

Council – 15 December 2014

Motions

The following motions have been submitted in accordance with the notice required by Standing Order 7(1) and are listed in the order received.

1. CONSULTATION THAT COUNTS

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Council recognises that the recent consultation about the options for the future of the Lyndale School led to issues being raised about the nature and practice of 'consultation'.

During this process, there was a distinction drawn between the notes taken at meetings and 'high level' notes. Whilst the inclusion of these points was contained in the subsequent reports, there is a pressing need to capture the full import and quality of points raised by the public during consultations.

Council also understands that the nature of and status of 'pre-consultation' was also questioned at a recent meeting of the Policy and Performance Co-ordinating Committee.

Council believes that, in the interests of good governance, there is a need for clarity to ensure that full records of consultations are effectively kept.

Council considers that guidance needs to be developed on the proper capture and reporting of points raised during consultations. The issue of the chairing of such consultations also needs to be considered.

Council requests that the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee examine the practices with a view to establishing procedures which Wirral's citizens and Councillors can be fully conversant with and have confidence in.

2. GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICIES WORKING FOR WIRRAL

Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green
Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Council notes that since 2010, the Conservative-led Government has been working to a long-term economic plan to turn Britain around.

Council further notes that when Labour left Government there was a record peacetime deficit, increased unemployment and a welfare system that didn't reward work – they had even doubled income tax on the poorest by abolishing the 10p tax band.

Council acknowledges that the Government's economic policies have delivered the following achievements:

- The deficit cut by over a third
- Income tax cut for over 25 million people
- Benefits capped to reward work
- 1.8 million more people in employment
- The state pension increased by £800
- More children in good and outstanding schools
- 50,000 families with a home thanks to Help to Buy

Council further acknowledges that we are now seeing the tangible benefits of these Government policies working for Wirral people including:

- Wirral having the lowest rate of Job Seekers Allowance Claimants in the Liverpool City Region at 2.0% (October 2014), the lowest rate since December 2004.
- 2,600 people in Wirral coming off JSA since October 2013 and earning a wage for themselves and their families.
- Nearly £10 million of Regional Growth Fund monies being allocated to Wirral which has led to the safeguarding or creation of in excess of 1500 jobs.
- Building work commencing within the Wirral Waters Enterprise Zone on Wirral Metropolitan College's Built Environment Skills and Enterprise Centre, Tower Road South.
- Over £2 million of additional Regional Growth Fund resources secured ensuring the development of 120,000 sq ft of floor space along the A41 corridor.

Council is therefore dismayed that the Labour Administration continues to deny the significant economic benefits delivered to Wirral people from the Coalition Government's economic policies.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister congratulating him on these achievements.