

Merton Council Council

12 July 2017

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06: Non ST Questions

From **Councillor Jerome Neil** to the **Leader**

Would the leader join me in congratulating both of our local MPs on their recent re-election?

Reply

I would certainly like to congratulate Siobhain McDonagh MP on her well deserved re-election in Mitcham and Morden with an increased majority which now stands at almost 21,500. She is an extraordinarily hard working and tenacious representative for her constituency. I also congratulate my own MP Stephen Hammond on his re-election in Wimbledon, albeit with his majority slashed by more than half to 5,500 votes. I am sure he will continue to serve his constituents to the best of his ability.

From **Councillor Abdul Latif** to the **Cabinet Member for Street Cleanliness and Parking**:

Merton Council has issued nearly 1,000 permits for diesel vehicles since introducing its diesel levy at the start of April 2017. The council estimates it will raise over £250,000 in the first year.

Can the Cabinet Member give an undertaking that some of the funds thus raised will be invested in purchasing new Air Quality Monitoring Equipment to reliably monitor Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) and Particulate Matter (PM10 and PM2.5)?

Reply

By law, any revenue generated from parking must be spent on transport related schemes. These include but are not limited to, traffic management and control schemes, road and infrastructure schemes and Concessionary Fares (ie the Freedom Pass).

With regards to air quality monitoring; I can confirm that air quality monitoring is taken very seriously. The problems relating to the older monitoring equipment are being addressed and the Pollution Team has successfully secured council funding for new equipment. The Pollution Team has also doubled the number of diffusion tubes in the borough to get a better assessment of air quality.

From **Councillor Mike Brunt** to the **Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance**

Could the Cabinet Member update us on the results of the Residents survey?

Reply

The most recent residents survey took place in February and March 2017 and as in previous year involved face-to-face interviews with a representative sample of more than 1000 adults.

06: Non ST Questions

The results of the survey show a record number of residents think Merton Council is efficient and well run (76%). The survey also reports record satisfaction rates among residents who agree the council is doing a good job, responds quickly when asked for help and involves residents when making decisions.

Over 90% of Merton residents are satisfied with the local area as a place to live, which is significantly better than the national figure (80%). Most residents (96%) feel safe during the day and after dark (85%).

Nearly two thirds of residents agree the council provides value for money (65%), well above the national figure (47%). Seventy-five percent agree the council acts on the concerns of local residents and 81% were in agreement that the council kept them informed about services and benefits.

Significantly more residents said they were satisfied with the leisure and sport facilities compared with when the council asked residents in 2014.

Resident satisfaction with all council services outweighed dissatisfaction. However, the survey will help us plan for improvements, as it highlights areas where high levels of satisfaction can still be improved upon. For instance, when asked how much of a problem litter was in their local area, 63% of residents said they did not think it was a problem and 37% said it was a fairly big or very big problem. We believe that even this good result can be improved upon, but recognise that the continued use of black bin bags in our refuse collection service constrains our ability to improve these satisfaction levels.

From **Councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender** to the **Cabinet Member for Street Cleanliness and Parking**:

Can the Cabinet Member tell me:

- a) How many elderly and disabled residents and those in receipt of qualifying state benefits were using the garden waste service on 1st April 2017 and have therefore lost their discount?
- b) How many of these residents have cancelled their garden waste collection since being informed they would lose the concessionary rate as from 1st April 2017?
- c) How much revenue has been lost as a result of residents cancelling the service since 1st April 2017 thereby offsetting any additional revenue due to be generated by the council as a result of the abolition of the concessionary rate?
- d) What assumptions were made about the cancellation rate that would result from the withdrawal of the concessionary rate when the decision on this was being taken by the administration?

Reply

06: Non ST Questions

- A) The chargeable garden waste service was introduced in 2011 with an annual subscription of £65. The fee has been fixed since 2011 with no inflationary increases. As of May 2017 we have 7,755 garden waste customers. 2,996 (38%) of these customers would have originally qualified for the concessionary rate.
- B) The garden waste service always experiences natural turnover of customers as residents move or their circumstances change. We have not carried out an analysis of how many customers joining or leaving the service fall into the different customer types. However, the overall number of customers continues to grow.
- C) We are not aware of any loss of revenue overall.
- D) It was assumed that this change would not result in cancellation levels that could not be offset against the continued growth of our customer base overall and a charging mechanism which offsets the operational cost of providing this non statutory service.

From **Councillor Abigail Jones** to **Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing**

Could the cabinet member update us on the AFC Wimbledon application?

Reply

The applicants are concluding their development agreement between each other and once this is concluded it will expedite signing the Section 106 agreement. Meanwhile the applicants have been undertaking other matters to ensure development can start swiftly such as engaging with Thames Water on drainage in the area and reviewing their road safety audits with council officers. Once the Section 106 agreement is signed, it will be uploaded on the council's website.

From **Councillor Brian Lewis-Lavender** to the **Cabinet Member for Community and Culture**:

There has finally been consultation undertaken with residents and park users on the administration's proposals to introduce parking charges at Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields. In view of the fact that:

- The original parking meter that the council put in place without consultation will now have to be changed to take the new pound coins;
- The white lines will need painting on parking bays;
- Money will need to be collected from the meter on a regular basis;
- The whole scheme will need policing; and
- The park risks being laid open to possible vandalism as a result of the money in the parking machines;

Can the Cabinet member put a price on how much this scheme will cost Merton to run each year in view of the relatively small amount of revenue it is likely to generate?

Reply

As the Councillor will no doubt be aware, there is an increasing problem of commuters parking their cars in car parks meant for users of our local parks and green spaces whilst they commute to work in central London. This ties up parking spaces all day that are meant for local residents who want to use our parks for a few hours to use our sporting facilities, walk the dog or just enjoy the fresh air. The introduction of parking charges at Joseph Hood is therefore intended to advantage ordinary park users who want to use the car park for an hour or two over commuters who want to use it all day.

Many of the issues the Councillor raises in his question apply to the parks and their car parks irrespective of whether or not there is pay-and-display parking present. The white lines in the car park at Sir Joseph Hood MPF have been repainted at regular intervals in the past, for example, and so this is not a new requirement. The income from the parking scheme will obviously assist and support the work of the Greenspaces team and provide an additional income stream to support our parks infrastructure, even if that is not the primary purpose of the scheme.

The scheme has involved several Council teams in its planning stages: Greenspaces, Parking Services and Traffic and Highways and their combined knowledge and experience has been pooled in its production and in order to ensure that it is both effective and cost-efficient.

The parking meters, for example, are solar-powered and their running costs are therefore minimal beyond their initial purchase price. Parking Services' Civil Enforcement Officer will be policing the scheme within parks as a small additional component of their very much wider parking control remit across the borough and, similarly, the cash collection needs will simply be absorbed within a pre-existing borough-wide contract that services a number of venues and facilities, including the borough's parking meters. All-in-all, the additional cost of each individual additional machine will be extremely small in this context. But of course the most beneficial aspect of the scheme is that it will discourage commuters from taking up car park spaces all day and allow residents to enjoy our local parks and greenspaces.

From Councillor Sally Kenny to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing

Would the cabinet member update us on plans to regenerate Morden?

Reply

Morden town centre is this administration's regeneration priority and good progress has been made this year. The FutureMerton team have recently completed the restoration of the Morden Court Parade using funding from the Mayor of London. This scheme is a marked change in quality and the perception of Morden, where the project has revealed the art-deco detailing and created new shop fronts and signage. The project wasn't without its challenges as it involved council officers working with 65 different land owners. The council has received positive feedback on this project which shows that we're off to a good start with Morden.

06: Non ST Questions

The wider regeneration scheme is complex and time-consuming. The Council is working in partnership with TFL to develop a strategy for how both the Council and TFL will form a partnership to deliver a comprehensive regeneration project in Morden. This month, we have appointed consultants to advise LBM and TFL on the best form of partnership and the best procurement process so that we can jointly appoint a development partner to lead on the delivery of Morden.

There is a lot of work underway in the background and we will be providing regular updates at the Overview and Scrutiny Panel prior to any decision making on Morden's Regeneration.

Our vision for MoreMorden has been refreshed and received great support from Mayor Sadiq Khan and Val Shawcross, GLA Member for Transport. The Council is also finalising the first phase of design work and traffic modelling work to determine the scope for removing Morden's one-way system, viable options for relocating the bus stands and the creation of a new public space at Morden Station.

Keep updated at www.merton.gov.uk/moreMorden

From **Councillor Jill West** to the **Cabinet Member for Street Cleanliness and Parking**:

Can the Cabinet Member tell me:

- a) How many people have been successfully fined and prosecuted for fly tipping in Merton since the new powers came in on 9th May 2016 enabling councils to issue on the spot fines of up to £400?
- b) What percentage of these fines has so far been paid?

Reply

- a) A total of 28 fixed penalty notices (FPN) of £400 each have been issued since 9th May 2016 to current date.
- b) Payment has been received on 43% of these FPNs. We have at least 5 FPNs currently going through the payment timescale to pay.

From **Councillor Brenda Fraser** to the **Cabinet Member for Street Cleanliness and Parking**

Could the cabinet member give details of when the council last reviewed its policy on crossovers?

Reply

TO BE ANSWERED BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION,
ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING

Merton Council last undertook a full review of the Council's Crossover Policy in June 2007 with minor amendments in 2013. A Sustainable Communities Overview &

06: Non ST Questions

Scrutiny Task Group has been established to review Merton 's policy in comparison with neighbouring boroughs. We are mindful of seeking to strike the right balance between accommodating parking needs and the visual and environmental impact on the front gardens and Merton's street scene.

07a_Member Questions ST

From **Laxmi Attawar** to the **Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing**

Given the tragic events at Grenfell tower in Kensington and Chelsea has the cabinet member taken steps to ensue Merton residents in high rise flats are not at risk.

Reply

The council has sought and received assurances from all housing associations in the borough that have tall buildings that they are complying with DCLG guidance and required actions on carrying out appropriate Fire Safety checks following the Grenfell tower fire. I have met with senior managers at Clarion Housing who have confirmed that their tall buildings have recent Fire Risk Assessments and they are also doing an additional review of fire safety in these buildings. The council has also sought assurances from owners/managing agents for buildings in private ownership that they too are complying with DCLG guidance and required actions. As Cabinet member I have personally been briefed on several occasions and assured myself that officers are undertaking all that our residents would expect.

From **Councillor Linda Taylor** to the **Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing**:

Has a full review of all housing association buildings in Merton been undertaken since the Grenfell Tower disaster in Kensington and Chelsea?

Reply

See response to Question above.

From **Councillor Agatha Akyigyina** to the **Leader**

Would the Leader join me in sending our respects to those affected by the recent terror attacks, including on Manchester, London Bridge and Finsbury Park?

Reply

Like all of us in this chamber I was deeply shocked and saddened by the terror attacks in the last few months. After each of these attacks I sent mine and the council's sympathies and those of the people of Merton to those affected, their families and friends. In Merton we have made time to remember all of those affected, including by holding minutes silences outside the civic centre and opening books of condolence. I would particularly like to thank local faith leaders who have helped us in standing up to hate in society and in focusing instead on all that we have in common.

From **Councillor David Simpson** to the **Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Engagement and Equalities**:

Given the recent reports that Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has been planning for the last 6 months to close half of London's police stations, can the Cabinet Member

update me on what this means for Mitcham's front counter which will in all likelihood be affected by this decision?

Reply

As Cllr Simpson will be aware, the Met has already seen the government slash its funding by 20% and now needs to make a further £400 million of savings by 2021, as a result of demands placed upon them by the Government. Although the Mayor Sadiq Khan took the hard decision to increase the GLA levy to help pay for more policing, the Government provides the vast majority of the Met's funding and continued underfunding will mean more front counters closing (in addition to the closure of almost half of front counters under the previous Conservative mayor) in order maintain police officer numbers and keep Londoners safe from crime.

No decisions have been made as to which front counter services will remain 24/7 and/or what timescales the police are working to on this. Currently Merton police are undertaking a needs assessment looking at demand at the two stations for front counter use. The Mitcham office is open Monday-Friday 09:00-17:00 as opposed Wimbledon 24/7

Until we know what the engagement routes will be from MOPAC and/or the police, and until we know when a decision will be made it is not possible to comment on the long term use of the front counter in Mitcham.

From **Councillor Joan Henry** to the **Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Engagement and Equalities**

Would the cabinet member update us on how safe Merton is compared to other London boroughs?

Reply

Merton remains the third safest borough in London. Data obtained for the 12 month period to the end of June 2017 shows that whilst overall crime is going up across the capital the rate of increase in Merton is less than the London average and less than the 3 neighbouring boroughs of Wandsworth, Kingston and Sutton. Merton, along with Kingston and Sutton, is in the bottom quartile for levels of total notifiable offences (TNO) and offences of violence against the person (VAP) recorded.

From **Councillor Stephen Crowe** to the **Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing**:

Can the Cabinet Member confirm:

- a) Whether a review of building control enforcement has taken place by the London Borough of Merton since 14th June?
- b) How many building control officers Merton currently has in post and how many vacancies?

Reply

- a) Assuming this relates to Grenfell: The Building and Development Control Manager has been working very closely with Merton's 'Action' group looking into the issue and we have written to all private building owners over 6 storey's in the borough. In addition, there is a very close watching brief being undertaken nationally including by the profession to ensure findings as they arise, are disseminated.
- b) 3.5 in post. 3 vacancies.

From **Councillor Stan Anderson** to the cabinet member for **Community Safety, Engagement and Equalities**

With the rise in terrorist attacks could the Cabinet Member outline how in Merton we work to ensure all our communities work together to combat hate?

Reply

Safer Merton holds the portfolio for hate crime. The recent terrorist attacks have not resulted in any increases in Merton's reported hate crime which is different to that seen after the vote to leave the EU. Safer Merton have undertaken a piece of analysis to look at hate crime reports and, working with communities, a four-year hate crime strategy has been developed and published on the website. Safer Merton and the community safety partnership are working with community leaders and partners to ensure that the profile of hate crime is raised and that we set ourselves targets in regard to engaging communities to come together and report hate crime. A hate crime working group, made up of a range of community organisations oversees the delivery of the hate crime strategy holding the council, our statutory partners and each other to account in its delivery. In October we will undertake a range of community engagement work through hate crime awareness week and this will be promoted far and wide to maximise direct face to face engagement and support from our partner agencies.

From **Councillor Michael Bull** to the **Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing**:

What can Merton Council do to ensure that appropriate fire regulations are enforced and being properly complied with in the borough, especially on housing association estates and properties?

Reply

The enforcement role for Fire Safety in the borough is with the London Fire Brigade via the Fire Regulatory Reform Order. There is a team of officers from across the council working collaboratively, and in liaison with the London Fire Brigade, to monitor Fire Safety compliance in the borough for housing associations and private landlords of tall buildings in the borough.

From **Councillor Mary Curtin** the **Cabinet Member for Street Cleanliness and Parking**

How safe are Merton residents when it comes to the quality of the air we breathe?

Reply

Air quality is a concern across the whole of the UK with 59% of the population estimated to live in areas with illegal levels of air pollution. As with many other London Boroughs and urban areas Merton exceeds the annual legal levels of pollution for Nitrogen Dioxide, which primarily emanates from diesel vehicles. These exceedances are almost entirely around some of our main highways and this is why we have introduced a new diesel levy which discourages diesel vehicles in our borough.

Compared to a number of other London boroughs, Merton has a relatively good record on tackling air pollution, but we should not be complacent and we must take the action we can as a local authority and work with other Councils, the GLA and the Government to tackle this problem. National government has a particularly important role as of course air pollution cannot be stopped at borough, city or county boundaries but requires a comprehensive whole-country approach.

The health impact of these pollutants is very complex and determined by exposure, age and any underlying health issue. However children are particularly at risk as their lungs are underdeveloped and exposure to high levels of pollutants may lead to issues such as asthma. This is why the Mayor of London has introduced clean air audits for London schools in the top air quality hotspots in order to identify practical steps that can be taken to reduce children's exposure to pollutants.

Merton's Pollution Teams produces an Annual Status Report on Air Quality in the Borough which is published on our website and gives a detailed update on the work we are doing to address what has been termed a national health emergency.

**COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 12 JULY 2017
ITEM 7C
LABOUR AMENDMENT**

That the words underlined are inserted and the words struck through are deleted:

Whilst This council ~~welcoming~~ welcomes the first Residents' Survey to have been conducted in Merton for 3 years (due to our previous survey company discontinuing this service); ~~this Council and~~ notes the record results Merton has achieved including:

- Record number of residents who think Merton Council is efficient and well run (76%).
- Record satisfaction rates among residents who agree the council is doing a good job.
- Record satisfaction rates among residents who agree the council responds quickly when asked for help.
- Record satisfaction rates among residents who agree the council involves residents when making decisions.
- 92% of Merton residents are satisfied with the local area as a place to live, which is significantly better than the national figure (80%).
- Nearly two thirds of residents agree the council provides value for money (65%), well above the national figure (47%).
- 75% agree the council acts on the concerns of local residents and 81% were in agreement that the council kept them informed about services and benefits, both well ahead of national results.

Council congratulates all our officers, Councillors and partners on these results but most importantly thanks our many residents, including school governors, street champions and community volunteers, who contribute to making Merton such a great place to live.

Council also notes the following results in relation to anti-social behaviour (ASB) from the recently published 2017 Residents' Survey:

- Most residents (96%) feel safe during the day and after dark (85%), and these results are higher than those found nationally.
- Almost all residents (93%) agreed that their local area is a place where people from different ethnic backgrounds get on well together.
- Residents in both Wimbledon and Colliers Wood town centres are more likely than the borough average to be concerned about people being drunk or rowdy in public places, although by definition a borough average figure will include areas that are above and below this benchmark. Residents in Wimbledon are most likely to feel safe and satisfied overall with where they live and all areas are more safe and satisfied than the national figures.
- Groups hanging around the streets are cited as a big problem by 27% of residents in Wimbledon town centre and by 28% of residents in Ravensbury,

Cricket Green and St Helier wards, although over 72% do not cite this as a problem.

- There is an above the borough average level of concern in Ravensbury, Cricket Green and St Helier wards about vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property/vehicles (with 17% of residents citing this as a big problem and 83% not citing it as a problem) and also about noisy neighbours or loud parties (with 22% of residents reporting this as a problem and 78% not), although by definition a borough average figure will include areas that are above and below this benchmark.
- People using or dealing drugs is described as a major concern by significant numbers of residents both in Colliers Wood town centre (18%) and in Ravensbury, Cricket Green and St Helier wards (18%), although this is not reflected in reported drugs related crime or ASB in the borough which is low.
- 63%~~37%~~ of all residents ~~cite~~ do not see rubbish or litter lying around as a big problem in their local area, although 37% do cite it as a problem with this increasing to almost half of all respondents (49%) in Wimbledon town centre and two thirds (66%) in Ravensbury, Cricket Green and St Helier wards. The administration is therefore determined to address this by introducing a new wheeled bin service to reduce the problem of litter strewn on our streets due to foxes attacking black sacks.
- 84% of young people said they were satisfied about how Merton Council runs things, with just 4% dissatisfied. The three issues young people in Merton are most concerned about are gangs (29%), crime (24%) and litter/dirt in the streets (23%).

Merton remains the third safest borough in London but we must not be complacent and it is clear that anti-social behaviour and low level crime of the kind described above is of considerable concern to many some residents in Merton, and particularly those living in and around our town centres. This is may be borne out by the increased number of eases-reports received each year by Merton's Anti-Social Behaviour team, which has increased by 43% since 2013-14 (from 547 to 781 cases in 2016-17), although neighbour disputes and dog fouling are the most significant areas of increase, and 300 of these referrals were not actually ASB cases and were referred on (we have a policy of recording all reports even where they prove not to have been ASB).

This Council recognises that it has a responsibility, working in close partnership with the local police, to better-continue to use the significantly reduced resources at its disposal due to central government cuts to continue our close partnership work through the Safer Merton partnership to combat the various issues of concern highlighted by the Residents' Survey, particularly in and around the town centres.

This Council welcomes the purchase of three mobile CCTV cameras for deployment to areas where ASB and/or low level crime is occurring - as set out in the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission on 6 July 2017 - and given the significantly reduced resources at our disposal due to government cuts ~~believes would welcome government funding to enable~~ Merton ~~should seek~~ to further expand its enforcement activities in order to maximise the possibility of taking action against those who commit these acts of anti-social behaviour.

This Council therefore calls on the Cabinet to look at identifying any further government funding for increasing the use and number of mobile cameras deployed in ASB hotspots around the borough as a cost effective way of supporting the local community and providing much needed reassurance to those affected, bearing in mind the many competing demands on resources in a time of government austerity cuts.

Motion now to read:

This council welcomes the first Residents' Survey to have been conducted in Merton for 3 years (due to our previous survey company discontinuing this service) and notes the record results Merton has achieved including:

- Record number of residents who think Merton Council is efficient and well run (76%).
- Record satisfaction rates among residents who agree the council is doing a good job.
- Record satisfaction rates among residents who agree the council responds quickly when asked for help.
- Record satisfaction rates among residents who agree the council involves residents when making decisions.
- 92% of Merton residents are satisfied with the local area as a place to live, which is significantly better than the national figure (80%).
- Nearly two thirds of residents agree the council provides value for money (65%), well above the national figure (47%).
- 75% agree the council acts on the concerns of local residents and 81% were in agreement that the council kept them informed about services and benefits, both well ahead of national results.

Council congratulates all our officers, Councillors and partners on these results but most importantly thanks our many residents, including school governors, street champions and community volunteers, who contribute to making Merton such a great place to live.

Council also notes the following results in relation to anti-social behaviour (ASB) from the recently published 2017 Residents' Survey:

- Most residents (96%) feel safe during the day and after dark (85%), and these results are higher than those found nationally.
- Almost all residents (93%) agreed that their local area is a place where people from different ethnic backgrounds get on well together.
- Residents in both Wimbledon and Colliers Wood town centres are more likely than the borough average to be concerned about people being drunk or rowdy in public places, although by definition a borough average figure will include areas that are above and below this benchmark. Residents in Wimbledon are most likely to feel safe and satisfied overall with where they live and all areas are more safe and satisfied than the national figures.
- Groups hanging around the streets are cited as a big problem by 27% of residents in Wimbledon town centre and by 28% of residents in Ravensbury,

Cricket Green and St Helier wards, although over 72% do not cite this as a problem.

- There is an above the borough average level of concern in Ravensbury, Cricket Green and St Helier wards about vandalism, graffiti and other deliberate damage to property/vehicles (with 17% of residents citing this as a big problem and 83% not citing it as a problem) and also about noisy neighbours or loud parties (with 22% of residents reporting this as a problem and 78% not), although by definition a borough average figure will include areas that are above and below this benchmark.
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- 63% of all residents do not see rubbish or litter lying around as a big problem in their local area, although 37% do cite it as a problem with this increasing to almost half of all respondents (49%) in Wimbledon town centre and two thirds (66%) in Ravensbury, Cricket Green and St Helier wards. The administration is therefore determined to address this by introducing a new wheeled bin service to reduce the problem of litter strewn on our streets due to foxes attacking black sacks.
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Merton remains the third safest borough in London but we must not be complacent and it is clear that anti-social behaviour and low level crime of the kind described above is of considerable concern to some residents in Merton, and particularly those living in and around our town centres. This may be borne out by the increased number of reports received each year by Merton's Anti-Social Behaviour team, which has increased by 43% since 2013-14 (from 547 to 781 cases in 2016-17), although neighbour disputes and dog fouling are the most significant areas of increase, and 300 of these referrals were not actually ASB cases and were referred on (we have a policy of recording all reports even where they prove not to have been ASB).

This Council recognises that it has a responsibility, working in close partnership with the local police, to continue to use the significantly reduced resources at its disposal due to central government cuts to continue our close partnership work through the Safer Merton partnership to combat the various issues of concern highlighted by the Residents' Survey, particularly in and around the town centres.

This Council welcomes the purchase of three mobile CCTV cameras for deployment to areas where ASB and/or low level crime is occurring - as set out in the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission on 6 July 2017 - and given the significantly reduced resources at our disposal due to government cuts would welcome government funding to enable Merton to further expand its enforcement activities in order to maximise the possibility of taking action against those who commit these acts of anti-social behaviour.

This Council therefore calls on the Cabinet to look at identifying any further government funding for increasing the use and number of mobile cameras deployed in ASB hotspots around the borough as a cost effective way of supporting the local community and providing much needed reassurance to those affected, bearing in mind the many competing demands on resources in a time of government austerity cuts.

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COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 12 JULY 2017
ITEM 10
LABOUR AMENDMENT

That the words underlined are inserted and the words struck through are deleted:

This Council welcomes the public meeting held recently by local campaign group, Clean Air Merton, to discuss how best to tackle the serious problem of air pollution in the borough which is part of a London-wide and indeed global problem as acknowledged by a key note Speaker at the meeting, Andrea Lee, Healthy Air Campaigner for ClientEarth, who said: “Without national action, there is not much hope for local action to succeed.” Council also welcomes the work the council’s Air Quality Steering Group has undertaken to draft Merton’s updated Air Quality Action Plan 2017-2022 which will shortly be out to public consultation. ~~and Council~~ notes with concern that:

- 1) Over 12,000 people in Merton are estimated to be exposed to ~~toxic~~ unacceptable levels of pollution, and nationally more than 38 million people, or 59.3% of the UK population, are living in areas where levels of nitrogen dioxide pollution are above legal limits;
- 2) Various locations in Colliers Wood (Western Road and Colliers Wood High Street), Mitcham (London Road and Church Road), Morden (Crown Lane and London Road) and Wimbledon (The Ridgway, Merton Road and Haydons Road) exceed the legal nitrogen dioxide legal annual limit of 40 ug/m3, as do various locations in every single London borough. Council welcomes the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan’s plans to establish a ultra low emissions zone;
- 3) 13 out of the 390 nurseries, and schools, further education colleges and after schools clubs across the borough are situated in areas ~~with illegal air quality~~ where the levels of nitrogen oxide from traffic exceeds the annual legal limit, which at 3% is a lower percentage than our neighbouring boroughs of Kingston, Wandsworth, Richmond and Croydon but slightly above Sutton at 2%, and reflects a nation-wide problem with more than 2,000 schools around England and Wales located near roads with illegal and dangerous levels of emissions from diesel cars. This council welcomes the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan’s decision to fund new ‘air quality audits’ for the 50 most affected primary schools in London that will identify new hard-hitting measures to protect pupils from poor air quality; and
- 4) Plans submitted to Merton Council for construction of a concrete batching plant at Waterside Way have led to a large number of objections citing the potential adverse impact on the air quality in neighbouring residential streets and at the nearby primary school and children’s playground. An air quality assessment has been submitted as part of the application and it will be considered by the Planning Applications Committee in the usual manner, with impact on surrounding traffic and air quality planning concerns that will be taken into account.

Emissions from road traffic, [specifically diesel emissions](#), have been identified as a major source of pollution in the borough [and nationally](#) and this Council recognises that Merton has sought in recent years to address levels of air pollution by encouraging local motorists to switch to less polluting vehicles. This has been through various measures, including the installation of a network of electric vehicle charging points; a reduction in the cost of parking permits for electric cars; provision of more on-street cycle parking facilities; and a year's free membership to an electric car club for Merton residents. [However the most innovative and far reaching policy decision the council has taken has been to implement a new diesel surcharge that recognises the disproportionate impact of diesel vehicles on air quality. Council is pleased that the Mayor of London is considering whether similar moves could be made on a pan-London level.](#)

However, this Council understands that, whilst local authorities are already responsible for improving air quality in their area, under the government's proposed new air quality plan they will now be expected "to develop new and creative solutions to reduce emissions as quickly as possible, while avoiding undue impact on the motorist". [This council believes that although local authorities like Merton can have an impact locally, air pollution is a national problem that requires national solutions and council is concerned that the government has had to be instructed by the courts to produce plans and on two occasions their draft plans have been deemed so inadequate as to be illegal. This council believes that air quality needs to be addressed by a comprehensive national strategy underpinned by the core principle that "the polluter pays" and that the government could "avoid undue impact on the motorist" by introducing a diesel scrappage scheme.](#)

Given the above, this Council welcomes the work being undertaken in this area both by the borough's Air Quality Task Group, which was established through Scrutiny last year, and by council officers working on the refresh of the Air Quality Action Plan. It is clear there is still more that can and must be done to improve air quality across Merton, particularly by looking at the following:

- Tackling congestion hotspots in the borough and focusing on the worst-offending areas for air pollution, [which is already a key part of Merton's Draft Air Quality Action Plan](#);
- Introducing anti-idling measures as has been done in neighbouring Wandsworth, [which is already in the Draft Air Quality Action Plan](#);
- [Expanding-Continue](#) the use of air quality monitoring equipment [which has been doubled in the borough](#), including ~~to these locations, such as at~~ Plough Lane, where monitoring ~~is no longer taking place~~ [has been reintroduced, and invest in our automated monitoring equipment which has now become outdated](#);
- Initiatives to incentivise cycling and walking as alternative means of transport and to promote car sharing, [which is already in the Draft Air Quality Action Plan](#);
- ~~A further reduction in T~~ the parking permit charge for electric vehicles, [which has already been reduced](#), as part of a comprehensive emissions based parking scheme;

- Ensuring that our procurement policies include clean transport criteria
Cleaning up the many diesel vehicles that form the majority of now that
contracted services have significantly reduced Merton's own
transport fleet and lobbying supporting the Mayor of London's plans for
cleaner buses and an end to the expensive diesel-emitting Routemaster
buses favoured by his Conservative predecessor; and
- Increased co-operation across the South West London sub-region on air
quality;
- Include air quality as a priority in the Council's Local Plan and review the
planning process to ensure that we deliver the best outcomes for the borough
in terms of development and air quality.

This Council therefore resolves to redouble its efforts to tackle air pollution and the danger it poses to the health of Merton's residents, and it calls on the Cabinet to:

a) Call on government to publish a national air quality strategy based on the
principle that the polluter pays;

b) Call on government to introduce a new Clean Air Act;

a)c) Continue to Look at new and bold ways that the borough can address
this issue, in conjunction with the Mayor of London and national government,
for incorporation into the 2017-22 Air Quality Action Plan due to go out for
public consultation this year; and

b)d) Ensure as planned that this consultation is widely promoted and
publicised by the Council and that ideas and suggestions to improve air
quality are encouraged from individuals, residents' associations, local
campaign groups, community organisations and business representatives
right across Merton for consideration prior to final adoption of the new Action
Plan.

Motion now to read:

This Council welcomes the public meeting held recently by local campaign group, Clean Air Merton, to discuss how best to tackle the serious problem of air pollution in the borough which is part of a London-wide and indeed global problem as acknowledged by a key note Speaker at the meeting, Andrea Lee, Healthy Air Campaigner for ClientEarth, who said: "Without national action, there is not much hope for local action to succeed." Council also welcomes the work the council's Air Quality Steering Group has undertaken to draft Merton's updated Air Quality Action Plan 2017-2022 which will shortly be out to public consultation. Council notes with concern that:

- 1) Over 12,000 people in Merton are estimated to be exposed to unacceptable levels of pollution, and nationally more than 38 million people, or 59.3% of the UK population, are living in areas where levels of nitrogen dioxide pollution are above legal limits;
- 2) Various locations in Colliers Wood (Western Road and Colliers Wood High Street), Mitcham (London Road and Church Road), Morden (Crown Lane and London Road) and Wimbledon (The Ridgway, Merton Road and Haydons Road) exceed the legal nitrogen dioxide legal annual limit of 40 ug/m3, as do

- various locations in every single London borough. Council welcomes the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan's plans to establish a ultra low emissions zone;
- 3) 13 out of the 390 nurseries, schools, further education colleges and after schools clubs across the borough are situated in areas where the levels of nitrogen oxide from traffic exceeds the annual legal limit, which at 3% is a lower percentage than our neighbouring boroughs of Kingston, Wandsworth, Richmond and Croydon but slightly above Sutton at 2%, and reflects a nation-wide problem with more than 2,000 schools around England and Wales located near roads with illegal and dangerous levels of emissions from diesel cars. This council welcomes the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan's decision to fund new 'air quality audits' for the 50 most affected primary schools in London that will identify new hard-hitting measures to protect pupils from poor air quality; and
 - 4) Plans submitted to Merton Council for construction of a concrete batching plant at Waterside Way have led to a large number of objections citing the potential adverse impact on the air quality in neighbouring residential streets and at the nearby primary school and children's playground. An air quality assessment has been submitted as part of the application and it will be considered by the Planning Applications Committee in the usual manner, with impact on surrounding traffic and air quality planning concerns that will be taken into account.

Emissions from road traffic, specifically diesel emissions, have been identified as a major source of pollution in the borough and nationally and this Council recognises that Merton has sought in recent years to address levels of air pollution by encouraging local motorists to switch to less polluting vehicles. This has been through various measures, including the installation of a network of electric vehicle charging points; a reduction in the cost of parking permits for electric cars; provision of more on-street cycle parking facilities; and a year's free membership to an electric car club for Merton residents. However the most innovative and far reaching policy decision the council has taken has been to implement a new diesel surcharge that recognises the disproportionate impact of diesel vehicles on air quality. Council is pleased that the Mayor of London is considering whether similar moves could be made on a pan-London level.

However, this Council understands that, whilst local authorities are already responsible for improving air quality in their area, under the government's proposed new air quality plan they will now be expected "to develop new and creative solutions to reduce emissions as quickly as possible, while avoiding undue impact on the motorist". This council believes that although local authorities like Merton can have an impact locally, air pollution is a national problem that requires national solutions and council is concerned that the government has had to be instructed by the courts to produce plans and on two occasions their draft plans have been deemed so inadequate as to be illegal. This council believes that air quality needs to be addressed by a comprehensive national strategy underpinned by the core principle that "the polluter pays" and that the government could "avoid undue impact on the motorist" by introducing a diesel scrappage scheme.

Given the above, this Council welcomes the work being undertaken in this area both by the borough's Air Quality Task Group, which was established through Scrutiny

last year, and by council officers working on the refresh of the Air Quality Action Plan. It is clear there is still more that can and must be done to improve air quality across Merton, particularly by looking at the following:

- Tackling congestion hotspots in the borough and focusing on the worst-offending areas for air pollution, which is already a key part of Merton's Draft Air Quality Action Plan;
- Introducing anti-idling measures as has been done in neighbouring Wandsworth, which is already in the Draft Air Quality Action Plan;
- Continue the use of air quality monitoring equipment which has been doubled in the borough, including at Plough Lane, where monitoring has been reintroduced, and invest in our automated monitoring equipment which has now become outdated;
- Initiatives to incentivise cycling and walking as alternative means of transport and to promote car sharing, which is already in the Draft Air Quality Action Plan;
- The parking permit charge for electric vehicles, which has already been reduced, as part of a comprehensive emissions based parking scheme;
- Ensuring that our procurement policies include clean transport criteria now that contracted services have significantly reduced Merton's own transport fleet and supporting the Mayor of London's plans for cleaner buses and an end to the expensive diesel-emitting Routemaster buses favoured by his Conservative predecessor; and
- Increased co-operation across the South West London sub-region on air quality;
- Include air quality as a priority in the Council's Local Plan and review the planning process to ensure that we deliver the best outcomes for the borough in terms of development and air quality.

This Council therefore resolves to redouble its efforts to tackle air pollution and the danger it poses to the health of Merton's residents, and it calls on the Cabinet to:

- a) Call on government to publish a national air quality strategy based on the principle that the polluter pays;
- b) Call on government to introduce a new Clean Air Act;
- c) Continue to look at new and bold ways that the borough can address this issue, in conjunction with the Mayor of London and national government, for incorporation into the 2017-22 Air Quality Action Plan due to go out for public consultation this year; and
- d) Ensure as planned that this consultation is widely promoted and publicised by the Council and that ideas and suggestions to improve air quality are encouraged from individuals, residents' associations, local campaign groups, community organisations and business representatives right across Merton for consideration prior to final adoption of the new Action Plan.

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COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 12 JULY 2017
ITEM 11
LABOUR AMENDMENT

That the words underlined are inserted and the words struck through are deleted:

This Council recognises that, whilst it is Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) that commissions support for people with neurological conditions, including Motor Neurone Disease (MND), many decisions about services used by residents with MND, such as social care, housing adaptations and support for carers, are made here at local authority level.

Given these overlapping responsibilities of both health and local authorities, this Council therefore resolves to ask Merton's Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) to consider adopting the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Charter, which sets out the care and support that people living with MND and their carers deserve and should expect, including the right to an early diagnosis which is primarily a health matter, along with other commitments including the right to access quality care and treatments which covers both health and social care, and the right to be treated as individuals and with dignity and respect which should be common to all services.

~~In adopting~~If the HWB recommends the adoption of the MND Charter, this Council agrees to promote the Charter within the borough and to make it available to all councillors, council staff, partner organisations and health and social care professionals who deliver services for the council. This will serve to raise awareness of MND and demonstrate what good care looks like for those living with this devastating disease. It will also assist the council, working closely with Merton CCG, positively to influence the quality of life for local people with MND and their carers living in our community.

Motion now to read:

This Council recognises that, whilst it is Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) that commissions support for people with neurological conditions, including Motor Neurone Disease (MND), many decisions about services used by residents with MND, such as social care, housing adaptations and support for carers, are made here at local authority level.

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If the HWB recommends the adoption of the MND Charter, this Council agrees to promote the Charter within the borough and to make it available to all councillors, council staff, partner organisations and health and social care professionals who deliver services for the council. This will serve to raise awareness of MND and demonstrate what good care looks like for those living with this devastating disease. It will also assist the council, working closely with Merton CCG, positively to influence the quality of life for local people with MND and their carers living in our community.