



Council

Town Hall
Wallasey

13 March 2015

Dear Councillor

This supplement for the Council meeting to be held at **6.15 pm on Monday, 16 March 2015** in the Council Chamber, within the Town Hall, Wallasey, should be read in conjunction with the Council Summons dated 6 March, 2015.

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AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

6. LEADER'S, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' AND CHAIRS REPORTS (Pages 1 - 2)

To receive the written reports of the Leader, Cabinet Members and Chair of the Policy and Performance Coordinating Committee and receive questions and answers on any of those reports in accordance with Standing Orders 10(2)(a) and 11.

Advance notice has been given of a question from Councillor Gilchrist in respect of the Leader's Portfolio report, and which he has asked to be circulated with this supplement.

7. MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL (Pages 3 - 12)

An amendment to Cabinet minute 129 (15/1/15) – Draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2015/16 Municipal Year has been submitted.
(Page 3)

Matters referred to the Council by the Cabinet at its meeting on 12 March, 2015, including:

Minute 152 - Pay Policy Statement 2015/16 (**Pages 5 – 6**)

Two amendments have been submitted in respect of minute 152:

Conservative amendment (**Page 7**)

Liberal Democrat amendment (**Page 9**)

Minute 163 - Consideration of Proposal to Implement Selective Licensing following Consultation (**Pages 11 – 12**)

11. NOTICES OF MOTION (Pages 13 - 14)

The Council is requested to consider an amendment to a Notice of Motion, submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(1) and (9).

12. VACANCIES

To receive nominations, in accordance with Standing Order 25(6), in respect of any proposed changes in the membership of committees, and to approve nominations for appointments to outside organisations.

Councillor Mike Hornby to be replaced on the Pensions Committee by Councillor Kathy Hodson.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Hodson', written in a cursive style.

Head of Legal and Member Services

QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF HIS PORTFOLIO REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR PHIL GILCHRIST

The Leader's Portfolio report states,

“At its meeting on 13th February, the Combined Authority considered proposals for setting the Mersey Tunnel tolls for 2015/16. Following a discussion, the Authority agreed that both the Cash Toll and the Fast Tag Toll for 2015/16 should be frozen at the 2014/15 levels. The CA also proposed to review the whole arrangements in relation to Tunnel Costs and Tolls, particularly in light of the current devolution agenda.

A Task Group, to include myself as Chair of the Combined Authority, and representatives of both the Merseytravel Committee and the Combined Authority, is looking at the issues and will report back in the coming months.”

Question –

Can the leader advise:

- (a) Is this work looking into how the Tunnels surplus has been used in recent years?
- (b) If and how the Mersey Ferry operations have been supported out of this surplus?
- (c) The status of any understanding that surpluses have been spent on transportation schemes of mutual benefit,

If so, might these be drawn together and the projects listed for the information of Members.

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Amendment - Matters Requiring Approval

Cabinet – 15 January, 2015

Minute 129 - CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015/16

Proposed by Councillor Phil Davies

Seconded by Councillor Ann McLachlan

That the Calendar as amended by Cabinet on 15 January (set out on pages 77 to 89 of the Council Summons) be approved with the following amendments –

- (i). Annual Council (Part 2) be moved from Wednesday, 20 May to Tuesday 19 May, to enable the Civic Mayor elect to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party;
- (ii). The Policy and Performance Coordinating Committee scheduled for Tuesday, 16 June be moved to Tuesday, 23 June to enable sufficient time for Policy and Performance Committee Chairs and Spokespersons to begin to develop their work programmes and for these draft work programmes to then be reported to this first meeting of the Coordinating Committee.

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CABINET – 12 MARCH 2015

152 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2015/16

Councillor Phil Davies introduced a report by the Strategic Director Transformation and Resources that recommended to the Council: That

- (a) the starting salary of the Chief Executive within agreed salary range as already approved by the Council at its meeting on 8 December 2014; and
- (b) the approval of the Council's Pay Policy Statement for the Financial Year 2015/16.

The Strategic Director's report informed the Cabinet that the Localism Act 2011 had set out the requirements for Councils to determine and publish annual pay policy statements. The requirements under the Act included: That

- the Pay Policy Statement be approved by the Council, in advance of the Financial Year to which it related; and
- the Pay Policy Statement be published on the Council's website.

The Cabinet noted that the Pay Policy Statement was required to set out the Council's policies in relation to the following:

- Chief Officers' Remuneration, including salary, allowances and enhancements at termination.
- Remuneration of its lowest paid employees.
- The relationship between Chief Officers' Remuneration and that of other employees.

The Pay Policy Statement was attached to the Strategic Director's report as Appendix 1 for the Cabinet's consideration with a request that it be recommended for approval when it was presented to the Council at its meeting scheduled for 16 March 2015.

The Cabinet was informed that the Department for Communities and Local Government had made some recommendations to revise the code on data transparency and there has been national consultation on this. If approved, this could mean changes to the Pay Policy Statement. In that event the Council would receive an update of the changes made at its meeting.

The Cabinet was also informed that the Pay Policy could be amended by a resolution of the Council. This included in-year amendments.

The Cabinet noted that the 2015/16 Statement reflected key changes and updates that had occurred within the last financial Year as follows:

- The implementation of nationally agreed pay awards. (Paragraph 3.5 of the Pay Policy Statement.) (Final confirmation of the 2014/15 pay award for JNC Youth and Community and the Soulbury Committee were awaited.)
- The changes agreed at the Council meeting held on 8 December 2014 to the salary of the Chief Executive (Paragraph 4.3 of the Pay Policy Statement).
- The annual increase of the Living Wage rate and application of the Living Wage to all employees, including apprentices (Paragraph 3.14 of the Pay Policy Statement).
- Links to the Local Government Transparency Code 2014. The purpose of the Pay Policy was to provide transparency in the Council's approach to setting the pay of its employees. The purpose of The Transparency Code was to provide access to data for local people in respect of information relating to the Council, including senior salaries and organisational structure.

The Strategic Director's report reminded the Cabinet that the Chief Executive's salary had been reviewed as part of the recent recruitment process and that the Council had agreed, at its meeting on 8 December 2014, that the salary of the Chief Executive would be within a range of £155- £175k.

At its meeting on 24 February 2015, the Council had confirmed the appointment of the Chief Executive and it was now proposed that the new Chief Executive commence his employment on £165k, with annual incremental progression through the range.

RESOLVED:

That the Council be recommended to approve: That

- (1) **the Chief Executive's starting salary be £165k which is within the salary range already agreed, with annual increments of £5k to the top of the salary range; and**
- (2) **the Council's Pay Policy Statement 2015/16 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.**

Amendment – Matters Requiring Approval

Cabinet – 12 March 2015

Minute 152 – PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2015/16

Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green

Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Add:

Council notes the Conservative Group's consistent opposition to the range and level of salary identified for the new Chief Executive.

Council further notes the Honoraria Policy referred to in the Council's Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2015/16 and expresses grave concerns regarding the lack of transparency over this scheme and the complete absence of any fair and open recruitment practices regarding these payments.

Therefore Council demands the immediate overhaul of this policy (along with the Council's Acting Up policy) to ensure the openness and transparency of payments made and that open and fair competition for temporary promotions is put in place.

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Amendment – Matters Requiring Approval

Cabinet – 12 March 2015

Minute 152 – PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2015/16

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Seconded by Councillor Stuart Kelly

Delete the reference to the increment of £5000 in the Cabinet Resolution and insert...

Council notes that detailed terms were negotiated with the new Chief Executive in discussions following the selection process and further notes the salary represents a 1:11.2 multiple compared with the lowest paid in the organisation.

Council, however, believes that the proposed increments are substantial when viewed in the context of the circumstances facing large numbers of Wirral Council's employees.

The level of the increment should remain a matter of judgment for this Council and Council considers the Cabinet proposal to be excessive.

Council resolves that the level of increments to be paid should be considered after the Chief Executive has served for a full year and received a full performance appraisal.

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CABINET – 12 MARCH 2015

163 CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL TO IMPLEMENT SELECTIVE LICENSING FOLLOWING CONSULTATION

Councillor George Davies introduced a report by the Strategic Director Regeneration and Environment which set out the results of the consultation exercise on a proposal for a Selective Licensing Scheme for private landlords in four designated areas in the Borough known as :-

- Area 1 - Birkenhead South
- Area 2 - Egerton North
- Area 3 - Seacombe Library
- Area 4 - Egremont Promenade South

Councillor George Davies informed that selective licensing was intended to address the impact of poor quality private landlords and anti-social tenants. It had primarily been developed with the need to tackle problems in areas of low housing demand in mind.

The report set out the background and key issues, the statutory consultation requirements in respect of local authorities designating a licensing scheme, the consultation that the Council had actually undertaken the resulting changes to the Business Plan as well as the risks, other options considered and the financial planning and community safety and legal implications.

Appended to the report as Appendix 1 was the proposed fees structure drawn up following the consultation that had been carried out.

The Cabinet noted that Maps and Address lists could be found in the Draft Business Case which was available in the Council's web library.

Based on the feedback from the consultation undertaken and the robust evidence used for the Business Case rationale, Members were asked to approve the introduction of a Selective Licensing Scheme for all private rented properties within the four designated areas under Section 80 of the Housing Act 2004.

The Strategic Director was in attendance at the meeting and informed that some costs of the overall service would be offset by the fee income generated as part of the licence process however it was also anticipated if a Scheme was taken forward, the reduction of vacant and poorly managed properties would drive increases in Council Tax income as more people would choose to reside in the areas because of an improved quality of housing offer. Empty houses being brought back into use would generate additional Council tax.

The Strategic Director also informed the Cabinet that he was aware that draft Orders were being laid before Parliament but he did not believe that they would have an impact.

Councillor Phil Davies informed that the Selective Licensing Scheme for private landlords was one of his Administration's flag ship policies and he was very pleased that it was being rolled out now.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposal for the designation of Selective Licensing in the four areas in the Borough as set out in the Business Plan to cover all private tenancies in accordance with Section 80 of the Housing Act 2004 be approved;**
- (2) the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment and the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Housing and Engagement be given delegated authority to take all necessary steps to implement the operational delivery of selective licensing including recruitment of staff;**
- (3) it be agreed that the selective licensing designation shall come into force on 1 April 2015 with an anticipated target commencement date of 1 July 2015;**
- (4) delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director, Regeneration and Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member for neighbourhoods Housing and Engagement to discuss co-regulation options with the National Landlords Association and other representative organisations; and**
- (5) the report be referred to the Council meeting scheduled to be held on 16 March 2015 for its approval.**

Amendments to Notices of Motion

The Council is requested to consider the following amendments, submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(1) and (9)

(1) Notice of Motion No. 2 – THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR WIRRAL'S ECONOMY

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

In paragraph 1 - delete after second sentence (starting 'We can stick...') to end of paragraph (...and Wirral's economy').

In its place, insert...

'Our country and Wirral's economy has benefited from the stability of the Coalition formed in 2010 in the aftermath of the banking crisis. The Coalition were able to pick up the pieces at a time when the outgoing Labour Government was divided on the likely length of the recession, divided on whether increased tax rates were temporary or permanent and had not set out where savings would have been made in a longer recession.

Council may also recall that Labour's former Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Liam Byrne) had left a note for his successor which clearly said "I'm afraid there is no money." Fortunately, the Coalition was able to agree on the need for new taxes, like the Bank Levy, which has produced over £6 billion in the last three years, supporting public services in Wirral and our nation.

Council recognises that the prevailing economic circumstances led the present coalition to be more flexible in reducing the deficit. During this period, the Health Service and School budgets were protected, the latter including significant sums for the Pupil Premium to help children who might otherwise have fallen behind.

Council thus recognises that an over-zealous ideological approach could undermine the recovery and public services.'

In paragraph 2 – delete 'Conservatives have' and insert 'the current Coalition Government has...'

In paragraph 3:

Bullet point 1, delete 'Conservatives have' and insert 'the current Coalition Government has...'

Bullet point 3, insert after 'people'...'by raising personal allowances, a Liberal Democrat policy which Mr Cameron said could not be afforded in the three-way TV debate in 2010 and later included in the Coalition Agreement.

Bullet point 5, insert after 'employment'...'supporting family life with shared parental leave and the right to request flexible working for all'

After bullet point 5, insert new bullet point 6...'an increase in free childcare to 15 hours per week for three and four year olds and disadvantaged two year olds.'

After new bullet point 6, insert new bullet point 7...'the target of two million apprentices reached in December 2014.'

Last bullet point, insert after '£800'...'thus securing the biggest ever cash rise in the State pension through the 'triple lock' policy on uprating'

After para 7 (ends '...of welfare dependency.' insert:

'Council believes that underlying economic problems have faced Wirral's communities for over thirty years, regardless of the local or national political complexion. Council believes that the prospect of resources released by devolution, the use of the Regional Growth Fund and local growth deals and the strengthening of the UK's manufacturing supply chains will continue to help the local economy. The establishment of the world's first Green Investment Bank, helping treble renewable electricity generation is a project championed by the Liberal Democrats.'