

Merton Council

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda

Membership:

The Mayor, Councillor Oonagh Moulton

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Margaret Brierly

Councillors Lord Tariq Ahmad, Agatha Akyigyina, Stephen Alambritis, Mark Allison, Stan Anderson, Laxmi Attawar, Mark Betteridge, John Bowcott, Richard Chellew, David Chung, David Dean, John Dehaney, Nick Draper, Iain Dysart, Chris Edge, Suzanne Evans, Karin Forbes, Brenda Fraser, Samantha George, Suzanne Grocott, Maurice Groves, Gam Gurung, Jeff Hanna, Richard Hilton, James Holmes, Janice Howard, Mary-Jane Jeanes, Philip Jones, Andrew Judge, Linda Kirby, Gilli Lewis-Lavender, Logie Lohendran, Edith Macauley, Russell Makin, Maxi Martin, Peter McCabe, Krystal Miller, Ian Munn, Diane Neil Mills, Henry Nelles, Dennis Pearce, John Sargeant, Judy Saunders, Linda Scott, Rod Scott, Debbie Shears, David Simpson, Peter Southgate, Geraldine Stanford, Sam Thomas, Ray Tindle, Gregory Udeh, Peter Walker, Martin Whelton, David Williams, Richard Williams, Miles Windsor and Simon Withey.

Date: Wednesday 2 February 2011

Time: 7.15pm

Venue: Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey in the Council Chamber

This is a public meeting and attendance by the public is encouraged and welcomed. For information about this agenda please contact democratic.services@merton.gov.uk or telephone 020 8545 3361.

All Press contacts press@merton.gov.uk 020 8545 3181

Ordinary Council Meeting Agenda

2 February 2011

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of Interest ¹
3. To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 24 November 2011 5
4. To receive any announcements from the Mayor, Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive
5. Questions from the Public (to be circulated at the meeting)
6. Questions from Councillors (to be circulated at the meeting)
7. Sustainable Communities with an Emphasis on Sport and Culture

(Report to follow)

8. Reports of Community Forums
 - (a) Colliers Wood and North East Mitcham Community Forum (17.11.10) 63
 - (b) Raynes Park Community Forum (23.11.10) 71
 - (c) Morden Community Forum (1.12.10) 75

N.B.

The meetings of the Mitcham Community Forum (30.11.10) and of the Wimbledon Community Forum (2.12.10) were cancelled.

9. Notices of Motion
The following motions have been received pursuant to Paragraph 2.3 (j) of Part 4A of the Council's Constitution:

Motion 1

Submitted by Councillors David Simpson, Chris Edge, Maurice Groves and James Holmes

Merton Council notes that:

- following the recent review of the future role and scope of the London Boroughs Grants Scheme, the London Councils Leaders' Committee agreed in December 2010 to an overall level of expenditure of £17.691 million for the Grants Scheme in 2011/12;
- net borough contributions for 2011/12 are due to be £13.241 million in total which represents a reduction of 49.7% on the 2010/11 subscription;
- Merton's own contribution towards the London Boroughs Grants Scheme is therefore set to reduce from £695,932 in 2010/11 to £352,492 in 2011/12 – a total reduction of £343,440.

This Council appreciates the considerable economic and social value of

Merton's diverse network of charities, social enterprises and voluntary organisations and applauds the extraordinary work they do every day to support the most vulnerable in our community and improve the lives of Merton residents from all backgrounds.

This Council also recognises that these are financially difficult times for government at every level but believes that financial pressures should not lead to unnecessary cuts in the services delivered by voluntary and community organisations in Merton, and is therefore concerned about the current administration's proposals to withdraw funding in 2011/12 from some of these local groups.

As such, this Council believes it is important that the monies repatriated to Merton through the reduction in its contribution to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme are spent locally to support the valuable work undertaken by voluntary and community organisations in the Borough, and therefore resolves to invite Cabinet at its meeting on 14th February 2011 to consider options which:

- 1) provide for all monies repatriated from the London-wide Grants Scheme to be used to fund local voluntary sector activities here in Merton;
- 2) ensure that these repatriated funds are in addition to what Merton Council already spends on the voluntary sector and are not simply absorbed into the wider General Fund Revenue Budget of the Council.

Motion 2 (Labour)

Submitted by Councillors Edith Macauley, John Sargeant and Peter Walker

This council notes that the 2010 Residents Survey highlighted crime as the number one area of concern for Merton residents. However, Council further notes that the survey has also shown that the fear of crime has been reducing since the introduction of Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

Merton has consistently been one of the lowest crime boroughs in London, largely due to the dedication and hard work of our ward-based Safer Neighbourhoods Teams.

Council is aware that the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) is currently carrying out a review of Safer Neighbourhood Teams and has produced a consultation document which presents generalised options for the restructuring of Safer Neighbourhood Teams in Merton.

Council notes that while the consultation identifies the current level of resources allocated to Merton as comprising 21 Sergeants, 46 Police Constables and 63 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), it does not make clear the resources we can expect in the future under any of the new options it presents.

This lack of clarity has caused concern amongst residents who are keen to protect their dedicated local Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

Council notes that Met Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson recently told the London Assembly: "After seven years it's right that we look at this model to make sure what we've got fits the needs and desires of London. I have yet to be convinced any changes should be made to the model. Safer Neighbourhoods has brought us huge benefits and increased confidence."

Council believes that the importance our residents place on crime needs to be reflected in the MPS consultation. This council therefore calls for transparency from the MPS on the policing resources Merton's residents can expect to see over the coming years, and calls on the Leader and Cabinet to seek a pledge from the MPS not to reduce frontline policing in Merton.

10.	Statutory Duty to Appoint a Scrutiny Officer (forward plan ref: 989)	79
11.	Calendar of Meetings 2011/12 (forward plan: 990)	83
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13.	Call-in and Urgency	93
14.	Changes of Membership to Committees and Related Matters	95
15.	Petitions	97
16.	Business for the next Ordinary Meeting	

Note1: Declarations of interest

Councillors and co-opted members who have a personal or prejudicial interest in relation to any item on this agenda are asked to complete a declaration form and hand it to the Democratic Services Officer. Forms, together with a summary of guidance on making declarations of interest, will be available around the meeting table. If further clarification is needed members are advised to refer to "The Code of Conduct – Guide for members May 2007" issued by Standards for England, which will be available at the meeting if needed.