

Liberal Democrat amendment to Strategic Theme motion.

1. Delete the text that is struck through
2. Insert the underlined (red) text at the end.

As follows:

“This council notes with concern the increasingly poor performance of Veolia to undertake the waste management duties that it is contracted to do, and which Merton taxpayers have paid for.

~~As of 1st September, 1,277 people have signed the Conservative led public petition calling upon Merton Council to return weekly bin collections; and allow residents to retain their own waste bins, without being forced into the new system against their will.~~

In recent months the performance of Veolia has markedly deteriorated:

- Since the beginning of June the number of missed bin collections has increased by a third;
- Veolia has not hit its target for removing detritus from Merton’s streets since April;
- Veolia has failed to meet its target for clearing litter from the streets since early May,
- during June and July over 25% of sites were considered to be below standard.

Veolia’s performance has been unacceptable, and this council resolves to request the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel to establish a subcommittee to focus on Veolia’s performance and ensure that they meet their own targets. ~~The subcommittee will be open to residents groups to ensure that the voices of the people of Merton are heard and that they get value for money.~~ cross-party scrutiny task group, with meetings held in public, to focus on all aspects of Veolia’s performance under contract, and in particular to look at:

- Contract management arrangements by Merton and the South London Waste Partnership and their effectiveness, and the training and support given to officers in performing the above;
- Residents’ concerns about the roll out of wheelies, particularly the process for applying for assisted collections, exemptions from requiring wheelies at particular households, and bin-sharing arrangements – with a view to meeting residents’ individual needs moving forward.
- The full costs of and legal process required to restore weekly bin collections for residual waste, but also looking into the possibilities of other alternatives, such as weekly collections of hygiene waste and greater flexibility for households that might wish to opt out of wheelie bins.

And make appropriate recommendations to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel.”

Motion now to read:

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