

Committee: Council

Date: 23 November 2016

Subject: Petitions

Lead officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director, Corporate Governance.

Lead member: Leader of the Council, Stephen Alambritis.

Contact officer: Democratic Services, democratic.services@merton.gov.uk

Recommendation: That Council

- 1) receives petitions (if any) in accordance with Part 4A, paragraph 18.1 of the Council's Constitution; and
 - 2) note the response given by officers in respect of the petitions presented to the Council meeting held on 14 September 2016.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report invites council to receive petitions in accordance with Part 4A, paragraph 18.1 of the Council's Constitution.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. At the meeting held on 14 September 2016, Council received a petition as detailed below. Any petitions received by Council are referred to respective departments with responsible officers asked to advise the presenting member in each case of the way in which the petition is to be progressed.
- 2.2. A petition was submitted by Councillor Mary Jane Jeanes entitled 'Assurances for Merton's EU Citizens.'
- 2.3 In response to the petition, officers have advised that the borough has experienced an increase of newly arrived migrant communities from across the world, including EU countries, over the last decade. This has contributed to making Merton a diverse and thriving borough. The council values the richness of cultures that this brings and the contribution that newly arrived communities have made.
- 2.4 The council will continue to support these communities to peacefully coexist and live, work and access public services in Merton. Following the Referendum results the council sent a message to its entire staff giving reassurance that the result would not affect employment contracts and that they will continue to be employed. The borough also made a public declaration that hate crime would not be tolerated as Merton is a cohesive and diverse borough where people from different backgrounds have lived and worked together harmoniously for many years. This has been followed up by an active communications campaign during Hate Crime Awareness Week in October.
- 2.5 The council will continue to liaise through the Local Government Association to ensure that its ability to deliver high quality services is not detrimentally affected by the UK's withdrawal from the EU and that it can continue to access the highest calibre workforce drawn from all parts of the community.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1. None for the purpose of this report.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1. None for the purpose of this report.

5 TIMETABLE

5.1. None for the purpose of this report.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. None for the purpose of this report.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. None for the purpose of this report.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1. None for the purpose of this report.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None for the purpose of this report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11 APPENDICES

11.1. None.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1. None.