

# Merton Council

## Council

2 April 2014

### Amendments Tabled during the meeting

- |     |                                    |       |
|-----|------------------------------------|-------|
| 19. | Tabled Amendments                  |       |
| (e) | Amendment 1 to item 7c(i) (Labour) | 1 - 2 |
| (f) | Amendment 3 to item 8 (Labour)     | 3 - 6 |
| (g) | Amendment 2 to item 9 (Labour)     | 7 - 8 |

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## **Item 7c(i) Labour Amendment to Conservative Motion on the Strategic Theme**

In the third paragraph after “Faculty of Public Health,” insert “but in line with many other Local Authorities,”; delete “rather than solely” and insert “for the purposes of day to day management, oversight and support and routinely”; delete “and is not a permanent member of” and insert “on policy matters, regularly attends”; and after “Management Team” insert “and has direct access to Members”. In the following sentence delete “Yet”; delete “not”; delete “the vast majority of” and insert “many other”; and insert “including our neighbours LB Sutton” at the end of this sentence.

Insert new fifth paragraph as follows: “Council notes that Merton receives a relatively low allocation of public health grant and that it is therefore important to ensure that this funding is not disproportionately directed towards management costs and that our small team of public health professionals is instead allowed to focus on doing the work on the frontline rather than overburdening them with attendance at additional management meetings that do not necessarily relate to public health.”

In existing fifth paragraph delete all after “Chief Executive” and insert “regularly review reporting lines for the Director of Public Health to ensure we maximise the impact on our residents of our relatively low public health funding”.

### **Motion now to read:**

This Council continues to welcome the transfer of Public Health functions to local authorities such as Merton.

A year on from this change, this Council recognises the opportunities and benefits for the health of the borough’s residents of having the Director of Public Health in a senior managerial role within the council. Since the transition of Public Health to local authorities in April 2013 and the visible involvement of the Director of Public Health and her team across council departments, the profile of Public Health has been raised and is beginning to have an influence on how council services could be delivered or targeted to improve health outcomes.

However, this Council notes that, despite strong and clear recommendations from the government and organisations such as the Faculty of Public Health, but in line with many other Local Authorities, Merton’s Director of Public Health reports partly to the Director of Community and Housing for the purposes of day to day management, oversight and support and routinely to the Chief Executive on policy matters, regularly attends the Corporate Management Team and has direct access to Members. This is the arrangement in many other councils including our neighbours LB Sutton.

This Council believes that, in order to maximise the potential of the changes to Public Health, it is important to ensure greater influence is exerted by the Director of Public Health, particularly given that, according to the latest Annual Residents’ Survey, the vast majority of Merton residents (87%) are unaware of the Council’s new responsibilities.

Council notes that Merton receives a relatively low allocation of public health grant and that it is therefore important to ensure that this funding is not disproportionately directed towards management costs and that our small team of public health professionals is instead allowed to focus on doing the work on the frontline rather than overburdening them with attendance at additional management meetings that do not necessarily relate to public health.

Therefore this Council resolves to reaffirm its strong commitment to improving the health of Merton residents, and especially of those in the east of the borough who often suffer more greatly from health inequalities and therefore a lower life expectancy, by requesting that the Cabinet and Chief Executive regularly review reporting lines for the Director of Public Health to ensure we maximise the impact on our residents of our relatively low public health funding.

## Item 8 - Labour Amendment to Conservative Motion, 2 April Council Meeting

At the end of the second paragraph insert: "Council notes with disappointment that the current government decided not to implement minimum alcohol pricing and have also not implemented the provision in the 2011 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act which would have made public health an objective in licensing applications."

In the fourth paragraph, after "Social Responsibility Act" insert "2011" and at the end of this paragraph insert ", but notes that the Licensing Committee considered early morning restriction orders (EMRO) and the late night levy at their meeting on 28 February 2013 and, based in part on advice from the police, agreed that they should not be introduced at the present time."

Insert new fifth and sixth paragraphs as follows: "Council believes that government should introduce further powers to combat the proliferation of betting shops which can lead to increased crime and higher levels of gambling addiction in often poorer communities, by allowing local authorities to clamp down on unsustainable levels of conversions to betting shops.

Council particularly welcomes:

- Merton's implementation of a borough-wide Controlled Drinking Zone in July 2013 in order to allow police to tackle alcohol related anti social behaviour
- Cabinet's decision in January 2014 to implement a six month pilot of an all year round out of hours noise pollution service. The council looks forward to reviewing the evidence to assess whether the service provides value for money for our residents.
- The Cabinet Member's decision to focus additional resources on litter enforcement by working with a specialist environmental crime enforcement organisation whose officers will work alongside our own enforcement team to tackle the behaviour of those dropping litter on our streets.
- The Leader's recent letter to the Secretary of State Eric Pickles in support of the London Borough of Hackney's proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act to allow local authorities the power to clamp down on the proliferation of betting offices by changing their planning use class."

In existing fifth paragraph, after "This Council commits to" insert "continue". In action point b) delete "Make use of the new" and insert "Ask the Licensing Committee if they would like to review their February 2013 decision relating to" and delete remainder of action point after "powers" and insert "under the 2011 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, bearing in mind the advice from the police that Merton "would not profit from a late night levy"; that there are already two cumulative impact zones in place in Wimbledon; that the police "do not have the evidence from crime statistics in Wimbledon Town Centre to request an EMRO at the present time" and that the police believe an EMRO "would most likely have a detrimental effect on businesses in the Town Centre." In action point c) delete "Increase" and insert "Monitor the performance of the new"; insert "regime" after "enforcement"; delete "by employing more staff" and insert "which will employ specialist environmental crime enforcers"; and insert where required" after "clubs". In action point d) delete

“Introduce an” and insert “Monitor the results of the pilot”; after “round” insert “out of hours”; and after “enforcement service” insert “introduced in January 2014”.

**Motion now to read:**

This Council notes that:

- According to the latest Annual Residents’ Survey, feeling safe in your local area is by far the most important factor for the health and wellbeing of residents in Merton;
- Over half of residents (52%) feel that this could be improved;
- Satisfaction with how the area looks is also an important factor for health and wellbeing with around one third of local people feeling this could be improved;
- 44% of residents remain concerned about anti-social behaviour in the borough and 41% about people being drunk and rowdy; and
- The majority (64%) of violent crime in the UK occurs in the evening or at night and one fifth of all violent incidents take place in or around a pub or club.

This Council recognises that Merton has a vibrant night time economy with a wide range of restaurants, theatres and bars, which attract many visitors to the borough as well as encouraging residents to support local businesses in town centres and local parades. Whilst the majority of licensed premises behave in a responsible manner and with due respect to their neighbours, there are however on going issues with anti-social behaviour, noise nuisance and littering, often connected to binge drinking and exacerbated by the proliferation of ever later licences permitted under the previous government’s 24-hour licensing laws. Council notes with disappointment that the current government decided not to implement minimum alcohol pricing and have also not implemented the provision in the 2011 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act which would have made public health an objective in licensing applications.

This Council believes that Merton’s residents deserve to live in peace in their own homes; that residents and visitors all deserve a safe and clean environment, in which to enjoy an evening out in the borough; and that the Council has a responsibility, in conjunction with the police, to tackle the problem of alcohol fuelled crime and anti-social behaviour where it blights the lives of local communities.

This Council therefore welcomes the new powers introduced by the government as part of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to enable local communities to tackle this antisocial behaviour by making it easier for the police and councils to deal with pubs, clubs and bars which contribute to the problems of late night drinking, but notes that the Licensing Committee considered early morning restriction orders (EMRO) and the late night levy at their meeting on 28 February 2013 and, based in part on advice from the police, agreed that they should not be introduced at the present time.

Council believes that government should introduce further powers to combat the proliferation of betting shops which can lead to increased crime and higher levels of gambling addiction in often poorer communities, by allowing local authorities to clamp down on unsustainable levels of conversions to betting shops.

Council particularly welcomes:

- Merton's implementation of a borough-wide Controlled Drinking Zone in July 2013 in order to allow police to tackle alcohol related anti social behaviour
- Cabinet's decision in January 2014 to implement a six month pilot of an all year round out of hours noise pollution service. The council looks forward to reviewing the evidence to assess whether the service provides value for money for our residents.
- The Cabinet Member's decision to focus additional resources on litter enforcement by working with a specialist environmental crime enforcement organisation whose officers will work alongside our own enforcement team to tackle the behaviour of those dropping litter on our streets.
- The Leader's recent letter to the Secretary of State Eric Pickles in support of the London Borough of Hackney's proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act to allow local authorities the power to clamp down on the proliferation of betting offices by changing their planning use class.

This Council commits to continue delivering a better balance in future between the thriving night time economy in Merton and the need for all licensed premises to respect their neighbours by ensuring that alcohol-related problems, including anti-social behaviour, littering and noise, are properly addressed. As such, this Council resolves to call on the administration to:

- a) Clamp down on any licensed premises which break the terms of their licences through firmer enforcement of the rules;
- b) Ask the Licensing Committee if they would like to review their February 2013 decision relating to powers under the 2011 Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act, bearing in mind the advice from the police that Merton "would not profit from a late night levy"; that there are already two cumulative impact zones in place in Wimbledon; that the police "do not have the evidence from crime statistics in Wimbledon Town Centre to request an EMRO at the present time" and that the police believe an EMRO "would most likely have a detrimental effect on businesses in the Town Centre.";
- c) Monitor the performance of the new litter enforcement regime in Merton which will deploy specialist environmental crime enforcers to catch and prosecute those who blight our communities, including late at night outside bars and clubs where required; and
- d) Monitor the results of the pilot all year round out of hours noise pollution enforcement service introduced in January 2014 to provide reassurance and comfort to residents whose sleep is disturbed by inconsiderate neighbours.

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## **Item 9, Labour Amendment to Liberal Democrat motion to 2 April 2014 council meeting**

After “globally fair level” insert new paragraph as follows: “Merton Council’s draft Climate Change Strategy and action plan (2014-2017) sets out how the council and the wider borough can take action on climate change and is to be adopted by full council pending the recommendations of the council’s Scrutiny Review of Climate Change and the Green Deal.”

After “our planet’s resources” insert “, although there are costs involved in working with BioRegional”.

After “Health and happiness” insert: “However the costs and benefits of the programme are as yet unclear.”

After “This council recommends that” insert “we consider the costs and benefits to local residents of”, replace “We adopt” with “Adopting”, “We invite” with “Inviting”, “We monitor” with “Monitoring”, and “We work” with “Working”.

In the final paragraph after “2014 on” delete “what” and insert “whether to”; delete “it has made”; and before “annually” insert “, if agreed,”.

### **Motion now to read:**

This Council notes that:

One planet living is a vision of a sustainable world in which people everywhere can enjoy a high quality of life within the productive capacity of the planet.

If everyone in the world lived as we do in the UK we would need three planets to support us.

We need to reduce our impact - our Ecological Footprint - by two thirds to a sustainable and globally fair level.

Merton Council’s draft Climate Change Strategy and action plan (2014-2017) sets out how the council and the wider borough can take action on climate change and is to be adopted by full council pending the recommendations of the council’s Scrutiny Review of Climate Change and the Green Deal.

This Council recognises that:

A local eco-organisation BioRegional has developed, with WWF, a One Planet Living framework to help individuals and organisations live and work within a fair share of our planet’s resources, although there are costs involved in working with BioRegional.

This framework identifies ten guiding principles covering:

- Zero carbon

- Zero waste
- Sustainable transport
- Sustainable materials
- Local and sustainable food
- Sustainable water
- Land use and wildlife
- Culture and heritage
- Equity and local economy
- Health and happiness

However the costs and benefits of the programme are as yet unclear.

This Council recommends that we consider the costs and benefits to local residents of:

Adopting the principle of One Planet Living in Merton

Inviting BioRegional to work with us to develop a One Planet Merton framework

Monitoring the work of the Council against those principles

Working with residents, our partners, the business community, and the voluntary and community sector to enable the principles to be rolled out across the borough

This Council requests that:

The Cabinet investigate this opportunity and report back to full Council by the end of 2014 on whether to progress towards One Planet Living in Merton and, if agreed, annually thereafter.