

Committee: Council

Date: 13 September 2023

Subject: Petitions

Lead officer: John Scarborough, Managing Director South London Legal Partnership

Lead member: Leader of the Council, Councillor Ross Garrod

Contact officer: Amy Dumitrescu, Democracy Services Manager

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 12 July 2023.
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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 12 July 2023 the two petitions listed below were submitted and the responses are 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.

Petition One

A petition was submitted by Councillor Cox which stated "We the undersigned call on the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, to stop his plans to expand the ULEZ to the whole of Greater London and Merton".

Officer Response

"Thank you for submitting this petition. Merton Council acknowledges that the petition is addressed to the Mayor of London who is responsible for the ULEZ expansion and we have forwarded (or will forward) the petition to Sadiq Khan's office for consideration and response."

The petition was forwarded as per the above to Mayor Khan's office and the following response was received from them on 1 September 2023:

"We thank you for your correspondence, please see the stance of Merton Council, who are creating their own scrappage scheme to support their residents, following the court case ruling in support of the Mayor's plans".

Petition Two

A petition was submitted by Councillor Gould in relation to Eastway Day Centre. The prayer stated as follows: "Eastway Day Care Centre in Cannon Hill will be closed under plans by Labour run Merton Council.

From the Council's own consultation –

“On the 1 March, Merton Council approved its budget for 2023-24. As part of the process of setting a balanced budget, one proposal is to close Eastway Day Centre in Morden and seek to join 2 services together to offer an enhanced community-based model at the Dementia Hub in Mitcham and in other parts of the community. However, this is unlikely to be the same type and level of service and the new approach”.

Officer Response

Prior to the meeting of Full Council on 12 July and prior to the submission of the petition, the administration communicated their decision to halt proposals to close Eastway Day Centre, following a consultation with people in Merton living with dementia, their families, and the staff who support them. This is because the consultation made it clear that to do so could put people in a position where they would need to take difficult decisions for their families – and the administration have been clear that this would not be appropriate.

Furthermore, the consultation showed a desire in the community for a wider range of dementia support services in Merton, which would need to be in place before any changes to Eastway are considered. Therefore, we will commission specialist support to undertake a review of the current provision in Merton to identify the current gaps and co-design a new model of dementia support, through engagement with service users, their families, and other stakeholders.

On this basis the proposal has been halted until the referenced further work is complete and a fully informed key decision can be taken by the Cabinet. Following this decision, the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member wrote to all residents who use Eastway and their families to inform them of the decision, and to thank them for their involvement in the engagement exercise. The letter also recognised that the past few months have been unsettling.

The proposals were originally brought forward to make a necessary saving in the Council’s budget, and to re-provide and enhance the service through other means for those who currently use Eastway. The aim being to deliver a service fit for the future and to provide the best care possible for each person living with dementia in Merton, understanding and meeting their needs and those of their carers. Officers will now continue with this important work so that we can meet the wide range of needs of people using Eastway, their families, and carers in Merton for years to come. We will update the community on this work regularly and want to assure you that the current services at Eastway will continue to be provided.

2.6 Members are invited to present petitions at this meeting, and a response will be provided to the next ordinary Council meeting in November 2023.

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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