

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2015

## NOTICE OF MOTION

This Council recognises that cleanliness of the borough's streets is clearly the top concern for people across Merton, according to the latest Annual Residents' Survey. Over a third of residents now cite litter and dirt in the streets as their primary concern, which is a 10% increase over the last 2 years and the highest level for a decade.

This Council therefore welcomes the programme of clean up events arranged in the borough, including as part of the recent Community Clear Up Day 2015, and pays tribute to the on going efforts of local campaigning group, Merton Matters, which - together with many other local residents – is working to address the problem of litter in the borough.

This Council is however concerned that:

- Since October last year, there have been reductions made to the Sunday street cleaning service in Merton's town centres;
- The overall number of street cleaners employed in Merton has reduced from 112 in 2010 to 103 today. Yet, over the same period there has been an increase in the number of traffic wardens employed.
- A further 7 street cleaning staff are due to be cut in 2016-17 as part of the Business Plan 2015-19;
- Dog waste bins are also set to be removed across the borough in 2016-17, including from parks, despite the fact that fewer than half the residents asked in the latest Annual Residents' Survey were satisfied with the way in which Merton Council deals with dog fouling;
- According to a recent Freedom of Information request, 21,700 people contacted the Council about street scene and waste issues last year alone; and
- Concerns are consistently being raised with councillors that the Council's stated policy to 'sweep every road once a week, twice if required' whilst 'town centres and main shopping parades should be swept daily Monday to Saturday' is visibly not being adhered to.

Furthermore, this Council believes that the number of missed waste collections is also contributing to the problem, since not only do additional resources have to be deployed to rectify the service failures reported, but this uncollected waste further adds to the detritus on Merton's streets.

This Council therefore resolves to call on Cabinet to:

- a) Reverse its previous decision and reintroduce street sweeping immediately after refuse collections;
- b) Reverse its previous decision and reintroduce a full Sunday street cleaning service in Merton's town centres;
- c) Seek to identify replacement efficiency savings over the coming months that would protect Merton's street cleaning service from the further cuts planned for 2016-17 e.g. by encouraging greater use of the 'Love Clean Streets' smartphone App;
- d) Conduct a full review of the training and monitoring systems in place for frontline street cleaning staff to ensure that the Council's stated policies and agreed service levels are delivered on the ground; and
- e) Agree to join a borough-wide, cross party anti-litter campaign as proposed by the Merton Matters campaign group. **Page 45**

**Cllr Michael Bull**

**Cllr John Bowcott**

**Cllr David Dean**

**Cllr Daniel Holden**

**Cllr Abdul Latif**

**Cllr Jill West**