

Merton Council Council

13 September 2023

Supplementary agenda 2

5 Public questions to cabinet members

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The questions and written responses will be circulated at the meeting.

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From Susan Cusack

To the Cabinet Member for Local Environment, Greenspaces and Climate

With new trees needing a recommended 50 litres of water each week, why doesn't Merton follow the example of other London Boroughs by using tree watering bags for newly planted trees?

Reply

The rise in incidents of Amber and Red weather warnings means that the council continues to review its policies on tree planting and establishment and aftercare. The Council's recently adopted Tree Strategy will encourage targeted tree planting across Merton's Highways and Parks and practical policies to the species selected, planting preparation and aftercare, including watering, will ensure that our successes are sustained.

As a member of the London Tree Officers Association the council arboriculture team have been talking to other London Authorities about sustainable watering management of newly planted trees and this year the council has submitted a growth bid and will trial Gator Bags in a 10% of the councils Park Tree Planting for 2023-24 and its success will be monitored verses the traditional planting method used to see if increased investment is required in gator bags.

From Vruti Patel

To the Cabinet Member for Transport

Statistically quarter of deaths cause by reversing vehicle form driveway, which currently acceptable.

Why parallel parking for dropped kerb is not considered which is less hazardous to enter and exit, no hanging vehicle, manoeuvre within it's length given more space up to 6m compared to 4.8m?

Reply

In 2018, Merton Council undertook a Policy Scrutiny Review where Officers and Members reviewed the crossover policy. As part of this review the possibility for parallel parking was looked at in depth. To maneuver a vehicle where the property hard standing depth is under 3.40m means that a vehicle has to stop at least once and

reverse to get the swing to park parallel. This is considered a blind spot while maneuvering.

The review Panel did consider enforcing a “reversing in only” option. It was, however, considered too great a risk, as even reversing in would mean the driver’s view would be obstructed. The increased risk to other Highway users was considered too high a risk.

From Kevin Clarke
To the Cabinet Member for Transport

When will the final list of streets in the Merton ULEZ scrappage scheme be published and when will it open for applications?

Reply

The local scrappage scheme was launched on 11 September 2023.

The webpage www.merton.gov.uk/scrappage contains an interactive map where residents will be able to see the eligible areas. Residents will also be able to search the map by postcode to see whether they are in the eligible area.

From Pippa Maslin
To the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

With reference to objective 1.13 (1) of the draft EDIS, are you open to working with Merton CIL to try to ensure that adult social care charges do not have a disproportionately negative impact on residents for whom essential disability-related expenditure already has an adverse effect on their financial security?

Reply

Any review or refresh our adult social care charges policies would require us to engage and consult with our community and we recognise the financial difficulties many people with disabilities face. We are of course open to working with our voluntary and community partners, in particular those who represent people with protected characteristics under the Equalities legislation.