

Merton Council

Council

4 February 2015

Supplementary agenda

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COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2015

MOTION - STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – CORPORATE CAPACITY WITH A FOCUS ON THE MERTON PARTNERSHIP

That this Council notes the importance of its Strategic Partners in delivering both services to and enhanced life changing experiences for its residents in Merton. The Community Plan 2013 sets out a vision to meet the needs of the community and, in particular amongst its partners, enhancement is provided by:

- the Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS)
- the Merton Chamber of Commerce
- Merton Voluntary Service Council
- the Jobcentre Plus
- South Thames College
- The Community Engagement Network

The Council acknowledges its responsibility to equip residents - young and old - to:

- take advantage of access to and understand the advice of healthcare professionals
- enjoy enrichment by being able to participate fully in the life of the community
- enable engagement with higher education
- be eligible to find employment

In order to achieve these objectives the Council resolves:

- not only to meet its statutory obligations to provide education for the young, but also to provide education to adults of every age, by providing an Adult Education Service which takes full account of the funding available to it from central government.
- to require the Cabinet to:
 - review again the economics of maintaining the Adult Education Centre at Whatley Avenue
 - spell out in a report how it intends to meet the delivery of Adult Education in Merton in the period 2015-18 and meet its partnership obligations

Councillor James Holmes

Councillor Oonagh Moulton

Councillor David Williams

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LIBERAL DEMOCRATS AMENDMENT TO THE NOTICE OF MOTION -
CONSERVATIVE 1 AGENDA 10
COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2015

NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Mary-Jane Jeanes

To **add** at the end of the motion –

- (c) **Commit to ring-fencing any Independent Living Fund (ILF) funding that will be transferred to Merton by central Government in 2015-16, following the closure of the ILF, to help those with high support needs to live independently; to require a 6 monthly assessment to be brought to the relevant Scrutiny Panel in order to monitor the effectiveness of and progress in the transfer of the Fund and the use of the funding.**

The amended recommendations would then read:

This Council notes that:

- The administration's so called 'July principles' included a commitment to maintain services to the vulnerable and elderly;
- Among the replacement Adult Social Care savings that the Cabinet has been forced to bring forward this year because it can't deliver £400,000 of savings previously agreed for 2015-16 are proposals to reduce by £200,000 the funding of day care services provided at the High Path and All Saints day centres for disabled adults and their carers;
- Consultation has just closed on the Council's plans to cut spending on Adult Social Care by a further £9.1million between 2015-2016 and 2018-2019 despite an estimated 9% increase in the older population of Merton between 2015 and 2020 and a projected increase of around 5% in the number of residents with learning disabilities over that period; and
- At the same time, the current administration is choosing to explore spending £7million on the introduction of wheeled bins to the borough despite this being rejected in 2011 following a detailed and in depth review by a cross-party Scrutiny task group. Wheeled bins also tend to be more problematic for older and disabled residents to use.

This Council is concerned about the impact of these spending cuts on the most vulnerable residents in our community, since they face losing highly valued support services which promote independence and provide vital respite for their carers.

This Council is further concerned by the results of the latest Annual Residents' Survey which shows a clear trend of falling levels of satisfaction with the Council among Merton's disabled residents. This seems to be a trend which is particular to Merton rather than being replicated across London.

This Council therefore resolves to urge Cabinet to:

- a) Reject the £200,000 cut to day care support for disabled adults provided at the High Path and All Saints day centres, which the administration has chosen to bring forward, and ask officers to identify alternative efficiency savings for 2015-16 that do not impact on front line services; and
- b) Ensure there is additional scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission or the relevant panel of the £9million of new savings proposals in Adult Social Care which were recently under consultation.
- c) Commit to ring-fencing any Independent Living Fund (ILF) funding that will be transferred to Merton by central Government in 2015-16, following the closure of the ILF, to help those with high support needs to live independently; to require a 6 monthly assessment to be brought to the relevant Scrutiny Panel in order to monitor the effectiveness of and progress in the transfer of the Fund and the use of the funding.