

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2015 ITEM 12 - NOTICE OF MOTION

LABOUR AMENDMENT

Amend the motion as per the tracked changes below, with words underlined inserted and words struck through deleted:

Council notes that under the previous Conservative administration official government data showed that Merton was the dirtiest borough in London. Since 2010 however, the government's figures show that litter and detritus on Merton's streets has reduced significantly due to a more targeted approach.

This ~~However, this~~ Council recognises that whilst satisfaction with street cleaning is consistently high, cleanliness of people littering the borough's streets is clearly the a top concern for some people across Merton, according to the latest Annual Residents' Survey. ~~Over~~ With council tax now receding as a concern due to the council's five year council tax freeze, over a third of residents asked to pick a top concern 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 when council tax and crime were the biggest concerns.

This Council therefore welcomes the council's zero tolerance approach to litter and the Love Your Street campaign which is a comprehensive programme of initiatives which also includes a 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 groups, including Sustainable Merton and Merton Matters, ~~which who~~ - together with many other local residents – ~~is~~ are working in partnership with the council to address the problem of people dropping litter in the borough.

This Council is ~~however concerned~~ notes that:

- The council's zero tolerance approach to litter has included using specialist environmental enforcement officers to fine people who drop litter and cigarette butts in our town centres. Whilst in 2009/10 just 139 fixed penalty notices for littering were issued by the council this has risen to over 4,000 fixed penalty notices issued in 2014/15 to people who drop litter in our streets, with plans to extend the new service to parks and green spaces during the busy summer months;
- The council has invested in more productive and efficient street cleaning equipment including the new Glutton machines being operated across the borough and is introducing an improved approach to mechanical sweeping across the borough, particularly in cleansing hot spot areas;
- ~~Since October last year, there have been reductions made to the~~ The budget for a Sunday street cleaning service in Merton's town centres ~~has not been reduced despite the significant cuts to the council's funding from central government;~~

- a) Look in detail at the results of the pilot and Scrutiny's deliberations into the potential benefits and/or disbenefits of a wheeled bin service, bearing in mind the need for any changes to offer value for money and cleaner streets;
- b) Continue to strenuously enforce fixed penalty notices for the minority of people who litter our streets;
- a)c) ~~Reverse its previous decision and reintroduce street sweeping immediately after refuse collections~~Continue to sweep the borough's streets according to the agreed policy in line with the resources allocated as part of successive Business Plans agreed by full council;
- b)d) ~~Reverse its previous decision and reintroduce a full~~Continue with the same level of -Sunday street cleaning service in Merton's town centres as has been part of the agreed budget for a number of years;
- e)e) ~~Seek to identify replacement~~additional efficiency savings over the coming months in order to achieve the total £32m of cuts required across the council as a result of the reduction in our funding from central government and where possible and in line with the July principles that would to 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 by achieving economies of scale by working with our neighbouring boroughs via the South London Waste Partnership environmental services procurement;
- d)f) ~~Continue to regularly 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~~continue to be delivered on the ground; and
- e)g) ~~Agree to join a~~Continue to work as part of the borough-wide, cross party anti-litter campaign Love Your Street as proposed by the council and the Merton Matters campaign group in order to discourage people from littering our streets.

Motion now to read:

Council notes that under the previous Conservative administration official government data showed that Merton was the dirtiest borough in London. Since 2010 however, the government's figures show that litter and detritus on Merton's streets has reduced significantly due to a more targeted approach.

However, this Council recognises that whilst satisfaction with street cleaning is consistently high, people littering the borough's streets is clearly a top concern for some people across Merton, according to the latest Annual Residents' Survey. With council tax now receding as a concern due to the council's five year council tax freeze, over a third of residents asked to pick a top concern 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 when council tax and crime were the biggest concerns.

This Council therefore welcomes the council's zero tolerance approach to litter and the Love Your Street campaign which is a comprehensive programme of initiatives which also includes a programme of clean up events arranged in the borough, including as part of the recent Community Clear Up Day 2015, and pays tribute to

increase in littering across the country as a whole which we need to respond to without any increase in funding and indeed with the opposite, a significant cut in our funding from central government. Nonetheless, whilst average levels of satisfaction with street cleaning for London have reduced, Merton's have increased.

Furthermore, this Council notes that the number of missed waste collections continues to stand at just 0.05%, but that nonetheless it is accepted that the refuse receptacles currently in use are not fit for purpose, with black sacks being torn apart by foxes and refuse in the recycling receptacles being blown about by the wind. The Tidy Britain Group's analysis of our street litter found that 50% is as a result of our black sack and box collection regimes. Council therefore warmly welcomes the wheeled bin pilot in parts of Lavender ward and looks forward to assessing the results. .

This Council therefore resolves to call on Cabinet to:

- a) Look in detail at the results of the pilot and Scrutiny's deliberations into the potential benefits and/or disbenefits of a wheeled bin service, bearing in mind the need for any changes to offer value for money and cleaner streets;
- b) Continue to strenuously enforce fixed penalty notices for the minority of people who litter our streets;
- c) Continue to sweep the borough's streets according to the agreed policy in line with the resources allocated as part of successive Business Plans agreed by full council;
- d) Continue with the same level of Sunday street cleaning service in Merton's town centres as has been part of the agreed budget for a number of years;
- e) Seek to identify additional efficiency savings over the coming months in order to achieve the total £32m of cuts required across the council as a result of the reduction in our funding from central government and where possible and in line with the July principles to protect Merton's street cleaning service by achieving economies of scale by working with our neighbouring boroughs via the South London Waste Partnership environmental services procurement;
- f) Continue to regularly review the training and monitoring systems in place for frontline street cleaning staff to ensure that the Council's stated policies and agreed service levels continue to be delivered on the ground; and
- g) Continue to work as part of the borough-wide, cross party anti-litter campaign Love Your Street as proposed by the council and the Merton Matters campaign group in order to discourage people from littering our streets.

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