

Agenda Item 7c

NOTICE OF MOTION – STRATEGIC THEME – FULL COUNCIL 18TH SEPTEMBER

WASTE ENFORCEMENT

This council recognises that there has been recent successes in enforcement, particularly the court injunction that has prevented Travellers from occupying council land in the borough. However, this council recognises that Merton Council has consistently failed to enforce the refuse collection and street cleaning contract with Veolia since October 2018.

Commenting on this issue Stephen Hammond MP said:

"On a nearly daily basis I am contacted by constituents regarding Veolia's performance. These complaints touch on all elements of the council and Veolia's duty to deal with waste, and cover street litter, overflowing public bins, fly tipping, uncollected private bins and litter covering the streets after bin collection. Merton Council should be scrutinised for the poor procurement of this contract and the full costs of it be made transparent. The council has a history of poor contract management, this must improve, and a clear plan for such should be subject to scrutiny."

Siobhan McDonagh MP recently stated to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

"There has been a significant problem with refuse collection and street sweeping services in Mitcham. There are large numbers of sites which are fly tipped on a regular basis and there appears to be little management of the street sweeping service. The need for a reconsideration of the street sweeping element of the waste contract is clear. It is my understanding that streets are only swept if they are below a certain standard. It is completely unclear, however, what this standard is and how this standard is determined."

This council therefore:

- Supports the comments made by the boroughs two MPs condemning the failure of Veolia to clean the streets, collect the refuse and clear up fly tips;
- Condemns the failure of the Labour administration to correctly enforce the contract;
- Recognises that despite the assurances of the past two Cabinet Members Veolia's performance has not improved;
- Notes that additional financial resources are being used to collect waste that has been missed as part of the 'no side waste' policy;
- Requests that the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel establishes a cross party Enforcement Subcommittee to focus on rapid improvements in the areas of the borough where Veolia still fails on street cleaning, fly tipping and refuse collection; as well working with Officers to focus on educating residents to deal with their waste responsibly and enforce against those who do not.

Cllr Daniel Holden

Cllr Edward Gretton

Cllr Nick McLean

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