



# Merton Conservatives

## Post 26th February Budget Council Update

Dear Liz,

I thought it would be useful to give residents an update on the work your local Conservative Councillors have been doing in Merton Council.

We recently had a full Council budget meeting on the **26th February** and we raised a number of important issues residents have contacted us on. You can read my response to the budget by clicking the button below.

As ever, if there is anything you would like us to raise, please contact us using the details at the bottom of this email.

Best wishes,

Cllr Nick McLean  
Conservative Group Leader  
Merton Council

[My Speech](#)

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**Labour and Lib Dems stop you from keeping  
more of your own money**



At the recent budget council meeting, Labour and Lib Dem councillors failed to support a Conservative proposal to give residents in Council Tax Band A-E properties in Merton a 1% Council Tax rebate.

This would have been a real lifeline for residents, especially pensioners who have been targeted by the Labour government's cuts to the Winter Fuel Allowance.

Sadly, Council Tax will now be hiked by 5%, the maximum the Labour administration can get away with without seeking permission from local residents in a public vote.

Group leader Nick McLean said during the meeting "Mr Mayor - what is more galling—the socialist **Merton Labour** patting themselves on the back for spending other people's money, or the high tax, high spending **Merton Liberal Democrats** demanding more?"

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## Council Tax hike to hit households across Merton

Labour have forced through an eye-watering 5% hike to Council Tax this year in Merton. This is the third time in the last four years that your Labour-run council has hiked Council Tax by the maximum amount.

At a time when many residents are struggling financially, Labour has chosen to ignore the pleas of residents and vote to continue wasting public money on their left-wing causes. Additionally, the Labour Mayor of London has hit residents in the pocket with an above inflation rise in the GLA precept which will rise by an additional 4% in the next financial year.

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## Labour government creates £4 million

# **blackhole in council finances**

At the meeting, council officers outlined the damage to council finances due to the Labour government's decision to raise employers' National Insurance Contributions. Conservative councillors' questions exposed the fact that the rise has cost Merton £4 million, which equates to 3.2% of the borough's entire Council Tax revenue.

## **Labour admit their failure on regeneration will leave taxpayers with nothing**



Source of photo - Clarion Housing Group

In response to questions from your Conservative councillors, council officers admitted that Labour's failure to implement a robust contract with Clarion Housing to regenerate the estates in Merton will leave residents with no financial return. Labour decided to waive the right to a 5% clawback of revenue from the sale of the regenerated housing stock. This has cost Merton over £72 million and represents an appalling return to residents who expected their council to be run efficiently. Your Labour-run council prefers to raise money by increasing your taxes instead.

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## **Full speed ahead towards pay per mile in Merton?**



Labour and the Liberal Democrats have opened the door to pay per mile charging in Merton after they rejected a Conservative amendment which would have committed the council to oppose its introduction. Time will tell whether residents are about to be run off the road by the left-wing parties in Merton.

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## **Future of Merton's Police Stations in doubt after lack of support from Labour and Liberal Democrats**



The future of Wimbledon and Mitcham Police Stations remains up in the air after Labour and Liberal Democrat councillors refused to support a Conservative amendment to keep Wimbledon and Mitcham Police Stations

open. Additionally, Conservatives wanted to open a police base in Morden to help keep residents safe. Conservative will continue to campaign for all our Police Stations in Merton to stay open, and will continue to fight for a new police base in Morden.

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## **Labour's Council Tax Support Scheme to cost Taxpayers £10.1 million**

Conservative councillors have uncovered that the Labour administration's Council Tax Support Scheme will cost Taxpayers £10.1 million in the financial year 2025/26. The scheme, supported by the Lib Dems, means that residents on certain benefits do not pay any Council Tax whatsoever, and therefore do not contribute to council services.

This is very unusual for London boroughs, the majority of which give targeted reductions on Council Tax for their poorest residents, but do not exempt residents en masse from the requirement to make at least some contribution to local services.

The cost of the Labour scheme is equivalent to 8.5% of Council Tax receipts. However, Labour refuse to bring Merton into line with most London boroughs, and have just voted to increase your Council Tax by the maximum of 5% instead.

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## **Support for children, active travel, environmental measures and dementia care stopped by Labour and Lib Dems**

The left-wing parties in Merton have combined to stop Conservative plans to prioritise active and sustainable travel, and technology led solutions to combat the pollution crisis in Merton which would remove harmful emissions from the air. Additionally, they did not support our proposals for a new partnership with business to improve the lives of our school children, and support for adult day care centres. These areas will continue to be neglected by the left-wing parties, and Merton residents will suffer as a result.

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Thank you for reading!

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Merton Conservatives | 372 Upper Richmond Road West | London, SW14 7JU GB

Promoted by Ali Douas on behalf of the Wimbledon Conservatives and the Mitcham and Morden Conservatives all at 372 Upper Richmond Road West,  
London, SW14 7JU



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