to assess employee recruitment practises to ensure they promote a level playing field for people from disadvantaged backgrounds or circumstances.

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2018 NOTICE OF MOTION

Wimbledon Masterplan – making the decision democratically

Council Notes:

- The welcome publication of the draft Wimbledon Masterplan;
- That there have yes been ~~a strong public reaction~~ representations made to some elements of the Masterplan as part of the council engagement with local residents;
The plan sets out a clear vision and way forward for the town centre which will support economic growth and be a better place for residents, visitors and businesses to enjoy
- The comment from the Leader of the Council on Twitter that “We must look to other innovative Councils like @yourcroydon as we forge ahead to deliver a new Wimbledon” which recognises that business growth and regeneration are key to development of South London town centres;
- That following the current consultation, which includes scrutiny by the cross-party Borough Plan Advisory Committee, the Masterplan will be put to the Cabinet for approval;
- That none of the Cabinet represent a Wimbledon ward, however, Wimbledon centre benefits the entire borough and is the main retail and business centre for Merton; and
- That the draft Local Plan is, also out for consultation, and will be approved by the full Council
 -) The welcome extension of the consultation to 6th January 2019, allowing more people to respond in addition to the extensive engagement already undertaken by the council

Council believes:

- That Wimbledon town centre is a major shopping, commercial and leisure location for all our communities.
- That, following approval by the Cabinet, the decision on whether to approve the Wimbledon Masterplan should be taken by the full Council, in view of its strategic importance to the whole borough in the same way as the Local Plan.

Motion now to read:

Council Notes:

- The welcome publication of the draft Wimbledon Masterplan;
- That there have been representations made to some elements of the Masterplan as part of the council engagement with local residents;
The plan sets out a clear vision and way forward for the town centre which will support economic growth and be a better place for residents, visitors and businesses to enjoy
- The comment from the Leader of the Council on Twitter that “We must look to other innovative Councils like @yourcroydon as we forge ahead to deliver a new Wimbledon” which recognises that business growth and regeneration are key to development of South London town centres;

- That following the current consultation, which includes scrutiny by the cross-party Borough Plan Advisory Committee, the Masterplan will be put to the Cabinet for approval;
- That none of the Cabinet represent a Wimbledon ward, however, Wimbledon centre benefits the entire borough and is the main retail and business centre for Merton; and
- That the draft Local Plan is also out for consultation, and will be approved by the full Council
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