Merton Council
Council
28 February 2018
Supplementary agenda 3

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CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT – AGENDA ITEM 4

That after Recommendation 1 a new Recommendation 2 below be added and the following Recommendations be renumbered accordingly:

“2. That the cabinet take an early opportunity to review its financial strategy after the local elections in May 2018 by:

- Increasing revenue generation by a greater focus on commercial opportunities.
- Appointing a dedicated officer responsible for revenue generation across Merton. Initiatives to include:
  - better management of the council’s property portfolio [‘sweating the council’s assets’]
  - offering residents additional value added services by leveraging the Merton brand; and
  - using new powers to maximise fees and charges, where appropriate, so that users pay an equitable contribution for the service they receive
- Getting a grip on budget monitoring and plan to smooth closing the MTFS budget gap over 4 years by maximising the support of our Strategic partners, including the NHS and Government, whilst also investing in capital projects, especially community infrastructure
- Keeping council tax low i.e. in line with inflation and key indicators such as the uprating of pensions and benefits
- Ending Labour’s ‘Austerity Merton’ and a new focus which values services and service users equally.
- Restoring the link between paying towards the programmes residents vote for and their capacity to afford them
- Enabling businesses to thrive so that the Council can maximise income benefits from the business rate pool”
To add at the end of the recommendations:

“Recommendation 1 A) as amended by the revenue implications of the purchase of Wimbledon Police Station, grant of 50% running costs and additional revenue costs of capital in the first year totalling £168k, offset by rent from the Met. Police and the abolition of free Christmas Parking leaving £108k to be funded from the contingency.

Recommendation 1 C) to be reviewed during 2018/19 to take account of the five-year impact of the above mentioned acquisition.

Recommendation 1 D) as amended by the addition of a new scheme, the acquisition of Wimbledon Police Station at a cost of £7.411m including stamp duty, offset by a reduction in the acquisitions budget of £4.118m”
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