

Liberal Democrat Non-Strategic Theme Motion

Cost of living emergency – Free Period Products in Merton Council Buildings

Proposer: Councillor Chessie Flack

Seconder: Councillor Jenifer Gould

1. Council notes that:

- a. In June 2022, a Plan International UK survey found that nearly one in four girls in London were unable to afford period products since the start of the year, which was higher than the national rate.
- b. The charity found that girls across the country were cutting down on food and school supplies in order to afford period products.
- c. Surrey County Council, Oxford City Council and Southwark Council have all set up or agreed to schemes to provide free period products.
- d. In a YouGov survey undertaken last year two thirds of Britons supported making it a legal requirement for local authorities to provide free period products.

2. Council believes that:

- a. No-one should experience period poverty.

3. Council resolves to:

- a. Ask Cabinet to look at ways to provide free, and where possible sustainable, period products in all the council's public accessible toilets and buildings including the civic centre, libraries and community centres.

Cllr Chessie Flack

Cllr Jenifer Gould

Cllr Kirsten Galea

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