

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2015 NOTICE OF MOTION

This Council notes that:

- The administration's so called 'July principles' included a commitment to maintain services to the vulnerable and elderly;
- Among the replacement Adult Social Care savings that the Cabinet has been forced to bring forward this year because it can't deliver £400,000 of savings previously agreed for 2015-16 are proposals to reduce by £200,000 the funding of day care services provided at the High Path and All Saints day centres for disabled adults and their carers;
- Consultation has just closed on the Council's plans to cut spending on Adult Social Care by a further £9.1million between 2015-2016 and 2018-2019 despite an estimated 9% increase in the older population of Merton between 2015 and 2020 and a projected increase of around 5% in the number of residents with learning disabilities over that period; and
- At the same time, the current administration is choosing to explore spending £7million on the introduction of wheeled bins to the borough despite this being rejected in 2011 following a detailed and in depth review by a cross-party Scrutiny task group. Wheeled bins also tend to be more problematic for older and disabled residents to use.

This Council is concerned about the impact of these spending cuts on the most vulnerable residents in our community, since they face losing highly valued support services which promote independence and provide vital respite for their carers.

This Council is further concerned by the results of the latest Annual Residents' Survey which shows a clear trend of falling levels of satisfaction with the Council among Merton's disabled residents. This seems to be a trend which is particular to Merton rather than being replicated across London.

This Council therefore resolves to urge Cabinet to:

- a) Reject the £200,000 cut to day care support for disabled adults provided at the High Path and All Saints day centres, which the administration has chosen to bring forward, and ask officers to identify alternative efficiency savings for 2015-16 that do not impact on front line services; and
- b) Ensure there is additional scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission or the relevant panel of the £9million of new savings proposals in Adult Social Care which were recently under consultation.

Cllr Gilli Lewis-Lavender

Cllr Abdul Latif

Cllr Daniel Holden

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