

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2015

NOTICE OF MOTION

This Council condemns the considerable inconvenience caused to residents in Merton by the series of Tube and rail strikes that took place over the summer. Unnecessary strike action by the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union and some others has caused huge travel disruption for the thousands of Merton residents who rely daily on services such as the Northern and District lines to commute into central London from our borough.

This Council pays tribute to all those people in Merton affected by the strikes, including many council employees, for their resilience and determination to get to work using alternative methods of travel. This Council remains concerned however about the significant cost to the local economy of such strike action and recognises the considerable frustration felt not only by commuters but also by the borough's businesses as a result of lost revenue.

This Council also notes that the planned new Night Tube service is well supported by residents and businesses across Merton as part of London Underground's work to modernise transport in the capital. Journey times are due to be reduced by an average of 20 minutes, with some journeys cut by more than an hour whilst the Night Tube is set to support around 2,000 permanent jobs and boost the London economy by £360 million. Council therefore regrets that its introduction this month – including on the Northern line - could potentially be delayed in light of strike action by transport unions.

Whilst welcoming the ongoing talks aimed at resolving the disputes, this Council regrets that the unions involved have not ruled out staging more Tube and rail strikes which would cause further disruption to the borough's residents and businesses. Council therefore resolves to urge the Government to press ahead with the legislation promised in its General Election manifesto to protect hard working families in Merton from disruptive and undemocratic strike action taken without a proper mandate, including by requiring industrial action in essential services such as health, education, fire and transport to gain the support of at least 40 per cent of all those entitled to take part in strike ballots as well as a majority of those who turn out to vote.

Cllr Daniel Holden

Cllr David Dean

Cllr Oonagh Moulton

This page is intentionally left blank