

Merton Council Council

6 February 2019

Supplementary agenda 1

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Liberal Democrat amendment to business of extraordinary meeting

To add the following paragraphs (numbered appropriately) at the end of the "Council resolves" section:

3. To request that Cabinet commission a detailed, evidence-based review of Merton Council and South London Waste Partnership processes in managing and monitoring waste management services – particularly in relation to the existing contract with Veolia. During the review, information, evidence and opinions should be taken from Council officers, external bodies and organisations, including other Waste Partnership Boroughs, and members of the public to help understand the key issues and areas for improvement.

4. To request that Cabinet debate and, if appropriate, adopt any recommendations for improvement made by the review panel.

So that the motion reads as follows:

To discuss and debate issues relating to the service failure of the refuse and recycling arrangements provided by Veolia since 1st October 2018 and the response of Merton Council. To include:

- a. The continuing role and suitability of the South London Waste Partnership in contract management;
- b. Financial penalties levied against Veolia for poor performance;
- c. Why the 'Mucky Merton' campaign has gained traction;
- d. The activation of the 'step in' clause in the Veolia contract;
- e. The pressure on and cost of reporting mechanism for service failures generated by Councillors and members of the public as well as the dismal failure of Veolia's response times;
- f. The failure of Veolia to deal with fly tipping in the borough.

and this Council resolves

1. To recommend that the Cabinet undertakes to investigate and publish options for Merton Council to move to a different waste services contractor at the earliest break clause in the contract with Veolia.

2. In an acknowledgement of political responsibility, the Leader of the Council, and the Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Cleanliness are urged to voluntarily forfeit their special responsibility allowances from the date of this meeting until the Annual Council Meeting on 15th May 2019, as a token of their failure.

3. To request that Cabinet commission a detailed, evidence-based review of Merton Council and South London Waste Partnership processes in managing and monitoring waste management services – particularly in relation to the existing contract with Veolia. During the review, information, evidence and opinions should be taken from Council officers, external bodies and organisations, including other Waste Partnership Boroughs, and members of the public, to help understand the key issues and areas for improvement.

4. To request that Cabinet debate and, if appropriate, adopt any recommendations for improvement made by the review panel.

Proposed by Cllr Anthony Fairclough
Seconded by Cllr Paul Kohler

Signed by Cllr Anthony Fairclough Cllr Paul Kohler Cllr Eloise Bailey

Extraordinary meeting Labour amendment

To discuss and debate issues relating to ~~the service failure of~~ the refuse and recycling arrangements provided by Veolia since 1st October 2018 and the response of Merton Council. To include:

- a) The continuing role ~~and suitability~~ of the South London Waste Partnership in contract management;
- b) Financial penalties levied against Veolia for ~~poor performance any contractual shortfalls~~;
- c) Why the 'Mucky Merton' campaign ~~has gained traction continues to be promoted by the Conservative opposition despite improvements in recycling rates and street litter as a result of the new waste service~~;
- d) The ~~activation facts~~ of the 'step in' clause in the Veolia contract ~~which was entered into in 2013 in conjunction with Croydon, Liberal Democrat-led Sutton, and the then Conservative-led Kingston Council~~;
- e) The pressure on and cost of ~~the~~ reporting mechanism for service failures generated by Councillors and members of the public as well as the ~~dismal failure of~~ ~~pressure on~~ Veolia's response times;
- f) The ~~failure of next steps required of~~ Veolia to deal with ~~an~~ ~~the~~ increase in fly tipping in the borough, London and the country, and what the government should be doing to tackle this national problem.
- g) The improvement in street litter performance resulting from the introduction of wheeled bins with lids, which contain litter, as opposed to the previous black-bin led waste removal system, which regularly led to bags splitting and litter being left on the street, and led to Merton being named Britain's dirtiest borough in 2010.
- h) The increase in the Borough's recycling since the introduction of wheeled bins.
- i) The dramatic cut in funding to councils from the Government, of more than 50%, which has led to the need for councils like Merton to make savings in their waste services contracts.
- j) The increased efficiency of Merton's waste services arising from its partnership working with the South West London Waste Partnership, the economies of scale this has generated, and the savings that have been achieved for council taxpayers as a result.
- k) The role of scrutiny in Merton in supporting these objectives, through the Sustainable Communities scrutiny panel, and the role of all councillors in supporting the borough's waste services.

and this Council resolves

1. To recommend that the Cabinet undertakes to ~~continue to hold to account the investigate and publish options for Merton Council to move to a different waste services contractor, at the earliest break clause in the contract with~~ Veolia, ~~whilst also recognising that the new service has led to an increase in recycling and a decrease in landfill.~~
2. In an acknowledgement of political responsibility, the Leader of the Council, and the Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Cleanliness, ~~the Sustainable Communities scrutiny panel, and all Members~~ are urged to ~~voluntarily forfeit their special responsibility allowances from the date of this meeting until the Annual Council Meeting on 15th May 2019, as a token of their failure.~~ ~~redouble their efforts in~~ achieving a good value level of service, ~~holding Veolia to account~~ and challenging the government to provide sufficient funding to local authorities like Merton to tackle fly tipping, littering and other anti-social behaviour.

Motion now to read:

To discuss and debate issues relating to the refuse and recycling arrangements provided by Veolia since 1st October 2018 and the response of Merton Council. To include:

- a) The continuing role of the South London Waste Partnership in contract management;
- b) Financial penalties levied against Veolia for any contractual shortfalls;
- c) Why the 'Mucky Merton' campaign continues to be promoted by the Conservative opposition despite improvements in recycling rates and street litter as a result of the new waste service;
- d) The facts of the 'step in' clause in the Veolia contract which was entered into in 2013 in conjunction with Croydon, Liberal Democrat-led Sutton, and the then Conservative-led Kingston Council;
- e) The pressure on and cost of the reporting mechanism for service failures generated by Councillors and members of the public as well as the pressure on Veolia's response times;
- f) The next steps required of Veolia to deal with the increase in fly tipping in the borough, London and the country, and what the government should be doing to tackle this national problem.
- g) The improvement in street litter performance resulting from the introduction of wheeled bins with lids, which contain litter, as opposed to the previous black-bin led waste removal system, which regularly led to bags splitting and litter being left on the street, and led to Merton being named Britain's dirtiest borough in 2010.
- h) The increase in the Borough's recycling since the introduction of wheeled bins.
- i) The dramatic cut in funding to councils from the Government, of more than 50%, which has led to the need for councils like Merton to make savings in their waste services contracts.
- j) The increased efficiency of Merton's waste services arising from its partnership working with the South West London Waste Partnership, the economies of scale this has generated, and the savings that have been achieved for council taxpayers as a result.
- k) The role of scrutiny in Merton in supporting these objectives, through the Sustainable Communities scrutiny panel, and the role of all councillors in supporting the borough's waste services.

and this Council resolves

1. To recommend that the Cabinet undertakes to continue to hold to account the waste services contractor, Veolia, whilst also recognising that the new service has led to an increase in recycling and a decrease in landfill.
2. In an acknowledgement of political responsibility, the Leader of the Council, and the Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Cleanliness, the Sustainable Communities scrutiny panel, and all Members are urged to redouble their efforts in achieving a good value level of service, holding Veolia to account and challenging the government to provide sufficient funding to local authorities like Merton to tackle fly tipping, littering and other anti-social behaviour.