

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 13 JULY 2016

MOTION - STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – OLDER PEOPLE WITH A FOCUS ON ADULT SOCIAL CARE

This Council notes that:

- Merton's projected 2015-16 deficit at the time of the Budget Council meeting that took place on 2 March 2016 to agree the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2016-20 was £2.605million.
- By contrast, the Council's actual overspend in the published draft accounts for 2015-16 (as presented to the Standards and General Purposes Committee on 30 June 2016) was £0.699million.
- General Fund balances have not in fact reduced by the amount of the overspend as was advised would happen during consideration of the Budget by councillors earlier in the year - by a margin of £1.906million.

Given that the Council rejected increasing the spend on Adult Care Services by £1.355million and the on going demographic pressures facing those services coupled with the increasing number of older residents and people with more complex needs requiring access to services in Merton, this Council regrets the administration's decision - as part of its recommended MTFS 2016-20 - to cut or cease completely funding for the following frontline council and local voluntary sector services:

- Support packages (personal budgets, homecare, direct payments)
- Mental health peer support (Imagine)
- Day care centre staffing
- Meals on Wheels
- Access and Assessment staffing
- Managing crisis support for older people

In light of the above and taking into account the considerable variance between Merton's projected and actual overspends for 2015-16, this Council resolves to review its financial monitoring processes in order to ensure that in future years further cuts are not made unnecessarily to services for older and vulnerable residents across the borough.

Cllr Suzanne Grocott

Cllr Gilli Lewis-Lavender

Cllr David Williams

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