

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2016

MOTION - STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – CORPORATE CAPACITY

This Council notes that it has agreed to abide by the principles set out in the Community Engagement Strategy and that, according to the Council's website, "all our consultation and community engagement activities should meet the highest standards of inclusion and involvement".

This Council is therefore concerned about the inadequacies in Merton Council's recent consultations, which include but are not limited to:

- No consultation with residents on the proposed changes to Merton's waste collection system, which differ significantly from those piloted in Lavender Fields in 2015.
- "Inadequate" consultation with Friends of Parks groups on the new maintenance contract for the borough's parks and open spaces as acknowledged by the Cabinet Member for Community and Culture.
- Confusion around the recent council tax consultation which has been undermined and politicised.
- The continuing absence of a detailed impact assessment or any consultation with users and residents on the closure and relocation of the High Path Community Resource Centre.

This Council recognises a consistent failure by Merton Council to deliver transparent consultations and calls on the Leader of the Council to:

- a) Formally apologise to residents in Merton for failing to ensure that the Council meets its commitments under the Community Engagement Strategy in the formulation of policy; and
- b) Bring a report to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission on the highlighted failings in Merton's approach to consultation so that the Commission can consider whether a wholesale review of the current arrangements is required by an internal task group or an independent third party.

Cllr Hamish Badenoch

Cllr Daniel Holden

Cllr David Williams

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