

Notice of Motion – Full Council – 18th November 2020

Following the Government’s decision not to extend Free School Meals during the recent half term, local authorities, charities and businesses in London and across England were left to plug the gap in providing nutrition for the rising numbers of children in low income households.

Council commends the Labour administration in Merton for stepping in to help with additional funding for all families entitled to Free School Meals to cover the half term holiday, despite the increasing financial burden of responding to the Covid 19 crisis. Without sufficient recompense from the government, despite their commitment to do “whatever it takes”, this financial strain puts Merton’s children at risk of holiday hunger.

Council thanks and commends local charities, businesses and individual residents who also joined together to ensure the borough’s children don’t go hungry.

Council calls on the government to provide funding for families eligible Free School Meals during the upcoming Christmas holidays and other school holidays during the course of the pandemic.

Council resolves to ask the Leader to write to the borough’s MPs and the Secretary of State to demand the government safeguard children’s health and nutrition by extending Free School Meals provision during the holidays.

Cllr Eleanor Stringer

Cllr Tobin Byers

Cllr Brenda Fraser

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