

Merton Council Council

9 September 2015

Tabled Amendments to the Notice of Motions

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COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2015
ITEM 8C
LABOUR AMENDMENT

Amend the motion as per the tracked changes below, with words underlined inserted and words struck through deleted:

This Council recognises, given the urgent and projected demand for more secondary school places in Merton, that there is still not a suitable site agreed with the Department for Education (DFE) who are responsible, via the Education Funding (EFA) Agency, for identifying such a site. Furthermore, even if the process can shortly be concluded, Council is concerned about the ~~extremely long~~ time it has taken for the EFA to identify a site for a new secondary free school in the borough that fully meets the needs of parents and pupils across the whole of Merton but acknowledges the unavoidable difficulties facing the EFA.

The search for suitable sites for a new secondary school commenced in 2012 ~~and but it was immediately clear from the results of the Capita Simmonds report which the council commissioned that unfortunately there are very few sites in the borough that are suitable for a school, given the lack of significant land availability, the requirements for sufficient space and outside play areas and the government funding available for building new schools. The government's EFA have now undertaken their own site search and have confirmed the difficulty in finding a suitable site in Merton. Nonetheless, the council has assisted the EFA in identifying a potential site in South Wimbledon which is the administration's preferred option although it cannot currently be named for reasons of commercial confidentiality. This Council believes acknowledges~~ that:

- ~~If, due to lack of a suitable site and insufficient funding from central government, a viable secondary school site cannot be made ready now identified by the government's EFA within the timescale required to meet future need then this administration will work with the government's EFA and with Harris where appropriate to reassess the current secondary school strategy and look at the various contingency plans in place for such an eventuality, including looking at alternative options for secondary school expansion which are cost effective and value for money and which meet our statutory responsibilities so we do not has~~ run the serious risk of not having enough provision in place, ~~with inadequate and of Merton losing millions of pounds of~~ funding from the Department for Education for the construction of a new school potentially requiring us to look at more cost effective and value for money options.
- ~~Notwithstanding the difficulty in finding a site, t~~This administration has focused on finding a good quality provider with a track record of achievement in the borough further exacerbated the current school places problem by discouraging and not assisting writing to the Regional Schools Commissioner expressing a clear preference for a provider with a track record of offering good quality education to young people in Merton over an untested provider, Chapel Street, which was proposing a split site school across three unidentified sites, which was approved and selected by the DFE but which later withdrew. and they have now compounded this error by the ~~The long~~ process undertaken by the government's EFA, assisted by the council, in

finding a suitable site, close to where pupil numbers will be highest in the west of the borough, is unavoidable in order to ensure the suitability of the site in terms of space and environmental requirements and the affordability of the site in the light of government cuts to the funding for new school construction.

This Council notes that many parents, teachers and children don't want split site secondary schools for a variety of reasons, such as safety, travel issues and lack of flexibility, and congratulates the council on making clear to the Secretary of State our preference for a tested provider with a good track record over the Chapel Street three site proposal. Nor do they want to see popular primary schools, such as Joseph Hood and Wimbledon Chase, adversely impacted by proposals for a new secondary school on their existing sites. The lack of ~~clarity over~~ a suitable site for a new secondary school is a cloud that has hung over many families for years regrettable but the EFA and the council's focus is on ensuring the right site, simply because they want and to ensure their our residents' children can access a high quality school close to their home.

This Council therefore urges the government's EFA, working where appropriate with Harris and the council and Cabinet, to continue to do all they can to identify a site and to rapidly ~~to~~ progress a single site location where at all possible for a new secondary free school in the west of the borough, as close as possible to the area of greatest need that a) would not adversely affect existing schools in Merton and b) could accommodate a new secondary school on a single site thereby avoiding the need for a split site, bearing in mind the land availability constraints and the inadequate government funding for the construction of new schools.

Motion now to read:

This Council recognises, given the urgent and projected demand for more secondary school places in Merton, that there is still not a suitable site agreed with the Department for Education (DFE) who are responsible, via the Education Funding (EFA) Agency, for identifying such a site. Furthermore, even if the process can shortly be concluded, Council is concerned about the time it has taken for the EFA to identify a site for a new secondary free school in the borough that fully meets the needs of parents and pupils across the whole of Merton but acknowledges the unavoidable difficulties facing the EFA.

The search for suitable sites for a new secondary school commenced in 2012 but it was immediately clear from the results of the Capita Simmonds report which the council commissioned that unfortunately there are very few sites in the borough that are suitable for a school, given the lack of significant land availability, the requirements for sufficient space and outside play areas and the government funding available for building new schools. The government's EFA have now undertaken their own site search and have confirmed the difficulty in finding a suitable site in Merton. Nonetheless, the council has assisted the EFA in identifying a potential site in South Wimbledon which is the administration's preferred option although it cannot currently be named for reasons of commercial confidentiality. This Council acknowledges that:

- If, due to lack of a suitable site and insufficient funding from central government, a viable secondary school site cannot be identified by the government's EFA within the timescale required to meet future need then this administration will work with the government's EFA and with Harris where appropriate to reassess the current secondary school strategy and look at the various contingency plans in place for such an eventuality, including looking at alternative options for secondary school expansion which are cost effective and value for money and which meet our statutory responsibilities so we do not run the serious risk of not having enough provision in place, with inadequate funding from the Department for Education for the construction of a new school potentially requiring us to look at more cost effective and value for money options.
- Notwithstanding the difficulty in finding a site, this administration has focused on finding a good quality provider with a track record of achievement in the borough by writing to the Regional Schools Commissioner expressing a clear preference for a provider with a track record of offering good quality education to young people in Merton over an untested provider, Chapel Street, which was proposing a split site school across three unidentified sites, which was approved and selected by the DFE but which later withdrew. The process undertaken by the government's EFA, assisted by the council, in finding a suitable site, close to where pupil numbers will be highest in the west of the borough, is unavoidable in order to ensure the suitability of the site in terms of space and environmental requirements and the affordability of the site in the light of government cuts to the funding for new school construction.

This Council notes that many parents, teachers and children don't want split site secondary schools for a variety of reasons, such as safety, travel issues and lack of flexibility, and congratulates the council on making clear to the Secretary of State our preference for a tested provider with a good track record over the Chapel Street three site proposal. Nor do they want to see popular primary schools, such as Joseph Hood and Wimbledon Chase, adversely impacted by proposals for a new secondary school on their existing sites. The lack of a suitable site for a new secondary school is regrettable but the EFA and the council's focus is on ensuring the right site and to ensure our residents' children can access a high quality school close to their home.

This Council therefore urges the government's EFA, working where appropriate with Harris and the council and Cabinet, to continue to do all they can to identify a site and to rapidly progress a single site location where at all possible for a new secondary free school in the west of the borough, as close as possible to the area of greatest need that a) would not adversely affect existing schools in Merton and b) could accommodate a new secondary school on a single site thereby avoiding the need for a split site, bearing in mind the land availability constraints and the inadequate government funding for the construction of new schools.

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COUNCIL MEETING - WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2015
ITEM 10
LABOUR AMENDMENT

Amend the motion as per the tracked changes below, with words underlined inserted and words struck through deleted:

This council notes the importance of good quality public transport systems to support Merton's economy. Tens of thousands of Merton residents use tube, train and bus services to get to work each day and investment in transport is key to the sustainable economic growth of our borough. Council therefore welcomes the plans for Crossrail 2, with a proposed key station in Wimbledon.

Council acknowledges that the construction period will inevitably cause some disruption to the town centre and welcomes the consultation with local people on how this is managed which is planned by Crossrail.

Wimbledon is the economic hub of the borough, with half of Merton's jobs and nearly all the borough's office based employment. It is therefore imperative that the construction is phased in such a way that the existing businesses in the town centre are retained and that the impact on local people and businesses is minimised as far as possible.

This Council regrets the Mayor of London's loss of control over industrial relations at Transport for London, for which he is responsible, and condemns the considerable inconvenience caused to residents in Merton by the series of Tube and rail strikes that took place over the summer as a result of his failure. Unnecessary strike action that could have been averted by the Mayor by all four unions representing tube workers, namely ASLEF (representing mainly train drivers), TSSA (representing mainly ticket office staff), Unite and the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union and some others has caused huge travel disruption for the thousands of Merton residents who rely daily on services such as the Northern and District lines to commute into central London from our borough. This council condemns the Mayor of London for his inability to address the safety concerns of Tube workers and notes that that despite being elected on a pledge to "deal once and for all with endless Tube strikes" in the capital, strikes have actually increased under his administration.

This Council pays tribute to all those people in Merton affected by the strikes, including many council employees, for their resilience and determination to get to work using alternative methods of travel. This Council remains concerned however about the significant cost to the local economy of the Mayor's failure to such-strike action manage industrial relations and recognises the considerable frustration felt not only by commuters but also by the borough's businesses as a result of lost revenue.

This Council also notes that the planned new Night Tube service is well supported by residents and businesses across Merton as part of London Underground's work to modernise transport in the capital, although residents want to be assured that the service will be safe and secure, with sufficient staff presence to deal with any concerns late at night. Journey times are due to be reduced by an average of 20 minutes, with some journeys cut by more than an hour whilst the Night Tube is set to

support around 2,000 permanent jobs and boost the London economy by £360 million. Council therefore regrets that ~~its~~ the Mayor of London has failed to introduce the service this month – including on the Northern line – ~~could potentially be which has been~~ delayed ~~in light of strike action by transport unions due to his failure to manage industrial relations.~~

Whilst welcoming the ongoing talks aimed at resolving the disputes, this Council regrets that the Mayor of London has failed to take action to ensure no further the unions involved have not ruled out staging more Tube and rail strikes which would cause further disruption to the borough's residents and businesses. Council therefore resolves to urge the Mayor of London to focus on the safety concerns of residents and workers and ensure safe and secure night tube services can be implemented as soon as possible, and notes the Government's undemocratic Trade Union Bill which bars working people from exercising their human right to withdraw their labour in exceptional circumstances, without achieving a mandate far in excess of the mandate given to most Councillors and MPs and whilst also not allowing the use of electronic voting which would increase democratic participation. The Bill also allows employers to bring in agency workers to cover striking workers' jobs, potentially impacting on the safety and quality of services normally provided by trained and qualified staff ~~to press ahead with the legislation promised in its General Election manifesto to protect hard working families in Merton from disruptive and undemocratic strike action taken without a proper mandate, including by requiring industrial action in essential services such as health, education, fire and transport to gain the support of at least 40 per cent of all those entitled to take part in strike ballots as well as a majority of those who turn out to vote.~~

Council also calls on Crossrail to ensure that the economic sustainability of Wimbledon as the borough's economic hub is maintained over the period of Crossrail 2's construction and that the inconvenience to residents is minimised. Council resolves to ask the Leader and the Cabinet Member to seek to ensure the Crossrail team are fully aware of the council's position on the importance of this issue and of Wimbledon's contribution to the economy of South West London.

Motion now to read:

This council notes the importance of good quality public transport systems to support Merton's economy. Tens of thousands of Merton residents use tube, train and bus services to get to work each day and investment in transport is key to the sustainable economic growth of our borough. Council therefore welcomes the plans for Crossrail 2, with a proposed key station in Wimbledon.

Council acknowledges that the construction period will inevitably cause some disruption to the town centre and welcomes the consultation with local people on how this is managed which is planned by Crossrail.

Wimbledon is the economic hub of the borough, with half of Merton's jobs and nearly all the borough's office based employment. It is therefore imperative that the construction is phased in such a way that the existing businesses in the town centre

are retained and that the impact on local people and businesses is minimised as far as possible.

This Council regrets the Mayor of London's loss of control over industrial relations at Transport for London, for which he is responsible, and condemns the considerable inconvenience caused to residents in Merton by the series of Tube and rail strikes that took place over the summer as a result of his failure. Unnecessary strike action that could have been averted by the Mayor by all four unions representing tube workers, namely ASLEF (representing mainly train drivers), TSSA (representing mainly ticket office staff), Unite and the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) has caused huge travel disruption for the thousands of Merton residents who rely daily on services such as the Northern and District lines to commute into central London from our borough. This council condemns the Mayor of London for his inability to address the safety concerns of Tube workers and notes that that despite being elected on a pledge to "deal once and for all with endless Tube strikes" in the capital, strikes have actually increased under his administration. This Council pays tribute to all those people in Merton affected by the strikes, including many council employees, for their resilience and determination to get to work using alternative methods of travel. This Council remains concerned however about the significant cost to the local economy of the Mayor's failure to manage industrial relations and recognises the considerable frustration felt not only by commuters but also by the borough's businesses as a result of lost revenue.

This Council also notes that the planned new Night Tube service is well supported by residents and businesses across Merton as part of London Underground's work to modernise transport in the capital, although residents want to be assured that the service will be safe and secure, with sufficient staff presence to deal with any concerns late at night. Journey times are due to be reduced by an average of 20 minutes, with some journeys cut by more than an hour whilst the Night Tube is set to support around 2,000 permanent jobs and boost the London economy by £360 million. Council therefore regrets that the Mayor of London has failed to introduce the service this month – including on the Northern line -which has been delayed due to his failure to manage industrial relations.

Whilst welcoming the ongoing talks aimed at resolving the disputes, this Council regrets that the Mayor of London has failed to take action to ensure no further Tube and rail strikes which would cause further disruption to the borough's residents and businesses. Council therefore resolves to urge the Mayor of London to focus on the safety concerns of residents and workers and ensure safe and secure night tube services can be implemented as soon as possible, and notes the Government's undemocratic Trade Union Bill which bars working people from exercising their human right to withdraw their labour in exceptional circumstances, without achieving a mandate far in excess of the mandate given to most Councillors and MPs and whilst also not allowing the use of electronic voting which would increase democratic participation. The Bill also allows employers to bring in agency workers to cover striking workers' jobs, potentially impacting on the safety and quality of services normally provided by trained and qualified staff.

Council also calls on Crossrail to ensure that the economic sustainability of Wimbledon as the borough's economic hub is maintained over the period of

Crossrail 2's construction and that the inconvenience to residents is minimised. Council resolves to ask the Leader and the Cabinet Member to seek to ensure the Crossrail team are fully aware of the council's position on the importance of this issue and of Wimbledon's contribution to the economy of South West London.