

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL 2017

MOTION - STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

This Council recognises that Merton's residents regularly cite street cleanliness as one of their top concerns, and that the weekly street clean of residential roads is integral to delivery of the clean streets that residents want and value.

This Council is therefore concerned that, following the hand over of operational responsibility for street cleaning in Merton to Veolia from April 2017, there will no longer be guaranteed weekly sweeping of all residential roads in the borough. Furthermore, the new system will mean just 35 (Full Time Equivalent) street cleaners being deployed by Veolia across the whole of Merton, a reduction of 39% compared to April 2014 (57 FTEs). Further cuts by Veolia to the number of street sweeping posts have not been ruled out.

Given the above, this Council notes that:

- 1) The current administration was elected in 2014 on a manifesto commitment to sweep roads in Merton each week;
- 2) This component of the Phase C contract was not brought to Members' attention during scrutiny in Merton of the South London Waste Partnership joint procurement process;
- 3) There has been no consultation with residents on these changes to the service they receive; and
- 4) Further doubt is cast on the robustness of the financial case for the contract with Veolia since this is yet another example of the proposed savings being delivered through service level reductions rather than increased efficiency.

This Council therefore calls on Cabinet to negotiate with Veolia to a) reconsider the end of the weekly street clean; b) look at alternative options that enable Merton to retain a weekly sweep of residential streets, preferably straight after the refuse collection as used to occur; and c) seek to deliver the Phase C contract through efficiencies rather than service level reductions.

Cllr Hamish Badenoch

Cllr Daniel Holden

Cllr David Simpson

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