

## BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 2020

### AMENDMENT – AGENDA ITEM 4

1. Amend recommendation 1A by adding the following wording:

“subject to the following amendment:

- i) The application of £300,000 from the Outstanding Council Programme Board Reserve to fund the following spend:
  - £100,000 on city trees and green walls to combat pollution across the borough;
  - £100,000 on fly tipping enforcement officers on 12 month contracts, to get a grip on the fly tipping situation in Merton;
  - £100,000 on an electronic whiteboard fund, with the ambition to have one in every primary, secondary and SEN school in the borough; and

After Recommendation 1F to add:

Recommendation 1G:

The Council encourages the Cabinet to embrace a new vision for Merton that addresses the challenges of the 2020's.

- Ensuring the Council prioritises sustainable travel and safe cycling by recognising the need for low carbon provision in the Local Plan and town centre Masterplans;
- Investing in greener, low carbon and well-designed community infrastructure to improve amenity, green spaces, wellbeing and air quality within the Borough;
- Increasing levels of prosperity, job creation and revenue generation by ensuring a proper focus on building better town centres and a brighter Borough for our residents;
- Utilising the new education technology, such as digital interactive whiteboards, reducing teacher workload - allowing all pupils to be challenged by innovative learning techniques;
- Instructing officers to work on preparing for the introduction of electric bike hire schemes across the borough and to establish an active travel fund to improve walking and cycling routes across Merton, to be funded by non-utilisation of funds over the financial year.

And a review of strategic objectives by:

- Working with a more realistic set of forecasting, budget monitoring and financial planning principles that properly recognise the increasing levels of funding provided by central government;
- Ensuring that the financial strategy is explicit about how it supports strategic priorities vs balancing the council's budget to ensure that resources are in the right place to exploit the opportunities, and meet needs;
- Developing a clear narrative that describes strategic vision to create clarity for planning across the departments;
- Constantly reviewing risk appetite to ensure opportunities that can deliver a transformative council with a wider range of benefits are not missed.”

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