Amendment – Cabinet Portfolio Summary Annual Report (Item 6A)

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by Councillor Chris Carubia

Council notes that the Annual Report again refers to the 'honest appraisals' of Wirral's progress.

The report states ...
'We made a commitment when we first agreed this Plan to report back to Wirral residents – to keep residents informed, and give open, honest appraisals of our progress so we can be held to account on the promises we made.' (Foreword)

Last year's report stated, "We're also continuing to get the basics right'. That theme is not reflected in the new report. Council believes that Cabinet members must not overlook the everyday experiences of Wirral residents.

 The Annual Report for 2016/17 (page 25) promised that in 2017/18...
 "...we will redouble our efforts to improve the public realm..."
The Annual Report for 2017/18 again stated...
"we will redouble our efforts to improve the public realm..." (page 35)

It is regrettable that there is no emphasis on the 'public realm' in the Report, though it does say that ... 'Living in a safe, clean, well looked after community leads to a better quality of life' (page 15).

With regard to this, Council has to point out that residents still do remain concerned about the unkempt state of the Borough, where unsightly weeds remain, streetlights await repair for long periods and where the roads continue to suffer from potholes.

Council, in this era of where the climate emergency is now being recognised, does welcome the statement that...

'This year, we will redouble our efforts to tackle climate change, through investing in green energies and introducing measures designed to reduce our energy consumption, such as sustainable transport policies and electric car charging points.' (page 12) and looks forward to seeing significant and measurable progress with these issues during the next year.'

Council welcomes the commitment to change the nature and style of Portfolio Holders' reports in response to the concerns of Members.