

Ged Curran
Chief Executive
London Borough of Merton

By e-mail

25 November 2016

RE: Labour Party Council Tax Survey Results

Dear Ged,

I am writing to advise you of the results of the consultation on Council Tax levels undertaken by myself and the Mitcham & Morden Labour Party.

Our consultation with residents was undertaken to complement the Council's own consultation, and to ensure that the voice of residents in the less affluent east of the borough was heard. Unfortunately, historically, consultations conducted by the Council do not have a very high response rate in this part of the borough, and more often than not the responses that are received come from residents and organisations based in the more affluent, western side of the borough.

This remained the case with regards to the Council's consultation on Council Tax, which saw most responses returned from postcodes primarily based in the Wimbledon constituency. Indeed, the top three postcodes in terms of responses received by the Council are all from Wimbledon, and are all over-represented in terms of the proportion of borough residents they represent. On the other hand, Mitcham – represented by the CR4 postcode – and statistically the less well-off part of our borough, was significantly under-represented in terms of responses received.

On an issue such as Council Tax – a regressive form of taxation that impacts more heavily on the less well-off – I felt that it was important that the voices of all residents were heard. I believe that the results of the Labour Party consultation will be helpful as we seek to represent all the residents of the borough, and will go some way towards balancing the Council's consultation.

You can find the detailed results of our consultation below, as at 24 November. Cabinet will need to take these in to account when making their decision, and they should be included in the report on the consultation.

Constituency Response Totals:

Surveys distributed – c35,000

Total Responses - **2,670**

Response rate – 7.5%

- No increase in Council Tax (continue freeze) – **1,943 (73%)**
- In favour of Council Tax increase – **645 (24%)**
- Spoiled Ballots – **83 (3%)**

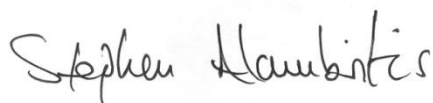
Of the 24% in favour of a Council Tax rise the breakdown was as follows:

- In favour of Council Tax rise by 1.99% - **185 (7%)**
- In favour of Council Tax rise by 2.00% for adult social care – **268 (10%)**
- In favour of Council Tax rise by 3.99% – **192 (8%)**

Spoiled Ballots

- No Address/Postcode Provided – **51**
- More than one option voted for – **18**
- No option voted for – **13**
- Return Form Shredded/Unreadable – **1**

Warm regards,



Cllr Stephen Alambritis
Leader of Merton Council