

Merton Council

Council

5 February 2020

Supplementary agenda 3

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COUNCIL MEETING – 5 FEBRUARY 2020

NOTICE OF STRATEGIC MOTION – WIMBLEDON POLICE STATION

Council notes:

~~1) In 2018, in response to Government cuts to the Metropolitan Police budget, the Mayor of London conducted a review of the Met's entire estate and subsequently concluded that Wimbledon Police station would be closed and the site sold.~~

~~2) The Mayor's decision was reversed by the High Court in *R (Kohler) v MOPAC* following a Judicial Review application crowd funded, primarily, by the residents of Wimbledon.~~

~~3) Because of this, Wimbledon police station currently remains open to the public for the reporting of crime, unlike 36 other police stations across London that have now been sold, waiting to be sold off, mothballed or otherwise had their front desks closed in the wake of the Mayor of London's review. However no statement on Wimbledon police station's long term future has yet been made.~~

~~4) The BCU Commander Chief Superintendent Sally Benatar reported to the OSC on 25 April 2019 that, following the amalgamation of the Merton, Wandsworth, Richmond and Kingston BCUs and "11 months of working at greater scale across the boroughs", an internal review was taking place that included the possibility that Wimbledon Police station would be retained in the long term.~~

~~Council welcomes:~~ the statement in her report by Leonie Cooper, London Assembly Member for Merton & Wandsworth at the Wimbledon Community Forum, on Wednesday 29 January that "[t]here is no plan to close Wimbledon Police Station" and her further suggestion that its long term future is now secure.

Council resolves: to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Mayor of London for confirmation that Wimbledon Police station will not be sold and its long term future is now secure.

Motion now to read:

Council notes the statement in her report by Leonie Cooper, London Assembly Member for Merton & Wandsworth at the Wimbledon Community Forum, on Wednesday 29 January that "[t]here is no plan to close Wimbledon Police Station" and her further suggestion that its long term future is now secure.

Council resolves: to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Mayor of London for confirmation that Wimbledon Police station will not be sold and its long term future is now secure.

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NOTICE OF STRATEGIC MOTION – WIMBLEDON POLICE STATION

Council notes:

1) In 2018, in response to Government cuts to the Metropolitan Police budget [which have seen the Met having to find £600 million in savings since 2010](#), the Mayor of London conducted a review of the Met's entire estate [in order to protect frontline policing](#) and

subsequently concluded that Wimbledon Police station would be closed and the site sold.

2) The Mayor's decision was ~~reversed~~ [considered](#) by the High Court in *R (Kohler) v MOPAC*

following a Judicial Review application crowd funded, primarily, by the

residents of Wimbledon, [and while in large part the court agreed that the decision, forced on MOPAC to close 36 front counters in order to save an additional £8m a year, was lawful, the court required MOPAC to reconsider the closure of Wimbledon police station.](#)

3) [In the light of the Government's promise of an extra 20,000 police officers across the UK, the Met and MOPAC are reviewing their estate strategy. The exact impact will depend upon the allocation of the additional officers that the Met receives and the subsequent operational allocation of that uplift to different types of police services in different locations within the London; both these aspects could affect the exact requirements for the size of the estate](#)~~Because of this, Wimbledon police station currently remains open to the public for the reporting of crime, unlike 36 other police stations across London that have now been sold, waiting to be sold off, mothballed or otherwise had their front desks closed in the wake of the Mayor of London's review. However no statement on Wimbledon police station's long term future has yet been made.~~

4) The BCU Commander Chief Superintendent Sally Benatar reported to the OSC on 25 April 2019 that, following the amalgamation of the Merton, Wandsworth, Richmond and Kingston BCUs and "11 months of working at greater scale across the boroughs", an internal review was taking place that included the possibility that Wimbledon Police station would be retained in the long term.

Council welcomes: the statement in her report by Leonie Cooper, London Assembly Member for Merton & Wandsworth at the Wimbledon Community Forum, on Wednesday 29 January that "[t]here is no plan to close Wimbledon Police Station" and her further suggestion that its long term future is now secure.

Council resolves: to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Mayor of London [to promise to work together to campaign for the Government to provide the number of officers Merton needs and sufficient funding for our local police service.](#) ~~for confirmation that Wimbledon Police station will not be sold and its long term future is now secure.~~

Motion now to read:

Council notes:

- 1) In 2018, in response to Government cuts to the Metropolitan Police budget which have seen the Met having to find £600 million in savings since 2010, the Mayor of London conducted a review of the Met's entire estate in order to protect frontline policing and subsequently concluded that Wimbledon Police station would be closed and the site sold.
- 2) The Mayor's decision was considered by the High Court in *R (Kohler) v MOPAC* following a Judicial Review application crowd funded, primarily, by the residents of Wimbledon, and while in large part the court agreed that the decision, forced on MOPAC to close 36 front counters in order to save an additional £8m a year, was lawful, the court required MOPAC to reconsider the closure of Wimbledon police station.
- 3) In the light of the Government's promise of an extra 20,000 police officers across the UK, the Met and MOPAC are reviewing their estate strategy. The exact impact will depend upon the allocation of the additional officers that the Met receives and the subsequent operational allocation of that uplift to different types of police services in different locations within the London; both these aspects could affect the exact requirements for the size of the estate.
- 4) The BCU Commander Chief Superintendent Sally Benatar reported to the OSC on 25 April 2019 that, following the amalgamation of the Merton, Wandsworth, Richmond and Kingston BCUs and "11 months of working at

greater scale across the boroughs", an internal review was taking place that included the possibility that Wimbledon Police station would be retained in the long term.

Council welcomes: the statement in her report by Leonie Cooper, London Assembly Member for Merton & Wandsworth at the Wimbledon Community Forum, on Wednesday 29 January that "[t]here is no plan to close Wimbledon Police Station" and her further suggestion that its long term future is now secure.

Council resolves: to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Mayor of London to promise to work together to campaign for the Government to provide the number of officers Merton needs and sufficient funding for our local police service.

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NOTICE OF MOTION

This council recognises that the decision made by the Labour Mayor of London to close Wimbledon Police Station was as a direct result of the Government cutting police budgets severely - the Met has had to find £600 million in savings since 2010. These cuts have forced the Mayor to make some very difficult decisions in order to protect frontline policing, including measures to save money on buildings so that officers can remain out on the beat.

Council therefore welcomes the recently announced increase in police funding provided by the Government, although the £750m they have announced so far is only a partial reversal of the cuts they have already inflicted, which led to officer numbers falling to a fifteen-year low in mid-2018.

~~is deeply damaging to the safety and security of people across the borough.~~

~~Since Council further recognises that although since 2016 Mayor Khan has presided over a huge~~

~~increase in crime that is far below that of the rest of the country, the Government's under-resourcing of our police services and~~ has failed to protect Londoners. Council notes that ~~under~~

~~Mayor Khan in London since 2010/11:~~

~~- Knife crime has increased by 5210%, according to the ONS, which is the lowest of any English region;~~

~~Robbery has increased by 59%;~~

~~Gun crime has increased by 30%.~~

~~Whilst crime has risen and police numbers have fallen by 30%. Despite Government under-investment in policing, Council notes that, Mayor Khan has succeeded in obtaining extended powers and additional funding for other services in London, including in housing, healthcare and transport has spent £21 million on more City Hall employees, and has improved the GLA's campaigning function to deliver hugely successful campaigns like London Is Open and his work to encourage young people not to carry a knife £9.4 million on PR and £700,000 on beach parties.~~

Council therefore condemns the ~~failing policies of Mayor Khan~~failed policies of the past and recognises that change is needed in ~~City Hall~~the Government's approach to crime and policing. Furthermore council fully endorses the Mayor of London's clear message to the Government that London needs 6,000 of the new 20,000 officers and 2,000 of the 6,000 announced for 2020/21, expresses concern that London has been allocated barely more than two thirds of the number required at 1,369 new officers~~the plans of the Conservative government to increase police numbers in London by c.6000, and recognises that this offers the only real chance~~calls on the Government to provide sufficient funding to local police services to save Wimbledon Police Station. ~~Council also congratulates Stephen Hammond MP for his work to secure its future.~~

Motion now to read:

This council recognises that the decision made by the Labour Mayor of London to close Wimbledon Police Station was as a direct result of the Government cutting police budgets severely - the Met has had to find £600 million in savings since 2010. These cuts have forced the Mayor to make some very difficult decisions in order to protect frontline policing, including measures to save money on buildings so that officers can remain out on the beat.

Council therefore welcomes the recently announced increase in police funding provided by the Government, although the £750m they have announced so far is only a partial reversal of the cuts they have already inflicted, which led to officer numbers falling to a fifteen-year low in mid-2018.

Council further recognises that although since 2016 Mayor Khan has presided over an increase in crime that is far below that of the rest of the country, the Government's under-resourcing of our police services has failed to protect Londoners. Council notes that in London since 2010/11:

- Knife crime has increased by 10%, according to the ONS, which is the lowest of any English region;

Despite Government under-investment in policing, Council notes that Mayor Khan has succeeded in obtaining extended powers and additional funding for other services in London, including in housing, healthcare and transport, and has improved the GLA's campaigning function to deliver hugely successful campaigns like London Is Open and his work to encourage young people not to carry a knife.

Council therefore condemns the failed policies of the past and recognises that change is needed in the Government's approach to crime and policing. Furthermore council fully endorses the Mayor of London's clear message to the Government that London needs 6,000 of the new 20,000 officers and 2,000 of the 6,000 announced for 2020/21, expresses concern that London has been allocated barely more than two thirds of the number required at 1,369 new officers, and calls on the Government to provide sufficient funding to local police services.

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COUNCIL MEETING – 5 FEBRUARY 2020

NOTICE OF MOTION – ONLINE PLANNING REPRESENTATIONS

Council agrees to restore planning representations from residents to Merton's Online Planning Explorer and ask officers to consider whether it is possible to include all representations the Council has received to date on ongoing applications.

Motion now to read:

Council agrees to restore planning representations from residents to Merton's Online Planning Explorer and asks officers to consider whether it is possible to include all representations the Council has received to date on ongoing applications.

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COUNCIL MEETING – 5th February 2020 NOTICE OF MOTION

This council supports the government's proposed £500 million investment in the Merton, Sutton and Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Groups, as long as that includes the retention of accident and emergency, maternity and all existing services at St Helier hospital in order to protect the interests of the most disadvantaged residents living in the catchment area.

Motion now to read:

This council supports the government's proposed £500 million investment in the Merton, Sutton and Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Groups, as long as that includes the retention of accident and emergency, maternity and all existing services at St Helier hospital in order to protect the interests of the most disadvantaged residents living in the catchment area.

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