

Merton Council Council

19 November 2014

Supplementary agenda –

7c Strategic theme: motions

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19 November Full Council Meeting Labour Strategic Theme Motion 1

Council notes that the Mayor's Office for Police and Crime (MOPAC) has been selling off residential properties across London as part of their 2013-16 Estate Strategy, with tenants at Raynesfield, Raynes Park and 30 Griffiths Road, South Wimbledon served with eviction notices.

These tenants are mainly key workers such as nurses, teaching and school support staff and care workers, and are on modest incomes and have lived in these properties for up to 20 years. With average house prices and private rents in the area well beyond what their income would afford, they will have to uproot their families, leaving their jobs and removing their children from their schools. They have had no assistance from the Mayor of London in finding new homes in the area.

Council notes that after a hard fought campaign by local residents, MOPAC has now announced that the evictions at Raynesfield have been halted whilst the policy is reviewed. However this comes too late for residents of 30 Griffiths Road where all the families have already been forced out.

Council urges the Mayor of London to put a permanent stop to the evictions at Raynesfield and calls on the Mayor to work with tenants to find a solution which allows them to remain in their homes or to find them suitable alternative affordable accommodation in the neighbourhood.

Proposer: Councillor Katy Neep

Seconders: Councillors Abigail Jones and Ross Garrod

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19 November Full Council Meeting Labour Strategic Theme Motion 2

This Council notes that whilst levels of crime in Merton are the third lowest in London, and fear of crime is lower than the London average, nevertheless there are areas of the borough where concern about crime is substantially higher than average, and 46% of our young people include crime amongst their top three concerns, and believes that these concerns can be better addressed.

This Council notes that although current police deployment in Merton is based on three sectors, based around Wimbledon, Morden and Mitcham, each with the same number of wards and the same number of Local Police Team officers, statistics show some 42% of crime in Merton to occur within the Mitcham sector, including violent crime, recent stabbings, and crime related to drug dealing, all of which causes an increased degree of fear of crime amongst residents living in these wards, and even within sectors there are particular areas and times when crime is typically higher than the norm, such as Wimbledon town centre in the evening and night-time. We recognise the need for increased policing of those areas at those times.

The Council is conscious that the vast majority of residents in Mitcham and of Wimbledon are responsible, law abiding citizens, as is true across the borough, believes that all our residents are entitled to a level of policing that responds to the incidence and seriousness of crime in their immediate neighbourhood, and confirms that this should be provided by the Mayor of London, without subsidy from council tax payers from an increasing hard-pressed council budget.

The Council was pleased to host the 'meet the public' session with the Metropolitan Commissioner, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe on Monday 10 November in this council chamber, and noted

- a. his confirmation that individual Borough Commanders are not required to deploy officers evenly across sectors, but are free to deploy their officers across and within sectors in accordance with the needs of each of those sectors, and also
- b. his recognition that in moving away from the Safer Neighbour Team model of deployment, the Metropolitan Police had gone further than was wise, to the detriment of effective community intelligence gathering, and his acknowledgement that current Ward (Home Beat) teams might need to be increased in order to improve this.

The Council accordingly calls on Merton's Borough Commander, Chief Superintendent Stuart MacLeod, to review the deployment of his officers across the Borough,

- i. retaining the Ward (Home Beat) officers currently attached to each ward,
- ii. increasing the number of Ward (Home Beat) officers in wards most affected by crime to provide more routine patrols, improved levels of trust, increased community intelligence, and
- iii. sharing the remaining Local Policing officers between sectors, and within those sectors, on the basis of need, as evidenced by recent crime statistics.

The Council also requests Ch. Supt. MacLeod to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Commission when he next attends with a breakdown of the revised deployment of Local Policing officers, setting out the rationale by which that deployment has been determined.

**Proposer: Councillor Jeff Hanna
Joan Henry**

Seconders: Councillors John Dehaney and

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COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2014

CONSERVATIVE MOTION – STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES

This Council notes that:

- Crime levels in Merton as recorded by the number of Total Notifiable Offences have fallen year on year since 2008 (from 15,142 to 11,582) with the latest figures showing that overall crime in the borough has continued to drop over the last 12 months (down 7.9%);
- Whilst crime remains one of the top concerns for residents, the number of people citing it as a major concern has fallen consistently since 2008 and there has been a further reduction this year according to the most recent Annual Residents Survey. Concern about crime in the borough is now at its lowest level for 12 years and is significantly below the London average.
- The percentage of residents who are satisfied with policing in Merton now compared to the previous year has increased considerably (up 5%).

This Council congratulates the local police, working in partnership with Safer Merton, on these achievements but also notes with concern that there has been a significant rise in cases of Violence with Injury reported, both since 2011-12 and over the last 12 months.

This Council therefore welcomes the pledge by the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, at the public reassurance meeting held in Merton on 10th November 2014 that he recognises the 2012 Neighbourhood Policing Model is not perfect and will shortly be announcing constructive proposals to seek to improve the current arrangements.

In light of the Commissioner's announcement, this Council calls on the Borough Commander to build on his force's current successes by continuing the focus on front line policing, as established under the 2012 reforms, including retaining all of the necessary key police resources as currently allocated.

Councillor Charlie Chirico

Councillor David Simpson

Councillor Jill West

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