

Merton Council Council

13 September 2017

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From: Derek Manning

To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Environment and Housing

Does the Council agree the importance of preserving the few remaining aspects of Lord Nelson's estate in South Wimbledon? If so, will the Council agree to add the cottages from his estate at 34 - 40 Morden Road to its local listing of heritage assets?

Reply

Merton Council recognises the importance of heritage buildings and the contribution they make to the local character and quality of our neighbourhoods.

Morden Road cottages have been assessed for Local Listing but do not meet our established criteria. This assessment has been accepted by the cross-party Borough Plan Advisory Panel, Cabinet and Full Council in July council which decided agreed not to list Morden Road cottages.

The decision reports are available at
<https://democracy.merton.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?AllId=7423>

The council does however recognise that the cottages have some heritage value and would encourage the sympathetic refurbishment of these cottages is so that they might be able to be positively considered for addition to the local List in the future.

From: Nicholas Waring

To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Environment and Housing

Will the Council contact the owners of these buildings (The Parade, 284-296/319-333 Haydons Road) to encourage the enhancement of this part of the historic Haydon Park Estate, through the use of section 215 powers of the T&CP Act 1990, and creation of a Heritage Action Zone?

Reply

The use of 215 powers would only be relevant if the Council believed that the condition of the buildings posed a threat to public safety or caused significant harmful effects to the local area. We have not been formally made aware of any such issues for the Parade on Haydons Road.

Applications for Historic England's heritage action zone programme have closed but tend to be aimed at the revival of whole town centres or villages rather than individual parades.

The Council's regeneration team have a programme of shop-front improvement grants available to business who wish to improve their premises. This largely depends on the will of the building owners and business who we will approach.

From: Richard Hilton

To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Environment and Housing

Have Merton Council and their partners, Clarion, checked who lives in affordable homes in the borough? Do you check if there is sub letting going on and how satisfied are you with the rigour of such checks. How does Merton ensure only those legally entitled to be here get access to these homes?

Reply

Clarion takes a robust approach to illegal sub letting and works closely with the south west London fraud partnership to tackle housing fraud. All tenants are required as a condition of their tenancy to occupy their homes as their main and principal home and if they fail, without reasonable reasons then an eviction can be sought through the courts. During 2016/17 there were 163 investigations of housing fraud carried out by Clarion and 12 properties were recovered.

The Council is also required to carry out relevant enquiries into relevant matters when a person seeks accommodation. These enquiries include checking whether a person is homeless, is not subject to certain immigration rules that deny them access to housing, has a priority need for accommodation, is not homeless intentionally and has a local connection with the authority.

From: David Calliard

To the Cabinet Member for Street Cleanliness and Parking

What concrete plans and actions do the Council have in place or considering to deal with the litter problem in our public places and residential streets. The situation has got worse over the last year. Inertia on this issue from our council has been staggering.

Reply

Research carried out by the Tidy Britain Group on behalf of the council, indicated that as much as 50% of all street waste arising in residential roads can be attributed to the black sack and box collection schemes operated within Merton. In October 2018 we will be introducing a wheelie bin collection service which will greatly reduce the level of street blown litter from the boxes and torn black sack waste created by foxes and other animals.

We have now contracted this service to Veolia who are responsible for ensuring that Town Centres and residential roads are swept to the required standard. The contractual standards for street cleaning reflect best practice from Defra's Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse. The contract is based on an output specification requiring the contractor maintain consistent standards across the entire borough. This is a move away from a frequency based approach where standards can fall between sweeps without any obligation on the contractor to resolve the issue.

To achieve this consistent standard of cleansing, Veolia use a number of different methods of cleaning the streets and alter the frequency depending on the footfall and

littering of the area concerned. Street operatives conduct manual litter picking and broom sweeping alongside mechanical and electrical sweepers which provide an efficient and effective way to lift litter and detritus from Merton's streets.

In order to hold the contractor to account we have created a new Neighbourhood Client Team who undertake site inspections and work closely with the contractor's Area Managers to ensure that service standards are maintained and any rectifications are addressed in line with our contractual agreements. They also undertake visits and walk-about with local ward Members who have concerns about littering in their area in order to address the issues in a proactive manner.

Clearly residents and visitors to Merton also have a responsibility to keep the borough clean. We continually run communications campaigns to remind them of their responsibilities as well as highlighting the potential fines for littering. We use our own Enforcement Officers to issue fixed penalty notices to discourage littering as well as using an Environmental Enforcement Contract to focus on high footfall areas in our town centres.

Local Members and communities will also be aware that we encourage and support community litter picks to enhance the boroughs' cleansing programme. We also work with other land owners and partners such as Housing Associations to clear their land and maintain a high standard of cleansing across the borough.

From: Tung Shun Leung
To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Environment and Housing

At the moment the Morden regeneration plans include the Baitul Futuh Mosque. Is it likely it will be demolished?

Reply

The Baitul Futuh Mosque in Morden currently has permission to demolish the fire-damaged parts of the building facing London Road. This is to clear the site, ready for re-building.

There are pre-planning discussions underway with the Council for the re-building of the mosque but it is completely separate from Morden's regeneration plans.

From: Sandra Vogel
To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Environment and Housing

What is the methodology for assessing the economic, social and environmental impact of the new bus street through Mitcham town centre, what baseline is being used to measure the relative success of the bus street and when will this assessment will be published?

Reply

The council will use data gathered as at the start of the rediscover Mitcham project which also formed part of the TfL business case. The review will not be conducted until after the project has ended, and a suitable monitoring period has passed. It's anticipated this will be undertaken mid-late 2018.

From: Gemma Illsley

To the Cabinet Member for Street Cleanliness and Parking

Is it possible to, and if so how do we, apply for funding for planters on the corner of Haydon Park Road and Haydons Road?

Reply

Please contact future.merton@merton.gov.uk with details of the proposal. Our Regeneration and Highways team will consider the feasibility, maintenance and any funding opportunities available to assist with the request.

From: Tony Burton

To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Environment and Housing

To ask Merton Council whether it will provide a map and details of the area of green space in Mitcham town centre to be registered as Town Green as part of Rediscover Mitcham and a timetable for this registration?

Reply

The registration of the green spaces is not currently the main priority at this stage of the Rediscover Mitcham project as we focus on completing the roadworks and public realm upgrades. As part of the project we have made a commitment to protect the new green spaces and will do so post-construction. The task will be added to the work programme towards the end of 2018.

From: John Davis

To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Environment and Housing

Will Merton Council identify the Tree Preservation Orders in force in

(a) Cricket Green ward and

(b) Mitcham Cricket Green Conservation Area,

and ensure that all planning applications, before being assessed, accurately show tree species and positions on submitted plans?

Reply

A list of all our TPO's are available to view on the website. If from this list there are any particular ones that Mr. Davis would like to see the map of the TPO, then he can view them via Merton Link who keep copies of all the TPOs.

In terms of accuracy of tree plans, we endeavour to ensure that applicant's provide an arboricultural impact assessment and tree survey. The excerpt always includes an accurate plan showing the locations of all the trees.

From: Anthony Fairclough
To the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

Enabling residents to quickly and easily report problems in their area is key to a well-run council, yet I was recently told that Merton's online "report it" page is not "fully integrated", nor "fully operational". How long has this been the case and when will it be fixed?

Reply

Our aim, in line with our Customer Contact and IT Strategies, is that any request made through the website reaches the service area or contractor as quickly as possible and in many cases almost immediately in real-time through the integration of IT systems. Some processes are currently fully integrated and link with the contractors' systems – several were rolled out over the latter half of last year and early part of this year. Others are still in development with a plan in place for high volume requests to be integrated by the new year. In the meantime work-around procedures are in place to ensure the contractor receives the request in a timely manner and acts on it.. We welcome reports from our residents and encourage them to use our on-line reporting forms which are designed to be easier and more convenient to use than phoning the Council.

From: Mrs Nicola Thompson
To the Cabinet Member for Street Cleanliness and Parking

In the five years I have lived nearby, I have never seen a car club vehicle using the allocated 'car club' space at the Haydons Road end of Cromwell Road. At what point will this space be made available for residents' parking instead, which is in short supply here?

Reply

In Merton (end of July 2017) there were in excess of 3450 car club members in the borough. This represents a 50% year on year increase in the number of Members in the borough. This was largely driven by the recent launch of Zip Car flex. More broadly across the boroughs where Zipcar Flex is operating at present (Merton, Wandsworth, Lambeth and Southwark) there are now around 40,000 Zipcar members. Flexi members can also use vehicles parked in dedicated car club bays. Other major operators such as Enterprise Car and DriveNow are also expected to expand their operations across London, including Merton over the coming year.

It should be noted that many car club members choose to give up a vehicle thereby reducing car ownership and potentially reducing traffic congestion. Car club members also drive less. Indeed, independent surveys indicate that each flexible car club car can replace 13.4 vehicles from the road. Car club vehicles are also cleaner

and on average produce 29% less CO2 than private vehicles so have less impact on air quality.

Given the expansion and success of car clubs, the council has no plans to remove any existing facilities. It should be noted that car clubs do monitor their vehicle activity / usage and any reported inactivity is addressed accordingly.

From: Andrew Boyce

To the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

There is much anger at this Council's contempt for South Wimbledon's heritage by effectively gifting Merton Hall to a church for its own political ends. At the time of writing, a petition has amassed some 1800 signatures. Given current public opposition, will the Council now abandon this ludicrous proposal?

Reply

The Council, at present has no plans to abandon the proposals for Merton Hall as it is part of a wider project to create essential school places for our borough. We recognise, however, that there is substantial support for the fantastic work of the Elim church, including running the borough's foodbank, and that this work will be able to continue if the application is approved. We also recognise the massive support for a new secondary school, which will be located at the Elim church's current site should this application be approved. We believe that the application is sympathetic to the existing purpose of Merton Hall, which is to provide community services for the borough, and note that the plans have had a glowing "green" report from the borough's design review panel, which is in itself an unusual occurrence and is very welcome, and demonstrates that supporters of the scheme are very conscious of South Wimbledon's heritage, which includes providing sensitively-designed, high-quality buildings that help deliver charitable services for the least off in the borough.

We await the outcome of Planning Application Committee with reference to Merton Hall specifically. To date we have not received the petitions that have been drafted in favour and against the application, and signed by people living inside and outside of the borough, but will consider their merits once submitted as part of the application.

From: Edward Gretton

To the Cabinet Member for Street Cleanliness and Parking

Parking meters/ticket machines across the Borough require exact coins, returning neither change, nor crediting full parking time when excess payments are made. Will the Council immediately end this practice and ensure all meters/machines return the correct change, or alternatively credit the full and proper parking time against monies paid.

Reply

The pay and display machines currently in use throughout the London Borough of Merton cannot be configured to give change. Moving to machines that can give customers change would require replacing all of the pay and display machines throughout the borough. The cost of this would exceed £1m.

In addition, change giving machines would require engineers to be available to rectify machine faults at all times the machines are in operation which is from 5.00am to 11pm Monday to Saturday and 8am to 6pm on Sundays. The expected cost to this would be in excess of £100k pa.

Overpayments can be made as it is understood that motorists may not always have the correct change for parking. Because motorists are not permitted to park and then seek change, allowing overpayments allows motorists to pay for the time they require.

All on street pay and display machines operate on a linear price structure. This means that if the cost to park at a location is 1 pence per minute, and a motorist pays using a £1 because that is the only coin they have, they will receive 100 minutes of parking time, subject to any maximum stay restrictions.

Pay and Display machines in council run car parks do not currently operate linear price structures, however, this is currently under review.

In response to requests from member of the public for other payment options to use when using pay and display parking, motorists are able to use the Ringo pay by phone service to purchase time at pay and display locations, both on and off street, throughout the borough.

From: Phil Ling

To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Environment and Housing

Council figures state that from April 2016 to March 2017, 260 social housing properties were let. How many new households joined the Housing Register during that same period?

Reply

During the period, April 2016/2017 1079 new households joined the Housing Register.

From: Emily Robertson

To the Cabinet Member for Education

For each of the last 5 years, how many Merton schools have set deficit budgets, and how many schools have set deficit budgets for more than 1 year running?

Reply

The number of schools with outturn deficits for the past four years and budget deficits for 2017/18 is as follows:

Description	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Schools with deficits	2	2	2	4	5
Schools with deficits for more than 1 year	2	1	0	1	4

The council works in partnership with schools experiencing deficits to develop and deliver an appropriate recovery plan.

From: Simon McGrath

To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Environment and Housing

Housing Supply task group Recommendation 13 says a Council property company should "ensure that it meets Council policy on affordable housing.....that it provides above and beyond the baseline of 40% affordable housing", yet Merton's has proposed only 26% affordable housing. How then can you say this recommendation been achieved?

Reply

The Council's affordable housing [Policy CS8] states that the council will;

Aim for the borough-wide affordable housing target of 40% which is equivalent to the numerical target of 1,920 affordable homes in Merton for the period 2011- 2026.

In seeking affordable housing provision we will have regard to site characteristics such as site size, site suitability and economics of provision such as financial viability issues and other planning contributions.

The exact level of affordable housing to be achieved through the Council's Property Company sites will be determined through the planning application process and justified by an independent viability assessment, as required by the Council's planning policies and in line with the Mayor of London's recently published guidance.

From: Christine Matthews

To the Cabinet Member for Street Cleanliness and Parking

Can the council please explain how the new service for residential street cleaning is organised?

Reply

In April 2017 we commissioned a new contractor, Veolia, to undertake the waste collection and street cleaning across the Borough. In line with their bid submission, Veolia have implemented a neighbourhood approach to deliver the street cleaning

operations. Each neighbourhood has an associated team of Veolia operatives and an Environmental Manager overseeing and co-ordinating their work. This approach contributes towards building knowledge and a sense of pride amongst the neighbourhood team. The Environmental Managers become familiar with the requirements of the area and apply their resources accordingly.

The contract requires Veolia to maintain a consistent standard of cleanliness across the whole borough in line with best practice from Defra's Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse. This approach measures the contractor based on their output rather than the amount of resources they use or the frequency at which they clean the streets. In order to achieve the required standard, the contractor is required to apply whatever resources, at whatever frequency, are required to maintain the necessary contractual standards. In practice, this means the contractor will apply more resources to town centres than residential areas even though the contract requires the streets in both areas to be maintained to the same standard. To achieve this consistent standard of cleansing, Veolia use a number of different methods of cleaning the streets and alter the frequency depending on the footfall and littering of the area concerned.

Street operatives conduct manual litter picking and broom sweeping alongside mechanical and electrical sweepers which provide an efficient and effective way to lift litter and detritus from Merton's streets. In order to hold the contractor to account we have created a new Neighbourhood Client Team who undertake site inspections and work closely with the contractor's Area Managers to ensure that service standards are maintained and any rectifications are addressed in line with our contractual agreements. They also undertake visits and walk-about with local ward Members who have concerns about littering in their area in order to address the issues in a proactive manner.

**From: Vincent Bolt,
To the Cabinet Member for Education**

How much demand is there in Merton for the new 30 hours of free childcare and how many places are available?

Reply

TO BE ANSWERED BY THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

In 2016 the DFE estimated that should all the Merton parents of 3 and 4 year olds wish to take up the provision then Merton would require 1630 places. In June 2017 there were 108 providers who confirmed their intention to deliver the 30 hours, providing an estimated 1043 places. However Merton provision is not exclusively used by Merton residents and some of our residents take up provision closer to their work location. Some parents will not wish to take up the offer in full or in part. As a new initiative, we are not expecting a full take up of the 30 hour offer, and we will be working towards this over the next few years.

It will take some time to assess the popularity and take up of the offer and the private, voluntary and maintained sectors will want to adapt to the volumes as they become clearer.

From: Carl Quilliam
To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Environment and Housing

When will Merton council have a completed local plan and what provisions will it have to provide land for self-build projects for local people?

Reply

Merton Council has a completed Local Plan as follows.

Merton's Local Plan consists of the following plans:

- Core Planning Strategy (2011)
- South London Waste Plan (2012)
- Sites & Policies Plan (2014)
- Estates Local Plan (2017 emerging)

We will be initiating a review of our Local Plan in December 2017.

We keep a register of people who are interested in self-build or custom build projects in Merton. Between April and 31 October 2016, 194 individuals and two organisations joined the register.

By signing up, you will help us find out more about the demand for custom and self-build plots in Merton, where people would like their plot to be and the type of house that they would like to build.

We will use the information to explore ways in which it might be possible to bring together people or organisations on the register and landowners who have potential sites for sale or rent for self build or custom housebuilding. Registration does not however guarantee that a suitable plot will be identified, or that land will become available.

Register at:

<https://www2.merton.gov.uk/environment/planning/self-build-register.htm>

From: Dolores O'Donoghue
To the Cabinet Member for Street Cleanliness and Parking

The welcome introduction of metered parking in Morden Hall Park has moved inconsiderate commuter parking to Morden Hall Road and The Drive. Congestion and tailbacks have created problems during quieter holiday period. Once the schools go back it will get worse. How do the Council intend to address this?

Reply

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

We are aware of the obstructive parking that has occurred on Morden Road and have now implemented parking restrictions which came into effect last week.

From: Emma Maddison

To the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Given the high number of new mothers who struggle with breastfeeding and the closure of many drop-in support centres over the last few years, how is the council supporting women in the borough to access breastfeeding support?

Reply

Increasing breastfeeding forms part of our Child Healthy Weight Action Plan. Merton's Annual Public Health Report 2016/17 - *Tackling Childhood Obesity Together*, sets out our commitment to reducing childhood obesity and promoting breastfeeding contributes to this.

The focus of our plans include maintaining the evidence-based Unicef 'Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) Level 3' accreditation for our community health services commissioned by the Council, which few areas have achieved. The Unicef BFI accreditation ensure that our community Health Visiting services are trained to a high level and the service is assessed to ensure mothers are supported with their feeding, given useful and accurate information and that parents are supported to recognise the importance of bonding and relationships and how to build these. Our universal Health Visiting services have 5 mandated contacts with families (Antenatal, 10-14 days after birth, 6-8 weeks, 1 year and 2 years). The service is currently setting up antenatal contacts with pregnant women to support women to develop an earlier relationship with their health visitors. There are also a number of Child Health clinics in the borough, which are open for women to attend and receive additional support where they may have any concerns – details are available at:
<https://fsd.merton.gov.uk/kb5/merton/directory/family.page?familychannel=5>

A new Infant Feeding Coordinator will also be starting in post in September and a Merton Infant Feeding Steering group has been established which will guide the work to increase and maintain breastfeeding rates in the borough. In Merton at 6-8 week, the latest data shows 74% of women are totally or partially breastfeeding. In general, Merton has relatively higher breastfeeding rates than other areas in London and England (based on reported data), however, we understand that more can be done. Therefore, through the work of the Infant Feeding Steering Group, actions and progress locally on improving breastfeeding rates and the support to women will be monitored.

From: Barry Smith

To the Cabinet Member for Regeneration Environment and Housing

With the increased commercialisation of building control services, how is the council ensuring that building work is actually meeting the building regulations set by the

government, as opposed to being signed off on the basis of industry standards and opaque industry tests?

Reply

The council's profession Building Control team has a duty to rigorously inspect any of the applications they are dealing with and ensure the Building regulations are complied with. The council do not inspect works undertaken by private Approved Inspectors, as those inspectors are responsible for ensuring Building Regulations are adhered to for their own projects.

From: Klaartje Dresselaers
To the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

Does the council have maternity, paternity & parental leave policies in place that cover all council staff, councillors and cabinet members?

Reply

The Council has maternity, paternity and parental leave policies in place covering council staff. Merton Council does not have maternity, paternity and parental leave policies in place for councillors; such provision would be a matter for the political group to which the councillor belonged, but we encourage groups to take a forward-thinking approach when these issues arise to ensure sufficient cover is provided to colleagues who need to take leave due to parental activities, without reducing the level of service provided to our constituents.

From: Somayeh Aghnianejad
To the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance

Does the councillors expenses allowance cover childcare costs?

Reply

A Dependent Carer's Allowance is available to councillors as set out in Part 6 of the Council's constitution:
<https://democracy.merton.gov.uk/documents/s12268/ConstitutionPart62016.pdf>
Councillors may claim this allowance as reimbursement of costs they incur for looking after children (under the age of 16) or dependent relatives whilst carrying out an approved duty, usually attending evening meetings. Details of all claims paid are included in the report on member allowances and expenses that is published on the council's website.

06: Non ST Questions

From Cllr David Chung to the Leader of the Council

Could the Cabinet Member update me on the plans to build a new secondary school in South Wimbledon?

Reply

The requirement to open Harris Wimbledon for September 2018 is essential as we will have an additional 250 children leaving LB Merton Primary Schools next summer requiring a secondary school place. Harris Wimbledon Academy is advertised to open in September 2018 for two years at Whatley with the new school building at High Path, South Wimbledon to be open in September 2020.

The council is working hard to provide a clear site at High Path so that the ESFA can build the permanent school on time including the progression of a complex land assembly. This involves finalising the relocation of the High Path Day Centre, the purchase of the Domex industrial unit and exchanging one freehold site for an equivalent to support the relocation of Elim Church. Members will be aware that Merton Hall on Kingston Road SW19 is the only viable location following extensive research by external consultants and the EFA. Following concerns raised by the planning committee, officers have worked hard with their design consultants to ensure that a revised scheme can meet the initial concerns of the planning committee and have received a 'green' rating from the independent design review panel regarding the revised design. We also have clear assurance from Elim that the building will remain open for community use lettings when not required by the church

The ESFA are now working with two preferred contractors on the design of the new school at High Path and we expect, subject to the Planning Committee's decision on 21 September, that there will be a community consultation on the permanent new school design in November or December 2017.

From Councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Engagement and Equalities:

Please can the Cabinet Member provide details of all unauthorised traveller encampments in Merton over the past 2 years together with the costs incurred in dealing with these by both the council and the police (including officer time as well as property damage and clean up operations)?

Reply

Sixteen unauthorised traveller encampments were recorded in Merton since September 2015 but I cannot guarantee knowledge of all unauthorised traveller encampments as some may have taken place on private land and council officers may not have received notification. In addition I have no information on the private landowners costs or police costs. Council officers do not log their time and in the time available it has not been possible to obtain costs from the MPS for their time and effort in dealing with these nor the cost of clearance. Further detail will be provided if and when available.

- September 2015. Segas Site, Western Road, Mitcham. Private site.

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- February 2016. Rear of Pets at Home, Bushey Road, Shannon Corner. Private Site.
- August 2016. Morden Park Playing Fields.
- August 2016. Halfords Car Park, Streatham Road, Mitcham. Private site.
- August 2016. Cricket Green, Mitcham.
- August 2016. Land adjoining Vestry Hall, Mitcham.
- September 2016. Car Park adjoining Hillcross Depot, Hillcross Road, Morden.
- September 2016. Figges Marsh, Streatham Road, Mitcham.
- October 2016. Pitch 9, Brickfield Road Traveller Site, Wimbledon.
- November 2016. Halfords Site, Streatham Road, Mitcham. Private site.
- January 2017. Ruach City Church, Turle Road, Streatham. Private Site.
- February 2017. Rear of former Nurdin and Peacock building, Bushey Road, Shannon Corner. Private site.
- June 2017. Cannon Hill Common, Cannon Hill Lane, Morden.
- July 2017. Rear of White Hart Public House, London Road, Mitcham. Private site.
- August 2017. Cranmer Green, Cranmer Road, Mitcham.
- August 2017. Cannon Hill Common, Cannon Hill Lane, Morden.

From Cllr Dennis Pearce to the Cabinet Member for Education

Could the cabinet member outline how we work with our schools to improve performance?

Reply

The Council has a School Improvement Strategy which it has agreed with schools. The strategy sets out the Local Authority's (LA's) principles, aims, priorities and mechanisms to ensure that all Merton schools are supported and challenged to continue to improve and to provide the best possible education for the children and young people in their care.

The Council has a range of services working within the strategy, led by the School Improvement team, providing the support and challenge required to secure the best outcomes. The School Improvement team comprises inspectors and advisors who both work in schools and provide universal, central support, (mostly through continuing professional development opportunities). Other officers from a variety of teams provide support for behaviour, IT, Looked After Children, safeguarding, governors, attendance, exclusions, traveller pupils, admissions and data analysis.

All schools are linked to an inspector, and receive at least two visits a year. During these visits, inspectors seek to work as closely as possible with school leaders in the individual context of each school, focusing on the areas covered by the Ofsted framework, including safeguarding. Advisory support is also available for all schools from the MSI team.

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Where schools are evaluating themselves to be less than good, or where the Local Authority has concerns about performance, support from the inspector increases. Advisors also provide targeted support for these schools.

Schools where significant concerns are identified also work with the LA through the mechanism of Support and Challenge Groups. These groups, chaired by the Head of School Improvement, challenge and hold the school to account for improvements required in line with the school's action plan/development plan, and ensure that support for the school is effectively co-ordinated, and broker additional support where needed.

From Councillor Janice Howard to the Cabinet Member for Community and Culture:

Can the Cabinet Member update me on the popularity of the borough's paddling pools with residents this summer?

Reply

The attraction of these facilities is generally very weather-dependent and the general impression of officers in Greenspaces is that overall numbers were down on 2016 due to the fact that the weather was not especially favourable during the core weeks of the summer this year. On those days when the sun shone and the ambient temperatures were in the 20-30 degrees range then attendances, most especially at the more popular venues at Wimbledon Park, Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields and at Tamworth Recreation Ground, were good and typically measured in the hundreds per day. Obviously on days of inclement weather the sites are less popular and can be entirely empty

From John Sargeant to the Cabinet Member for Community and Culture

The Eastern Electrics event which was held in Morden Park on 5 August was hailed as a success by local news organisations. We would support the council seeking opportunities to raise the profile of Morden and to raise funds from appropriate outdoor events where the financial risk is borne by external organisations.

While we welcome the fact that council officers are preparing a report to learn lessons from the event, can the Cabinet Member tell us how many people attended, whether any arrests were made in the vicinity of the event and how many complaints were received from members of the public?

Reply

Teams across the Council worked hard to ensure the Eastern Electrics event at Morden Park was safe and secure. They worked closely with the police and the event organisers to carefully manage noise pollution, food hygiene, litter and anti-social behaviour associated with large crowds. The event was subject to close scrutiny by the Licensing Committee and restrictions were put on the event to limit its numbers to 17,000 and reduce the times at which loud music could be played. Our enforcement officers ensured these limits were adhered to and we appreciate the

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efforts of the event organisers to follow these restrictions as well as manage the behaviour of the crowds. Overall the event was a success and proved popular. However, in line with best practice, our officers are of course reviewing the event and identifying lessons to be learned to ensure the safety and success of any future events.

The official attendance figure for the event was 15,995, of which no arrests were made.

The number of complaints received by the Council subsequent to the event was 16

From Cllr Pauline Cowper to the Leader of the Council

Could the Leader comment on whether he has met with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime regarding their Public Access and Engagement consultation.

Reply

I can confirm to Cllr Cowper that I did indeed meet with MOPAC and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Sophie Linden in June regarding their current consultation. The Deputy Mayor outlined to me the severe pressures the Met is under with a significant cut in their government funding. They are in a similar position to the council with huge losses in funding meaning difficult decisions need to be considered in order to protect front line services, which for the police means protecting frontline police officer numbers. However I am very clear that in Merton we need both our police stations, in Wimbledon and in Mitcham, and I strongly believe that London deserves sufficient government funding to protect police stations as well as "bobbies on the beat."

From Councillor James Holmes to the Cabinet Member for Education:

Can the Cabinet Member update me on the expansion of secondary schools in Merton including funds deployed to date and the planned construction at school sites?

Reply

The administration's strategy for school expansion is to expand schools in the east as needed to meet demand, and to facilitate the Harris Wimbledon Academy in the South Wimbledon area. I have updated Cllr Chung with regard to the detail on the new school but the expenditure to 31 August 2017 is £6.71 million, largely on the purchase of the Domex site at High Path in the last financial year. Local parents are very supportive of the new school which will offer their children more opportunities to attend a good quality state funded local secondary school at a time of increased demand. As part of the land assembly for the new schools we are also moving the High Path Day Centre to an improved site, with service users and carers involved in the plans for what the new centre will offer. The Elim church is planning to move to Merton Hall as part of the scheme and I am pleased this excellent local faith group will be continuing their work in the local community, (subject to planning consent) including running the Wimbledon Food Bank from the new site.

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The other mainstream secondary school expansion currently in process is the expansion of Harris Academy Merton. The capital project is almost completed and the scheme expenditure up to 31 August 2017 is £2.23 million.

There have been substantial improvements at the Harris schools since they were introduced, with GCSE grades increased significantly since 2006 and the new Harris Primary recently rated Outstanding by Ofsted. I would like to thank Lord Harris and his team led by Dan Moynihan for their efforts in the borough.

From Cllr Brenda Fraser to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Could the Cabinet Member comment on how we have focused on improving outcomes in adoption and fostering?

Reply

In 2012 Ofsted found our work in adoption and fostering to both be "Good". Fostering is now no longer inspected separately but I am delighted that Children's Services received an overall "Good" judgement again this year and that our Adoption Services were found to be "outstanding". Continuous improvement is our stated ambition for all our children's services and I'm delighted that Ofsted concluded: "Exceptional leadership and governance and strong frontline management ensure that children's services are consistently good. All children receive a good service and some receive an outstanding service. Inspectors saw that significant and sustained improvements have been achieved since the last inspection in 2012." The Director and her team have maintained this continuous improvement through a robust approach to quality assurance and regular self-evaluation with service improvement plans for key services to ensure that we continue to press for further improvements to deliver our ambitions for our children and for their improved outcomes. With regard to fostering and adoption specifically we have continued to recruit and retain excellent foster carers and to ensure we have robust and timely plans to achieve permanence for our children. Year on year we have improved our performance on a range of adoption performance indicators and I am particularly proud that the report noted..." Adoption performance is outstanding, with all children requiring adoption currently being placed and no children waiting."

From Councillor Michael Bull to the Cabinet Member for For Adult Social Care And Health

Over the summer, has the Council been undertaking any activity to ensure that residents take appropriate protective action during periods of hot weather and that those who are vulnerable to heat are protected?

Reply

In the event of particularly hot or cold temperatures we write to our care providers advising them to take appropriate action to protect those that they care for. In the case of hot weather, this includes ensuring that the care for person is in a comfortable environment and has ready access to water. If they have concerns about someone, carers alert health as appropriate.

From Cllr Sally Kenny to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
With “bridging the gap” a core strategic aim of the council, what measurements are used to determine progress with bridging the gap in public health services in Merton

Reply

With “bridging the gap” a core strategic aim of the council, what measurements are used to determine progress with bridging the gap in public health services in Merton.

The Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) is the overarching set of indicators which public health uses to help us to understand how well public health is being improved and protected in the borough. Where possible, we look at this data at sub-borough level, to tell us how we are doing on closing the gap between the most deprived and the least deprived areas in Merton, for instance looking at differences in life expectancy between east and west over time.

Closing the gap in health inequalities in Merton is the overarching aim of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2018, and includes a number of metrics that monitor the differences between east and west Merton, for instance:

- Gap between the percentage of 10-11 year olds who are obese between east and west
- Gap in alcohol-related harm between east and west

The Public Health team commissions a number of services covering children and young people (e.g. Health Visiting and School Nursing) through to adults and older people (e.g. Substance Misuse services, Befriending services). Commissioning is based on an assessment of need (through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) process), including looking at where the inequalities are in access to services and in health outcomes, and provider performance is then monitored through metrics such as service activity and health outcomes, broken down by factors such as age, sex and where service users live, to assess whether services are meeting need.

However, it must be recognised that the public health budget is relatively small compared to council spending and that of other partners such as the NHS, and the evidence tells us that the influence of the ‘broader determinants of health’ (such as where people live, their socioeconomic status, their access to education, employment and training, etc) are more important than health services in ensuring a healthy population. Therefore delivery of public health services on their own will not close the gap; more influential is a ‘Health in All Policies’ approach, so the Public Health team are also working cross-council and with partners to ensure that the impact of broader public sector spend is health-promoting and appropriately targeted to need.

The Director of Public Health has a statutory duty to produce an independent Annual Public Health Report (APHR). Tackling health inequalities is selected as the focus for the 2017/18 report – it will analyse the trends in health inequalities in Merton (between the 30% most and 30% least deprived wards in Merton), and look at the

06: Non ST Questions

potential closing the gap through focusing specifically on the broader determinants of health. This year's APHR will provide the baseline for the refresh of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, informing priority setting to achieve increasing impact at scale. The APHR will be published towards the end of the financial year 2017/18.

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From Cllr Mary Curtin to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing

Will the cabinet member give the current numbers in temporary accommodation and how it compares to other London boroughs?

Reply

As at the end of July 2017, Merton had 180 households living in temporary accommodation. This is the lowest in London, save the City of London, and reflects the Councils work on homelessness prevention. Below is a summary of performance for all London Boroughs for those in temporary accommodation published by the DCLG at the end of Q1 2017 which shows 54,283 in London; the figures in our neighbouring boroughs are as follows: Lambeth 1,992, Wandsworth 1,490, Sutton 534, Kingston 671, Richmond 259 and Croydon 2,449. These numbers change regularly as new households enter temporary accommodation and others are either rehoused or leave temporary accommodation.

London borough	All temporary housing types
Barking and Dagenham	1,844
Barnet	2,757
Bexley	1,017
Brent	2,915
Bromley	1,439
Camden	390
City of London	18
Croydon	2,449
Ealing	2,233
Enfield	3,244
Greenwich	520
Hackney	2,900
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,264
Haringey	3,147
Harrow	758
Havering	738

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Hillingdon	660
Hounslow	853
Islington	806
Kensington and Chelsea	1,849
Kingston upon Thames	671
Lambeth	1,992
Lewisham	1,864
Merton	186
Newham	4,457
Redbridge	2,308
Richmond upon Thames	259
Southwark	1,805
Sutton	534
Tower Hamlets	2,114
Waltham Forest	2,299
Wandsworth	1,490
Westminster	2,503
Total	54,283

Data source:

<http://opendatacommunities.org/slice?dataset=http%3A%2F%2Fopendatacommunities.org%2Fdata%2Fhomelessness%2Fhouseholds-accommodated%2Ftemporary-housing-types&http%3A%2F%2Fopendatacommunities.org%2Fdef%2Fontology%2Ftime%2FrefPeriod=http%3A%2F%2Freference.data.gov.uk%2Fid%2Fquarter%2F2017-Q1>

From Councillor David Simpson to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing:

Would the Cabinet Member please inform me how many times each of the new electric charging points around the borough have been used since they came on stream and the total revenue thus far raised?

Reply

The Council currently does not have up to date information of the number of times electric vehicles charges points have been used since they were commissioned, but will request this information from Source London (bluepoint) for circulation to members. All the charge points are privately owned and provided at zero cost to the council.

From Cllr Kelly Braund to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing

What is the likely financial impact on the council following the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act?

Reply

The Council supports the Homeless Reduction Act approach to tackling homelessness which focuses on prevention and early intervention . The Council, alongside other London Boroughs, is working with London Councils to ensure that it receives the correct level of funding so as to provide the best possible way of meeting our residents needs and has undertaken a survey on the potential financial impact which includes data on current caseload, prevention activity and potential changes on how we give advice following the implementation of the HRA.

From Councillor Daniel Holden to the Cabinet Member for Street Cleanliness and Parking:

Can the Cabinet Member provide figures for the number of missed a) residential and b) commercial waste collections for each complete month since the new contract with Veolia came into place on 1st April and how that compares to the number of missed residential and commercial waste collections in the months immediately prior to the handover to Veolia?

Reply

It is very important to me and my officers to provide residents with a high quality recycling and waste collection service that is reliable and provides them with the opportunity to recycle as much waste as possible. Unfortunately sometimes things do go wrong and the Council takes every report of a missed bin seriously. Our teams work alongside our waste collection contractor to investigate waste collection issues in order to resolve them quickly for our residents. Officers work hard to keep the number of missed bins as low as possible.

The way in which missed bins are recorded differs depending on: the method used to define a missed bin; the ease at which a resident can report a missed bin; and the technology used by the collection crews to record a missed bin. Since the new collection contract and improvements to our website, we have changed the way we define a missed bin; made it is easier for residents to report missed bin collections on-line; and greatly enhanced the recording systems through the use of in-cab, real-time technology. All of these innovations help our crews to miss fewer bins, identify when a bin has been missed, and react more quickly to reports of missed bins.

However, as a result of these changes, the data we hold in relation to missed bins is not directly comparable with data prior to the start of the new contract.

Owing to these changes, we are still verifying the numbers of missed bins recorded in each month. The data needs to be cleansed to remove reports which do not reflect a failure on behalf of the contractor and therefore were not accurate reports of a missed collection. When this process is complete, we expect to be able to release the missed bin figures since the contract began.

The commercial waste service operates in a different manner and missed bins are not recorded by the Council. This service is delivered by Veolia directly to their customers and as such, reports of missed bins do not come to the Council.

Cllr Joan Henry to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing

How is the cabinet member planning to bridge the gap in terms of providing additional affordable housing in Merton?

Reply

Affordable homes are being built across Merton including more than 100 soon-to-be-completed affordable new houses and flats across two sites in Colliers Wood (Christchurch Road and Western Road); 20 new affordable homes across two sites in Burlington Road more than 30 affordable homes across Mitcham including at Preshaw Crescent and Commonsides East. As part of Clarion Housing Group's estate regeneration, the council will be able to access more than 60 homes which will help to further reduce the number of families in temporary accommodation. Officers continue, through their negotiations with developers and investors, to maximise the amount of affordable housing delivered in each scheme.

From Councillor Stephen Crowe to the Cabinet Member for Street Cleanliness and Parking:

How many people came to help with the latest round of litter picks in Merton?

Reply

We are grateful to the many residents who help to keep our borough clean either by using our bins, taking their litter home with them or by litter picking their local area.

Our biggest litter picking event is the annual Big Clean in March. This year, 205 took part in the weekend clean up across the Borough. We are also very proud and grateful to the 60 regular volunteers who are out during the week litter picking; I am sure there are many more who go out unbeknown to us and I am grateful for their efforts too.

During the summer, we have also had approximately 60 children taking part in litter picks through the Junior Citizen scheme and 20 kids from Pollards Hill Youth Centre took part in a litter pick in August.

We continue to encourage and support community litter picks. We can provide advice on carrying out the exercise safely as well as providing litter pickers, hi-viz jackets and collecting the waste after the event if we are informed where it is. If groups are interested in organising a litter pick, please email environmental.development@merton.gov.uk or call 0208 545 3173

From Cllr Philip Jones to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing

Can the cabinet member update council on the regeneration of High Path, Ravensbury and Eastfields estates?

Reply

In July 2017 the independent planning inspector chaired public hearings to examine the council's Estates Local Plan for the regeneration of Eastfields, High Path and Ravensbury. The inspector will now decide on any amendments he would like to make to the council's Estates Local Plan and consult with residents on these. Meanwhile Merton's Planning Applications Committee have resolved to approve Clarion Housing Group's plans for Phase 1 developments in High Path and Ravensbury. Clarion Housing Group intend to submit more detailed applications for each estate during 2018.

From Councillor Suzanne Grocott to the Cabinet Member for Street Cleanliness and Parking:

Can the Cabinet Member tell me how many new wheeled bins the Council estimates it will need in order to introduce its new waste collection arrangements across the borough as from October 2018 and will he provide the relevant workings?

Reply

Under the current proposal for changes in waste collection, households will continue to receive weekly collections, with two collections (food and recycling) one week and three collections (food, recycling and general waste) on alternate weeks. Each household will be provided with one wheelie bin for non-recyclable household waste along with a wheelie bin for paper and card; they will continue to use their existing recycling box for plastics, glass and cans.

Based on 2 wheelie bins per property we estimate that this will equate to c127,384 wheelie bins. The numbers are based on ONS Address Base Premium data set Epoch which indicates 63,692 kerbside properties in Merton. However, there will be a small proportion of properties which are not suitable for wheeled bins. We have not yet conducted the exercise to identify these properties and therefore do not know the final number of bins required. This is a piece of work that will be carried out by the joint Project Team consisting of LB of Merton and Veolia staff.

It is recognised that the approach to waste collection cannot necessarily be a “one size fits all” approach and that different container types and sizes will need to be appropriate for the property type. However, in order for collection processes to be as lean and efficient as possible standardisation will be required and any variation from the standard process would require justifiable reasons. Acceptable criteria to vary from the “norm” should be agreed in advance of any service being rolled out.

For properties, such as terraced housing where there are no front gardens in which to present the wheelie bin the Blue and Purple recycling sack collection will be retained with the revised frequency of collection.

Maisonettes will need to be reviewed on a case by case bases as many maisonettes have side access and front gardens suitable to store the wheelie bins. Where this is not the case then different arrangements will need to be agreed.

From Cllr Agatha Akyigyina to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Housing

Would the cabinet member update council on the ongoing work in Mitcham and the introduction of the new bus lane?

Reply

The Rediscover Mitcham project is nearing the closing stages of the construction works. We appreciate the patience and understanding of our local business and residents as the works have progressed.

Works completed so far include the restoration of Three Kings Pond, Restoration of Mitcham’s iconic clock tower, creation of the new Clock Tower Gardens and Market Square, re-paving of Majestic Way, London Road and the streets surrounding the Fair Green. We have also supported business with advice, new shopfronts and our business rate discount scheme.

The new bus street is now fully operational with reports of good journey times through Mitcham town centre. This will be further improved when the new traffic signals at Western Road are commissioned in November 2017 allowing all the surrounding signalised junctions to be linked. We have completed half of the works on Holborn Way, creating segregated cycle lanes and reducing the dominance of the road.

The last part of construction, Phase 5, at the signalised junction with Western Road and Holborn Way / Raleigh Gardens and works are well currently underway. It is expected to be completed by mid-December 2017. Minor touches and tidying up will continue until full completion in Jan 2018.

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2017
ITEM 7c
LABOUR AMEDNEMENT

That the words underlined are inserted and the words scored through are deleted as follows:

This Council recognises that street cleanliness and reliable weekly bin collections are important universal services greatly valued by residents. Indeed residents frequently tell their local councillors that they expect high standards for our street scene here in Merton and that, as a council, we should aim to make our borough a clean and tidy place to live. Keep Britain Tidy found that 50% of street litter in Merton is due to the current black sack and open box collection system and this is why Merton is replacing the current messy black sack collection with a wheeled bin solution that will reduce litter on our streets.

This Council understands that Merton's residents expect streets to be swept regularly; food waste and recycling bins to be reliably emptied on a weekly basis; fly-tipping cleared promptly and the perpetrators fined or prosecuted; seasonal leaf-fall cleared; weeds removed; and drains to be cleared pro-actively in order to reduce surface flooding. Council regrets that these expectations have sometimes not been met, such as when Merton was judged the dirtiest borough in London in 2009.

Since Veolia took over delivery of these services across south west London at a much lower cost than the council could offer on 1st April 2017, a business-like decision which was taken to protect services at risk from significant government cuts, this Council notes ~~with concern that residents have witnessed a degradation in service quality and reliability across all aspects of the services provided. This is evident from the that some Councillors have seen an~~ increased volume of complaints ~~received by councillors.~~ To some extent this would be expected in any transfer of a contract of this size ad the level of disruption to the service has been far lower than experienced by other authorities entering into new street cleaning and waste contracts. Nonetheless council is disappointed that some elements of the service have are not yet being delivered to the standard agreed. In order to hold the contractor to account we have created a new Neighbourhood Client Team who undertake site inspections and work closely with the contractor's Area Managers to ensure that service standards are maintained. Senior officers also hold regular contract meetings, together with the South London Waste Partnership, with senior managers from Veolia to address any underperformance on the contract. Where permitted within the framework of the contract, the council applies financial penalties where performance has been below the required standard.

Furthermore, figures from the last Council meeting indicate that, owing to the complex nature of enforcing against fly-tipping where, in the absence of a witness, Enforcement Officers have to find evidence which is admissible in court, payment has so far been received on ~~just~~ 43% of the 28 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued in Merton since the Government introduced new powers in May 2016 enabling councils to issue on the spot fines of up to £400 for fly tipping. This figure is expected to increase once these unpaid FPNs have been taken through the court system which is now in process. In addition, since April 2016 7.886 FPNs have been issued

for littering with a high payment rate of 74%, which has been achieved because the evidential requirements are not as difficult to achieve.

To address the situation and meet residents' expectations for these important services, this Council demands that Cabinet ~~act promptly~~continue to:

- Plan for the roll-out of a new wheeled bin service from October 2018 which will reduce street litter from split black sacks;
- Use our new Neighbourhood Client Team to pProactively ensure Veolia do not miss bin collections, particularly where residents have notified them of a long running problem, and that they maintain the weekly collection schedule to which they are currently contractually committed;
- Emphasise to Veolia the need to clean residential roads further away from town centres, noting that the- contractual standards for street cleaning reflect best practice from Defra's Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse and that the contract is based on an output specification requiring the contractor to maintain consistent standards across the entire borough. This is a move away from a frequency based approach where standards can fall between sweeps without any obligation on the contractor to resolve the issue, which appear to have particularly suffered since 1 st April 2017;
- Improve the usability and ease of reporting street scene matters on the Council's website, including investigating the possibility of introducing a map feature ~~(e.g. Love Clean Streets App)~~where this is viable and can interface with Veolia's systems;
- Aim for 100%Seek recovery of fines resulting from Fixed Penalty Notices issued for flytipping ~~across the borough each year~~through the courts; and
- Ensure that Veolia clears the weeds on the roads and pavements in a timely fashion and that the public litter bins are replaced and emptied regularly, especially in areas of high-footfall;
- Roll out further communications material to remind those that fly-tip in Merton that it is not acceptable and wil attract £400 fines, which will be pursued through the courts; andand
- Emphasise to the small minority who drop litter on our streets that this behaviour is not acceptable and they will be fined if caught.

In line with he forward plan for the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny panel, This Council also ~~calls for~~supports the publication in November of a comprehensive 6 month review of Veolia's performance over the first half year of the new contract, including any penalties that can legally be applied by Merton, for consideration in public by Scrutiny.

Motion now to read:

This Council recognises that street cleanliness and reliable weekly bin collections are important universal services greatly valued by residents. Indeed residents frequently tell their local councillors that they expect high standards for our street scene here in Merton and that, as a council, we should aim to make our borough a clean and tidy place to live. Keep Britain Tidy found that 50% of street litter in Merton is due to the current black sack and open box collection system and this is why

Merton is replacing the current messy black sack collection with a wheeled bin solution that will reduce litter on our streets.

This Council understands that Merton's residents expect streets to be swept regularly; food waste and recycling bins to be reliably emptied on a weekly basis; fly-tipping cleared promptly and the perpetrators fined or prosecuted; seasonal leaf-fall cleared; weeds removed; and drains to be cleared pro-actively in order to reduce surface flooding. Council regrets that these expectations have sometimes not been met, such as when Merton was judged the dirtiest borough in London in 2009.

Since Veolia took over delivery of these services across south west London at a much lower cost than the council could offer on 1st April 2017, a business-like decision which was taken to protect services at risk from significant government cuts, this Council notes that some Councillors have seen an increased volume of complaints. To some extent this would be expected in any transfer of a contract of this size and the level of disruption to the service has been far lower than experienced by other authorities entering into new street cleaning and waste contracts. Nonetheless council is disappointed that some elements of the service have not yet been delivered to the standard agreed. In order to hold the contractor to account we have created a new Neighbourhood Client Team who undertake site inspections and work closely with the contractor's Area Managers to ensure that service standards are maintained. Senior officers also hold regular contract meetings, together with the South London Waste Partnership, with senior managers from Veolia to address any underperformance on the contract. Where permitted within the framework of the contract, the council applies financial penalties where performance has been below the required standard.

Furthermore, figures from the last Council meeting indicate that, owing to the complex nature of enforcing against fly-tipping where, in the absence of a witness, Enforcement Officers have to find evidence which is admissible in court, payment has so far been received on 43% of the 28 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued in Merton since the Government introduced new powers in May 2016 enabling councils to issue on the spot fines of up to £400 for fly tipping. This figure is expected to increase once these unpaid FPNs have been taken through the court system which is now in process. In addition, since April 2016 7,886 FPNs have been issued for littering with a high payment rate of 74%, which has been achieved because the evidential requirements are not as difficult to achieve.

To address the situation and meet residents' expectations for these important services, this Council demands that Cabinet continue to:

- Plan for the roll-out of a new wheeled bin service from October 2018 which will reduce street litter from split black sacks;
- Use our new Neighbourhood Client Team to proactively ensure Veolia do not miss bin collections, particularly where residents have notified them of a long running problem, and that they maintain the weekly collection schedule to which they are currently contractually committed;
- Emphasise to Veolia the need to clean residential roads further away from town centres, noting that the contractual standards for street cleaning reflect best practice from Defra's Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse and that the

contract is based on an output specification requiring the contractor to maintain consistent standards across the entire borough. This is a move away from a frequency based approach where standards can fall between sweeps without any obligation on the contractor to resolve the issue.;

- Improve the usability and ease of reporting street scene matters on the Council's website, including investigating the possibility of introducing a map feature where this is viable and can interface with Veolia's systems;
- Seek recovery of fines resulting from Fixed Penalty Notices issued for flytipping through the courts;
- Ensure that Veolia clears the weeds on the roads and pavements in a timely fashion and that the public litter bins are emptied regularly, especially in areas of high-footfall;
- Roll out further communications material to remind those that fly-tip in Merton that it is not acceptable and will attract £400 fines, which will be pursued through the courts; and
- Emphasise to the small minority who drop litter on our streets that this behaviour is not acceptable and they will be fined if caught.

In line with the forward plan for the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny panel, the Council also supports the publication in November of a comprehensive 6 month review of Veolia's performance over the first half year of the new contract, including any penalties that can legally be applied by Merton, for consideration in public by Scrutiny.

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2017
ITEM 8
Labour Amendment

That the words underlined are inserted and the words ~~scored through~~ are deleted as follows:

This council notes the metropolitan police has already seen £600m of cuts as part of the government’s austerity agenda and faces £400m more of cuts up to 2021 as the cost of policing the capital increases but government funding has been frozen. The Mayor of London Sadiq Khan has condemned this failure to properly resource policing in the capital, with the Met Police Commissioner Cressida Dick making clear that London’s police service is particularly stretched in the light of terror attacks.

The Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime has proposed that, rather than make police officers redundant, a less harmful approach of closing and selling some police offices might achieve the level of savings the government’s cuts to the police budget since 2010 require. However, tThis Council recognises the very considerable concern among residents in Merton about the ~~Mayor of London’s~~Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime’s proposal to close Wimbledon police station and sell the land and similar concern in Mitcham about previous proposals to close that station, which was downgraded from a 24/7 police office by the previous Mayor Boris Johnson.

This Council believes that ~~the Wimbledon~~ police station is well located in Wimbledon town centre, which has a large night-time economy (the largest in the borough) and is a major South West London transport hub that needs policing. Mitcham police station is also well located and is in an area where the residents’ survey showed residents are significantly less likely to feel safe after dark compared to other parts of the borough. This Council therefore resolves to:

- 1) Write to the Home Secretary making clear that the residents Merton expect our police services to be properly resourced and to demand that she allocate funding for the Metropolitan police to reflect the increased strain the capital is under; and
- 1)2) _____ Write to the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, making clear the London Borough of Merton’s complete opposition to ~~this-any~~ proposed police station closures in Merton and asking him to reconsider ~~the-any~~ plans to sell off Wimbledon or Mitcham’s police station; and
- 2)3) _____ Encourage as many residents, residents’ associations and local community groups as possible to respond directly to the Mayor’s consultation document before the deadline of 6 October 2017 and to write to the Home Secretary demanding adequate resources for the Metropolitan Police.

Motion now to read:

This council notes the metropolitan police has already seen £600m of cuts as part of the government’s austerity agenda and faces £400m more of cuts up to 2021 as the cost of policing the capital increases but government funding has been frozen. The Mayor of London Sadiq Khan has condemned this failure to properly resource

policing in the capital, with the Met Police Commissioner Cressida Dick making clear that London's police service is particularly stretched in the light of terror attacks.

The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime has proposed that, rather than make police officers redundant, a less harmful approach of closing and selling some police offices might achieve the level of savings the government's cuts to the police budget since 2010 require. However, this Council recognises the very considerable concern among residents in Merton about the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime's proposal to close Wimbledon police station and sell the land and similar concern in Mitcham about previous proposals to close that station, which was downgraded from a 24/7 police office by the previous Mayor Boris Johnson.

This Council believes that Wimbledon police station is well located in Wimbledon town centre, which has a large night-time economy (the largest in the borough) and is a major South West London transport hub that needs policing. Mitcham police station is also well located and is in an area where the residents' survey showed residents are significantly less likely to feel safe after dark compared to other parts of the borough. This Council therefore resolves to:

- 1) Write to the Home Secretary making clear that the residents Merton expect our police services to be properly resourced and to demand that she allocate funding for the Metropolitan police to reflect the increased strain the capital is under; and
- 2) Write to the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, making clear the London Borough of Merton's complete opposition to any proposed police station closures in Merton and asking him to reconsider any plans to sell off Wimbledon or Mitcham's police station; and
- 3) Encourage as many residents, residents' associations and local community groups as possible to respond directly to the Mayor's consultation document before the deadline of 6 October 2017 and to write to the Home Secretary demanding adequate resources for the Metropolitan Police.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION AGENDA ITEM 9 COUNCIL MEETING 13 SEPTEMBER 2017

Councillor Suzanne Grocott will move and Councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender will second that the words underlined in the amended Motion below be inserted and the words struck through be deleted.

Agenda Item 9 – Notices of Motion: Labour

This council notes that the future of St Helier hospital is again subject to debate with the Chief Executive of St Helier & Epsom NHS Trust having launched an “involvement document”, *Providing high quality healthcare services: 2020 to 2030* over the summer months. This sets out possible options for the re-configuration of acute services in the area, including three options to be taken forward for further investigation, two of which would move critical services currently at St Helier hospital to Belmont or Epsom.

Council has a long-standing commitment to ensuring that the residents of Merton have access to a full range of NHS acute services on the St Helier Hospital site, including a blue light A&E and consultant-led maternity service. Any attempt to relocate acute services away from an area of relative deprivation in St Helier in favour of a more affluent area such as Belmont or the Royal Marsden site would be incompatible with the statutory duty on the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to have regard to the need to tackle health inequalities because it would make accessing acute health services significantly more difficult for those in our population who suffer the greatest level of inequality. Instead, council supports ~~the previous strategy to re-build~~ing St Helier hospital on its current site with its full range of services intact.

Council notes that:

- much of the engagement period fell over the school summer holidays whilst both parliament and the council were in recess, reducing the potential for democratic involvement;
- the Trust has not published criteria or weightings for their engagement process and the options they are asking the public to comment upon nor has it published the financial cost of this process;
- formal consultations regarding the future of hospital services are required by law to be carried out according to the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and that this exercise ~~does~~may not conform to these legislative requirements;
- it is for Merton’s Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) to firstly identify the local health and social care services required in our area through a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and then to agree a joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Merton’s CCG then needs to outline its commissioning priorities giving due regard to both of these documents.

Council notes that the engagement document ~~moots~~talks about a possible £400m new hospital ~~for Surrey but there is currently no funding in the Treasury “red book” for this and it seems unlikely – in a time of continued austerity when hospitals are being earmarked for downgrade or closure elsewhere in London – that this would be forthcoming from government. Indeed, Chris Grayling, Conservative MP for Epsom & Ewell, recently stated in response to the current engagement exercise: “Crucially there is no commitment from the NHS to the principle of funding a brand new hospital in SW London, where in recent~~

~~years the push has been to reduce and not increase the number of hospital sites.”~~

Nonetheless, if any such capital funding for a new hospital does come forward, this council would welcome such investment and would support spending it on rebuilding St Helier hospital on its current site.

Council notes the regrettable decision by the CCG to close the Wilson walk-in centre and the reported recent 20% increase in attendance at the St Helier A&E. We also note the potential consequences for other hospitals, for example, St Georges if the range of services at St Helier hospital were reduced.

Council notes that the Leader has written to the Chair of the Trust and the Chair of the CCG making clear the legal necessity of using the correct statutory processes when taking decisions on hospital services. Council therefore calls on the HWB to commission an independent health needs assessment for the population in Merton in relation to acute hospital services as soon as possible and further calls on the CCG to publish their commissioning intentions with due regard to this and to Merton's Health & Wellbeing Strategy so that any decisions about the future of St Helier hospital can be taken according to the processes set down in law, including that pertaining to reducing health inequalities.

Council notes that the Leader of the Council has asked the Chief Executive of the Trust to explain to the HWB meeting on 19 September how his engagement fits with the statutory consultation and decision making process. Council calls on the Trust to publish the cost of the current engagement process in addition to the criteria and weighting they intend to use in evaluating the results.

Council calls on residents to respond to the current engagement, making clear their support for the full range of services to continue at St Helier hospital, including a blue light A&E and consultant-led maternity, to ask that any decisions on the future of St Helier hospital comply with the statutory requirements based on a full needs assessment, and to support the rebuilding of St Helier as a new acute hospital on its current site.

The amended Motion would then read:

Agenda Item 9 – Notices of Motion: Labour

This council notes that the future of St Helier hospital is again subject to debate with the Chief Executive of St Helier & Epsom NHS Trust having launched an “involvement document”, *Providing high quality healthcare services: 2020 to 2030* over the summer months. This sets out possible options for the re-configuration of acute services in the area, including three options to be taken forward for further investigation, two of which would move critical services currently at St Helier hospital to Belmont or Epsom.

Council has a long-standing commitment to ensuring that the residents of Merton have access to a full range of NHS acute services on the St Helier Hospital site, including a blue light A&E and consultant-led maternity service. Any attempt to relocate acute services away from an area of relative deprivation in St Helier in favour of a more affluent area such as Belmont or the Royal Marsden site would be incompatible with the statutory duty on the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to have regard to the need to tackle health

inequalities because it would make accessing acute health services significantly more difficult for those in our population who suffer the greatest level of inequality. Instead, council supports re-building St Helier hospital on its current site with its full range of services intact.

Council notes that:

- much of the engagement period fell over the school summer holidays whilst both parliament and the council were in recess, reducing the potential for democratic involvement;
- the Trust has not published criteria or weightings for their engagement process and the options they are asking the public to comment upon nor has it published the financial cost of this process;
- formal consultations regarding the future of hospital services are required by law to be carried out according to the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and that this exercise may not conform to these legislative requirements;
- it is for Merton's Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) to firstly identify the local health and social care services required in our area through a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and then to agree a joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Merton's CCG then needs to outline its commissioning priorities giving due regard to both of these documents.

Council notes that the engagement document talks about a possible £400m new hospital. If capital funding for a new hospital does come forward, this council would welcome such investment and would support spending it on rebuilding St Helier hospital on its current site.

Council notes the regrettable decision by the CCG to close the Wilson walk-in centre and the reported recent 20% increase in attendance at the St Helier A&E. We also note the potential consequences for other hospitals, for example, St Georges if the range of services at St Helier hospital were reduced.

Council notes that the Leader has written to the Chair of the Trust and the Chair of the CCG making clear the legal necessity of using the correct statutory processes when taking decisions on hospital services. Council therefore calls on the HWB to commission an independent health needs assessment for the population in Merton in relation to acute hospital services as soon as possible and further calls on the CCG to publish their commissioning intentions with due regard to this and to Merton's Health & Wellbeing Strategy so that any decisions about the future of St Helier hospital can be taken according to the processes set down in law, including that pertaining to reducing health inequalities.

Council notes that the Leader of the Council has asked the Chief Executive of the Trust to explain to the HWB meeting on 19 September how his engagement fits with the statutory consultation and decision making process. Council calls on the Trust to publish the cost of the current engagement process in addition to the criteria and weighting they intend to use in evaluating the results.

Council calls on residents to respond to the current engagement, making clear their support for the full range of services to continue at St Helier hospital, including a blue light A&E and consultant-led maternity, to ask that any decisions on the future of St Helier hospital comply with the statutory requirements based on a full needs assessment, and to support the rebuilding of St Helier as a new acute hospital on its current site.

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