

## NOTICE OF STRATEGIC MOTION – WIMBLEDON POLICE STATION

Council notes:

1) In 2018, in response to Government cuts to the Metropolitan Police budget [which have seen the Met having to find £600 million in savings since 2010](#), the Mayor of London conducted a review of the Met's entire estate [in order to protect frontline policing](#) and

subsequently concluded that Wimbledon Police station would be closed and the site sold.

2) The Mayor's decision was ~~reversed~~ [considered](#) by the High Court in *R (Kohler) v MOPAC*

following a Judicial Review application crowd funded, primarily, by the

residents of Wimbledon, [and while in large part the court agreed that the decision, forced on MOPAC to close 36 front counters in order to save an additional £8m a year, was lawful, the court required MOPAC to reconsider the closure of Wimbledon police station.](#)

3) [In the light of the Government's promise of an extra 20,000 police officers across the UK, the Met and MOPAC are reviewing their estate strategy. The exact impact will depend upon the allocation of the additional officers that the Met receives and the subsequent operational allocation of that uplift to different types of police services in different locations within the London; both these aspects could affect the exact requirements for the size of the estate](#)~~Because of this, Wimbledon police station currently remains open to the public for the reporting of crime, unlike 36 other police stations across London that have now been sold, waiting to be sold off, mothballed or otherwise had their front desks closed in the wake of the Mayor of London's review. However no statement on Wimbledon police station's long term future has yet been made.~~

4) The BCU Commander Chief Superintendent Sally Benatar reported to the OSC on 25 April 2019 that, following the amalgamation of the Merton, Wandsworth, Richmond and Kingston BCUs and "11 months of working at greater scale across the boroughs", an internal review was taking place that included the possibility that Wimbledon Police station would be retained in the long term.

Council welcomes: the statement in her report by Leonie Cooper, London Assembly Member for Merton & Wandsworth at the Wimbledon Community Forum, on Wednesday 29 January that "[t]here is no plan to close Wimbledon Police Station" and her further suggestion that its long term future is now secure.

Council resolves: to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Mayor of London [to promise to work together to campaign for the Government to provide the number of officers Merton needs and sufficient funding for our local police service.](#) ~~for confirmation that Wimbledon Police station will not be sold and its long term future is now secure.~~

Motion now to read:

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- 1) In 2018, in response to Government cuts to the Metropolitan Police budget which have seen the Met having to find £600 million in savings since 2010, the Mayor of London conducted a review of the Met's entire estate in order to protect frontline policing and subsequently concluded that Wimbledon Police station would be closed and the site sold.
- 2) The Mayor's decision was considered by the High Court in *R (Kohler) v MOPAC* following a Judicial Review application crowd funded, primarily, by the residents of Wimbledon, and while in large part the court agreed that the decision, forced on MOPAC to close 36 front counters in order to save an additional £8m a year, was lawful, the court required MOPAC to reconsider the closure of Wimbledon police station.
- 3) In the light of the Government's promise of an extra 20,000 police officers across the UK, the Met and MOPAC are reviewing their estate strategy. The exact impact will depend upon the allocation of the additional officers that the Met receives and the subsequent operational allocation of that uplift to different types of police services in different locations within the London; both these aspects could affect the exact requirements for the size of the estate.
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