

# Merton Council

## Council

**10 September 2014**

### **Further Tabled Amendments**

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## **COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2014** **Agenda Item 7c (ii)**

### **Labour Amendment to Conservative Strategic Theme Motion**

In the second paragraph, after “minor surgery.” insert:

“Council believes that the needs of local residents and quality health outcomes must be at the forefront when taking decisions on how the services offered at the Nelson are developed. Therefore, in choosing a provider for specialist consultation and diagnostic services at the Nelson, council calls on the local NHS to prioritise the health of local residents over the maximisation of profit for private sector providers.

Council notes the significant health inequalities in the borough and regrets that the local NHS has focused on the development of a local care service in the west of the borough whilst neglecting services in the east where the need is greatest.”

In the next sentence before “fully supports” delete “also”; and at the end of this paragraph insert “but wishes to see greater urgency and importance given to taking this forward by the local NHS”.

In the third paragraph delete “press ahead with” and insert “speed up”; and at the end of the paragraph insert “However council also resolves that local care services should not be used as a reason to close accident and emergency or maternity services at St Helier.”

### **Motion now to read**

This Council welcomes the announcement from the NHS that the new Nelson Local Care Centre will open in Spring 2015, providing the following services:

- Two GP practices – Cannon Hill Lane Medical Practice and Church Lane Practice – which will be relocating there
- Outpatient appointments
- Minor surgery and procedures
- X-ray, ultrasound and blood tests
- Physiotherapy
- Pharmacy services
- A range of community mental health services

This Council congratulates everyone involved in the construction of the Nelson Local Care Centre, which is set to be delivered within budget and on schedule, and which will complement the excellent services already provided at the new Raynes Park Health Centre, including antenatal clinics, counselling services, family planning advice and minor surgery.

Council believes that the needs of local residents and quality health outcomes must be at the forefront when taking decisions on how the services offered at the Nelson are developed. Therefore, in choosing a provider for specialist consultation and

diagnostic services at the Nelson, council calls on the local NHS to prioritise the health of local residents over the maximisation of profit for private sector providers.

Council notes the significant health inequalities in the borough and regrets that the local NHS has focused on the development of a local care service in the west of the borough whilst neglecting services in the east where the need is greatest. This Council fully supports plans for a facility in Mitcham similar to the Nelson, which would mean residents in the east of the Borough could also benefit from popular, local health services within Merton's own borders but wishes to see greater urgency and importance given to taking this forward by the local NHS.

This Council therefore calls on NHS planners to speed up developing similar new health facilities in Merton for Mitcham-based residents as quickly as possible, including full consultation with the local community. However council also resolves that local care services should not be used as a reason to close accident and emergency or maternity services at St Helier.

**ITEM 9**  
**COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**Labour Amendment to Conservative Motion**

After the first sentence insert:

“Council notes the consultation ended on 17 August and over 10,000 responses from residents were received over the course of the consultation.

Merton Council, in partnership with Sutton Council, put forward the preferred route included in the consultation as follows:

- A link from Sutton to Wimbledon
- An interchange at Morden town centre
- A stop at St Helier Hospital

Additional options of a route via Nursery Road Playing Fields and Abbey Recreation Ground and a route that would by-pass St Helier Hospital were added to the consultation by Transport for London, which is chaired by the Mayor of London.

The final report has now been compiled and has been forwarded to TfL. It will be published tomorrow. The results show that an overwhelming majority of respondents support the extension of the tram along both councils' preferred route from Wimbledon to Sutton via Morden town centre, with a stop at St Helier Hospital. Residents have also backed Merton's position in not supporting any extension via Nursery Road Rec or Abbey Playing Fields.

However, council notes that the Mayor of London's Infrastructure Plan does not envisage an extension to the tram until 2030 at the earliest.”

At the beginning of the second paragraph, first sentence, delete “In particular, this”; and after “Council” insert “reiterates its support for a tram extension along the preferred route as it”. At the beginning of the second sentence insert “Council also calls on the local CCGs to take into account the potential investment in the tram and the confidence this shows in St Helier hospital as a provider of quality emergency, maternity and related services as they continue to consider the future of the hospital. Council further reiterates the administration's position that”; delete “green spaces and playing fields are protected” and insert “that the option of a route through Abbey Recreation Ground and Nursery Road playing fields is explicitly ruled out by Transport for London and the Mayor of London.”

In the third paragraph, delete “therefore” and after “arises” insert new bullet point as follows: “A) to use the results of the consultation to lobby TfL to extend the tram from Wimbledon to Sutton via Morden, thus contributing to the regeneration of Morden town centre; and”; in existing bullet point A) insert “continue to” before “press the case”; and in existing bullet point B) delete “strongly to resist” and insert “continue to strongly resist”; and after “option” insert “from TfL and the Mayor of London”.

At the end of the motion insert: “Council welcomes the findings of the consultation and has forwarded the results to TfL with a joint letter from both councils supporting the preferred route. Council also looks forward to Scrutiny reviewing the findings of the consultation.

Now that residents have backed the proposals in principle, the next step will be to lobby TfL to fund much more detailed consultation on the preferred route. If TfL agree to fund such a consultation we will be seeking to ensure the following:

- 1) That the consultation is over a suitably long period and at an appropriate time of year so as to ensure maximum feedback from residents;
- 2) That the Scrutiny function of both council’s can fully engage in all stages of the process;
- 3) That any impact on traffic flows into surrounding residential areas is fully explored and the potential for rat running and congestion is minimised; and
- 4) That any changes to bus routes are fully outlined and consulted on; and
- 5) That any agreed extension backed by local people would be prioritised for delivery by the Mayor of London so that residents do not have to wait until 2030.”

### **Motion now to read**

This Council welcomes the recent consultation on extending Tramlink so that it connects Merton to Sutton via Morden and Wimbledon. Council notes the consultation ended on 17 August and over 10,000 responses from residents were received over the course of the consultation.

Merton Council, in partnership with Sutton Council, put forward the preferred route included in the consultation as follows:

- A link from Sutton to Wimbledon
- An interchange at Morden town centre
- A stop at St Helier Hospital

Additional options of a route via Nursery Road Playing Fields and Abbey Recreation Ground and a route that would by-pass St Helier Hospital were added to the consultation by Transport for London, which is chaired by the Mayor of London.

The final report has now been compiled and has been forwarded to TfL. It will be published tomorrow. The results show that an overwhelming majority of respondents support the extension of the tram along both councils’ preferred route from Wimbledon to Sutton via Morden town centre, with a stop at St Helier Hospital. Residents have also backed Merton’s position in not supporting any extension via Nursery Road Rec or Abbey Playing Fields.

However, council notes that the Mayor of London’s Infrastructure Plan does not envisage an extension to the tram until 2030 at the earliest.

Council reiterates its support for a tram extension along the preferred route as it believes that, whilst the costs of the final route must clearly be affordable and deliver

good value for money for the taxpayer, it is vital that the St Helier Hospital loop goes ahead in order to deliver improved access to the hospital for many local families and older residents. Council also calls on the local CCGs to take into account the potential investment in the tram and the confidence this shows in St Helier hospital as a provider of quality emergency, maternity and related services as they continue to consider the future of the hospital. Council further reiterates the administration's position that it is also vital that disruption to residents and local neighbourhoods is minimised and that the option of a route through Abbey Recreation Ground and Nursery Road playing fields is explicitly ruled out by Transport for London and the Mayor of London.

This Council resolves to take every opportunity that arises:

- a) to use the results of the consultation to lobby TfL to extend the tram from Wimbledon to Sutton via Morden, thus contributing to the regeneration of Morden town centre; and
- b) to continue to press the case for the St Helier Hospital loop with our partners at the London Borough of Sutton, Transport for London and the Mayor of London; and
- c) to continue to strongly resist any alternative route option from TfL and the Mayor of London which would impact adversely on Abbey Recreation Ground and Nursery Road Playing Fields and residents' enjoyment of this open space.

Council welcomes the findings of the consultation and has forwarded the results to TfL with a joint letter from both councils supporting the preferred route. Council also looks forward to Scrutiny reviewing the findings of the consultation.

Now that residents have backed the proposals in principle, the next step will be to lobby TfL to fund much more detailed consultation on the preferred route. If TfL agree to fund such a consultation we will be seeking to ensure the following:

- 1) That the consultation is over a suitably long period and at an appropriate time of year so as to ensure maximum feedback from residents;
- 2) That the Scrutiny function of both council's can fully engage in all stages of the process;
- 3) That any impact on traffic flows into surrounding residential areas is fully explored and the potential for rat running and congestion is minimised; and
- 4) That any changes to bus routes are fully outlined and consulted on; and
- 5) That any agreed extension backed by local people would be prioritised for delivery by the Mayor of London so that residents do not have to wait until 2030.

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**Labour Amendment to Conservative Motion**

Add new first paragraph: “This council congratulates all of our GCSE and A Level students on their excellent results this year, with record results at GCSE level in particular. Council also acknowledges the hard work of our Governors, Headteachers, Teachers, Teaching Assistants and other school staff in assisting our young people to reach their full educational potential.”

In the existing first paragraph, first sentence, after “first free school”, insert “Park Community School” and at the end of this sentence insert: “This Council does not support the current government’s free school policy which allows the establishment of unregulated schools with unqualified teachers and unsuitable premises to be established in areas already well served by good schools whilst additional school places for children in areas of scarcity are left unfunded by government.” Delete the second sentence up to and including “wishes” and insert “Whilst wishing”; after “pupils” insert “at Park Community School”, and at end of sentence insert “, as we would for all our Merton pupils and schools staff, council deplores the sub-standard accommodation pupils will have to endure and the uncertainty created due to the delay in identifying a site”.

In the existing second paragraph delete “is resolved” and insert “reiterates its decision of 20 November 2013”; before “free schools” insert “, and in accordance with the wishes of parents,”; after “free schools” insert “led by parents in areas of school places shortages employing properly qualified teachers and with proper systems of financial accountability and transparency,”.

At the beginning of the existing third paragraph insert “As per the decision of 20 November 2013 full council,”; delete “hopes and”; and at the end of this paragraph insert “Council regrets that these principles are not supported by central government, leaving children at the mercy of unregulated providers who may not have the best interests of our young people at heart.”

At the beginning of the final paragraph delete “Therefore” and insert “However”; delete from “encourage” to “innovative” and insert “continue to support all of our local schools, and where there is an identified need, to consider supporting”; after “providers” insert “with a proven track record of success who are”, and delete the rest of the sentence up to and including “applicants are”.

**Motion now to read**

This council congratulates all of our GCSE and A Level students on their excellent results this year, with record results at GCSE level in particular. Council also acknowledges the hard work of our Governors, Headteachers, Teachers, Teaching Assistants and other school staff in assisting our young people to reach their full educational potential.

This Council notes the opening of Merton's first free school, Park Free School, in September 2014. This Council does not support the current government's free school policy which allows the establishment of unregulated schools with unqualified teachers and unsuitable premises to be established in areas already well served by good schools whilst additional school places for children in areas of scarcity are left unfunded by government.

Whilst wishing the staff and all the pupils at Park Community School a successful future, as we would for all our Merton pupils and schools staff, council deplores the sub-standard accommodation pupils will have to endure and the uncertainty created due to the delay in identifying a site.

Recognising the enormous costs and challenges for the borough in meeting the growing demand for school places among Merton's primary age group as a result of increased birth rates and also recognising the even greater costs to be incurred for when this cohort of children reaches secondary school age, this Council reiterates its decision of 20 November 2013 to look at all options for meeting the need for more school places, including, and in accordance with the wishes of parents, free schools led by parents in areas of school places shortages employing properly qualified teachers and with proper systems of financial accountability and transparency, and academies.

As per the decision of 20 November 2013 full council, where a free school wishes to set up in the borough, this Council expects that it will adhere to the following principles:

- Agree to be part of Merton's admissions procedures, working closely with officers;
- Employ only qualified teachers;
- Participate fully in the Merton Education Partnership; and
- Demonstrate genuine community support.

Council regrets that these principles are not supported by central government, leaving children at the mercy of unregulated providers who may not have the best interests of our young people at heart.

However, in order to ensure that Merton's education system is able to offer local families both quality and choice, this Council resolves to continue to support all of our local schools, and where there is an identified need, to consider supporting providers with a proven track record of success who are willing to adopt the aforementioned principles and where the Council is confident that the standard of education offered is comparable with the best schools in the borough.