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Merton Council

Council

13 April 2021

Supplementary agenda 2

4 Labour amendment to Item 3

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EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 13 APRIL 2021

NOTICE OF MOTION

Amendment standing in the names of Councillor Allison and Councillor Pritchard

A. Add new paragraphs 1 -3 as follows.

- 1) 1)——Council agrees that it should be the Council's usual practice to avoid having meetings, during a pre-election period, and that meetings during such periods should only be take place by exception to ensure that Council resources paid for by the taxpayer are not inadvertently used to promote a political party's campaign during an election period;
- 2) Council regrets the decision of the Government not to legislate to allow virtual meeting meetings to continue beyond 7 May which means that meetings would have to take place in confined spaces prior to vulnerable staff or members being fully vaccinated, or lockdown being fully lifted. It therefore endorses the decision to move the Annual Council meeting, and to hold an Extraordinary meeting of the Council on 21 April 2021 for the purposes of considering the Council's response to violence against women and girls;
- 3) Council notes that the High Court is due to consider the question of whether meetings can be held virtually on 21 April although it is not known when the judgment will be available;

B Amend renumbered paragraph 4 as follows

- 1)4) Council recognises that the decision to cancel the 21st April council meeting and other panel meetings was unnecessary and was taken without any legal reason and without the full consent of all political groups represented on the council. This was contrary to the resolution of the council on 5 February 2020 establishing the Calendar of Meetings for 2020/21. Therefore, council resolves to reinstate the meetings listed below:

- ~~• 21st April full council;~~
- 26th April Healthier Communities and Older People Scrutiny Panel;
- 27th April Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel;
- 28th April Overview and Scrutiny Commission.

And to schedule a meeting for the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel before 7 May but if before that meeting, the Court case confirms that it is lawful to continue meetings virtually, that rescheduled meeting shall be cancelled and replaced with a meeting to take place before the end of May.

C. Amend renumbered paragraph 5 as follows:

52) Council resolves that new meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board ~~and~~, the Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations, ~~and the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel~~ shall be scheduled to be held ~~before the end of May after the lifting of lock down restrictions on 21 June, unless the Court case confirms that it is lawful to continue to hold meetings virtually in which case those committees should go ahead on the currently scheduled dates, namely (22 June and 9 June respectively;~~

6. That in respect of all other meetings, the Council considers a revised calendar at the annual meeting on 21 April;-

~~Cllr Nick McLean Cllr Daniel Holden Cllr Hayley Ormrod Cllr Thomas Barlow~~

~~Cllr Adam Bush Cllr Edward Gretton Cllr David Simpson Cllr David Williams~~

Motion Now Reads

- 1) Council agrees that it should be the Council's usual practice to avoid having meetings during a pre-election period, and that meetings during such periods should only be take place by exception to ensure that Council resources paid for by the taxpayer are not inadvertently used to promote a political party's campaign during an election period;
- 2) Council regrets the decision of the Government not to legislate to allow virtual meeting meetings to continue beyond 7 May which means that meetings would have to take place in confined spaces prior to vulnerable staff or members being fully vaccinated, or lockdown being fully lifted. It therefore endorses the decision to move the Annual Council meeting, and to hold an Extraordinary meeting of the Council on 21 April 2021 for the purposes of considering the Council's response to violence against women and girls;
- 3) Council notes that the High Court is due to consider the question of whether meetings can be held virtually on 21 April although it is not known when the judgment will be available;
- 4) Council resolves to reinstate the meetings listed below:
 - 26th April Healthier Communities and Older People Scrutiny Panel;

- 27th April Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel;
- 28th April Overview and Scrutiny Commission;

And to schedule a meeting for the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel before 7 May but if before that meeting, the Court case confirms that it is lawful to continue meetings virtually, that rescheduled meeting shall be cancelled and replaced with a meeting to take place before the end of May

5) Council resolves that new meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations shall be scheduled to be held after the lifting of lock down restrictions on 21 June, unless the Court case confirms that it is lawful to continue to hold meetings virtually in which case those committees should go ahead on the currently scheduled dates, namely (22 June and 9 June respectively);

6) That in respect of all other meetings, the Council considers a revised calendar at the annual meeting on 21 April;

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