

## Committee: Council

Date: 4 July 2018

## Subject: Petitions

Lead officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director, Corporate Governance.

Lead member: Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Alambritis.

Contact officer: Democratic Services, [democratic.services@merton.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@merton.gov.uk)

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### Recommendation:

1. That Council receive petitions (if any) in accordance with Part 4A, paragraph 18.1 of the Council's Constitution.
  2. That Council notes the responses provided to the petitions submitted at the meeting held on 7 February 2018.
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## 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report invites Council to receive petitions in accordance with Part 4A, paragraph 18.1 of the Council's Constitution.

## 2 DETAILS

- 2.1. At the meeting held on 7 February 2018, the petition listed below was submitted and the response is set out below. Any petitions received by Council are referred to respective departments with responsible officers asked to advise the presenting member in each case of the way in which the petition is to be progressed.
- 2.2. A petition was submitted by Councillor Oonagh Moulton on street cleaning service.

### Officer Response

- 2.3 As a Council we fully appreciate the importance of maintaining clean streets and pavements for the benefit of residents' personal well-being as well as supporting the economic prosperity of the area. We note that a large proportion of the petition's signatories were from outside the borough and we recognise that our street cleaning service is vitally important for visitors and businesses in the borough as well as for residents. It is of great concern that the signatories of the petition feel that the streets of Merton are below their expectations in terms of cleanliness.

There are parts of the borough where cleanliness standards are in line with best practice as defined by the Department of Environment and Rural Affairs (Defra) and expected by the London Borough of Merton but there are also areas where cleanliness is not at the required level. We intend to reach a consistent level across the whole borough which reflects our ambitions and commitment to have a clean borough.

Our new contractor, Veolia, started to deliver the street cleaning service in April last year. The contract is not yet performing as we would expect and we are working hard to ensure that it does as quickly as possible. The Council's Public Space Team are using a variety of methods to achieve this ranging from joint

inspections, contractual meetings at the highest levels within Veolia and withholding payments to them. The contract does require Veolia to maintain all streets to a required standard of cleanliness. To achieve this, they have a street cleaning schedule but it is clear that this is not always being adhered to, and improvements are being made to address this.

There are over 570 litter bins across Merton. They should all be emptied at a frequency that ensures they do not overflow. The Public Space team is working with Veolia to identify bins which are not being emptied frequently enough and are carrying out inspections to identify issues and raise performance.

As well as addressing the performance of our contractor, we are also raising awareness about individuals' responsibilities to dispose of their waste and litter in a responsible manner. The level of littering and fly-tipping in certain parts of the borough stretches our resources and costs all tax payers unnecessarily. We are using a combination of education and enforcement to address this in the hope of preventing the underlying causes of some of the litter on our streets. This year alone, the authority has issued 4909 fixed penalty notices for littering and fly-tipping.

Furthermore, the introduction of wheeled bins later this year will improve the cleanliness of the street scene. The bins will contain the waste much better than the current system and will prevent animals from spreading waste across the streets. This will greatly help us to maintain cleanliness standards as well as encourage greater recycling.

We are grateful to those residents who report issues to us, which they can do through London Borough of Merton's website ([www.merton.gov.uk/street-cleaning](http://www.merton.gov.uk/street-cleaning)) or through our contact centre (020 8274 4901). The Council's Public Space Team and Veolia respond to these reports and will ensure that the road is inspected by one of our teams to identify the failures and action the necessary cleaning to improve the situation.

We continue to be committed to maintaining a clean and green borough, and one of which our residents can be proud.

- 2.6 Members are invited to present petitions at this meeting, and a response will be provided to the next ordinary Council meeting in September 2018.

### **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 4.1. None for the purpose of this report.

### **5 TIMETABLE**

- 5.1. None for the purpose of this report.

### **6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. None for the purpose of this report.

### **7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. None for the purpose of this report.

### **8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

8.1. None for the purpose of this report.

## **9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

9.1. None for the purpose of this report.

## **10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

## **11 APPENDICES**

11.1. None

## **12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12.1. None.

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