



Council

Town Hall
Wallasey

11 December 2015

Dear Councillor

This supplement for the Council meeting to be held at **6.15 pm on Monday, 14 December 2015** in the Council Chamber, within the Town Hall, Wallasey, should be read in conjunction with the Council Summons dated 4 December, 2015:

Contact Officer: Patrick Sebastian
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AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

7. MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL (Pages 1 - 6)

E. Amendment to Scheme of Delegation – Objections to Highways Proposals

Policy and Performance Regeneration and Environment Committee (2 December, 2015), Minute 27 (**attached**).

G. Social Media Policy

The report to the Policy and Performance - Transformation and Resources Committee (3 December, 2015) Minute 25 (**attached**).

The Council is requested to consider amendments to Matters Requiring Approval by the Council in accordance with Standing Order 12(1) and (9).

8. MATTERS FOR NOTING (Pages 7 - 8)

Revenue Monitoring 2015/16 Quarter 2 (to September 2015)
Cabinet (5 November, 2015), Minute 64 (**attached**).

10. MATTERS REFERRED FROM POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEES (Pages 9 - 20)

To consider and determine any references from the Policy and Performance Committees.

- A. The Council is advised that the Notice of Motion, Proposal for a Fire Station on Green Belt land in Saughall Massie referred from Council at its meeting on 6 July, 2015 (minute 31 (iii) refers) was considered by the Policy and Performance Regeneration and Environment Committee on 2 December, 2015.

In accordance with Standing Order 7 (5) the Council is asked to consider the recommendation of the Policy and Performance Regeneration and Environment Committee:

Minute 24 (**attached**)

- B. The Council is advised that the Notice of Motion, Supporting Wirral's Part in our Nuclear Industries referred from Council at its meeting on 12 October, 2015 (minute 59 (v) refers) was considered by the Policy and Performance Regeneration and Environment Committee on 2 December, 2015.

In accordance with Standing Order 7 (5) the Council is asked to consider the recommendation of the Policy and Performance Regeneration and Environment Committee:

Minute 25 (**attached**)

- C. The Council is advised that the Notice of Motion, Open Government? referred from Council at its meeting on 12 October, 2015 (minute 59 (i) refers) was considered by the Policy and Performance Transformation and Resources Committee on 3 December, 2015.

In accordance with Standing Order 7 (5) the Council is asked to consider the recommendation of the Policy and Performance Transformation and Resources Committee:

Minute 24 (**attached**)

The Council is requested to consider amendments to Matters Referred from Policy and Performance Committees in accordance with Standing Order 12(1) and (9).

11. NOTICES OF MOTION (Pages 21 - 24)

The Council is requested to consider amendments to Notices of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(1) and (9).

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Head of Legal and Member Services

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MINUTE EXTRACT

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

2 DECEMBER 2015

27 **AMENDMENT TO SCHEME OF DELEGATION - OBJECTIONS TO HIGHWAY PROPOSALS**

The Head of Environment and Regulation introduced his report that set out proposed changes to the existing Scheme of Delegation in respect of unresolved objections to traffic management measures, including traffic regulation orders. The report recommended that delegated powers to decide on such objections be devolved to the Head of Service (in consultation with the Portfolio Holder) in cases where unresolved objections were below a set threshold. Members were informed that the views of both the Regeneration & Environment Policy & Performance and Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee were being sought in advance of seeking approval for the change to the Constitution at Council in December.

The Head of Environment and Regulation informed of the procedures as operated under the current Scheme of Delegation, whereby detailed reports regarding objections are put to the Highways & Traffic Representation Panel, which considers the officer's report and invites representations from objectors. He further informed of the actions undertaken following consideration by the Panel.

The Head of Environment and Regulation explained that the proposed amendment to the procedures recommended that the Scheme of Delegation in relation to unresolved objections to traffic management measures be altered such that it operates in a similar manner to the Scheme of Delegation for objections to planning applications.

Members were informed that following consideration by the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee 23 November, 2015 (Minute No 10 refers) noting that a number of recommendations had been proposed, namely to alert Ward Councillors on local highways matters under the new procedures. Members were also informed that the words 'traffic management' were to be removed from para 3.3. of the proposal to allow a broader, more practical, approach to supporting objections. A further amendment to para 3.2 included the removal of the words 'from individual households'.

In support of the Amendments put forward by the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee, Members requested that new procedures must incorporate provision of notice about highway schemes to Ward Councillors 'in good time', to include a deadline for views / submissions from Members, and that the notices or 'Ward Reports' be supplied in a larger print font than currently. Members stated that

these incorporations and alterations would provide an opportunity for Councillors to discuss proposals with residents.

Visiting Councillor, Stuart Whittingham, Cabinet Member Transport, Technology Strategy and Infrastructure assured Members that such notifications were currently circulated to Councillors via e-mail.

Resolved: That

- (1) the proposed changes to the Council's Constitution as outlined be endorsed; and**
- (2) the COUNCIL BE RECOMMENDED to approve the changes to the Council Constitution in respect of Part 3, Schedule 5, Scheme of Delegation - Objections to Highway Proposals.**

TRANSFORMATION AND RESOURCES POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

3 DECEMBER 2015

25 SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

The Acting Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development introduced a report which set out proposals for a new Social Media Policy for Council employees.

The Council's Human Resources policies were subject to an ongoing review to ensure that they remained fit for purpose, legally compliant and provided a valuable and workable resource for employees and managers on employment related issues in the workplace.

The Council used social media sites to proactively promote and market the Council's communication messages related to campaigns, events and services, as well as interact with its customers and residents. As 87% of Wirral Council staff lived in Wirral, a very high percentage of the Council's employees (and in turn their families and friends) were also the Council's customers. Currently, only a limited number of Council employees with a proven business need could access social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter on their council PCs. Another number had permission, based on a business case, to run and manage social media feeds on behalf of council services. This was a historical position but did not reflect how social media had changed.

The Council's Senior Leadership Team had agreed to broaden access to social media sites for all employees. This meant that employees would be able to use their Wirral Council IT equipment to access social media sites, including Council marketing campaigns and promotional information.

The aim of the Social Media policy was primarily to safeguard both Council staff and service users whilst using social media, to protect the Council from the legal risks of social media and also to ensure the reputation of the authority was protected. Many organisations had Social Media Policies to ensure that employees were clear about the rules and that the organisation effectively managed the corporate use of social media. This policy set out what was expected of employees when accessing social media for personal use, whilst at work and also officially on behalf of the Council.

It remained the case that employees should limit their use of social media to their official rest breaks such as their lunch break / times and any serious breaches of the social media policy could result in disciplinary action being taken.

Responding to comments from Members the Acting Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development made a number of points, including:

- Use of the internet and in future of social media sites would be monitored if there were concerns and the Council's IT systems did support the ability to see what pages had been visited by staff.
- Discussions had been held with the Council's IT managers and they had said that increased traffic to social media sites at the peak period of lunchtimes would not present any particular issues.
- The policy wouldn't apply in its entirety to Members as there were separate guidelines and there were also separate processes for use in libraries.

The Chair reminded Members that they were also bound by the Members' Code of Conduct.

Resolved – That this Committee recommends to Council approval of the Social Media Policy.

Amendments to Matters Requiring Approval by the Council

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

(1) AGENDA ITEM 7(F) Summary of the Work and Proposals of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Working Group

Proposed by Councillor Chris Blakeley

Seconded by Councillor John Hale

Reference: **Amendment 4** in appendix 1 of Minute 11:

“Council believes that in the interests of openness, transparency and consistency that all Notices of Motion should be voted on in the Council Chamber, with no referrals to scrutiny committees.”

(2) AGENDA ITEM 7(F) Summary of the Work and Proposals of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Working Group

Proposed by Councillor Chris Blakeley

Seconded by Councillor John Hale

Reference: **Amendment 10** in appendix 1 of Minute 11:

Delete all proposed changes to the Call In procedure and replace with:

“Council believes that the current Call In rules (standing order 35) as set out in annexe A should remain in force.

(3) AGENDA ITEM 7(F) Summary of the Work and Proposals of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Working Group

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Seconded by Councillor Alan Brighthouse

Reference: **Amendment 10** in appendix 1 of Minute 11:

Add to item 2) under "Resolved: That" (ends ".....set out at Appendix 1 to this report be agreed)

, with the exception of proposed revision 2 (page 216). Council believes that the ability to place a Minority Report before Council should be retained to give a final democratic safeguard. Council believes that this rarely invoked facility has not been

abused and should be kept to allow an open and transparent discussion on an issue of public concern.”

MINUTE EXTRACT

CABINET

5 NOVEMBER 2015

64 REVENUE MONITORING 2015/16 QUARTER 2 (TO SEPTEMBER 2015)

Councillor Phil Davies introduced a report of the Acting Section 151 Officer, setting out the projected revenue position for 2015/16 as at the end of quarter two (September 2015). The projected outturn showed an improvement of £2.2 million compared to the quarter 1 position with a forecast overspend of £0.7 million (previous period £2.9 million). There had been some improvement in the quarter within the Adult Social Care predicted overspend and increases in both Regeneration & Environment and Transformation & Resources predicted underspends. The most significant positive variance related to treasury management savings from forecast continued use of cash flow balances over the full year to temporarily fund accumulated capital expenditure in lieu of borrowing.

Councillor Phil Davies commented on the good progress that had been made and the need to continue with the good work. The aim of achieving a balanced budget by the end of the financial year was on track. He referred to the difficulties in managing in-year cuts imposed by the Government, such as the Public Health Grant cut of £1.9m and commented that this was a disgraceful and irresponsible way for the Government to manage its finances. He hoped that the Autumn Spending review statement would not impose any further in-year cuts on Local Authorities.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the improvement of £2.2 million in the 2015/16 Revenue Budget position during quarter 2 be noted and welcomed.**
- (2) officers continue to identify actions and to take measures to reduce the projected overspend of £0.7 million and to mitigate against any in-year funding reductions for Public Health and to replenish General Fund balances.**

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MINUTE EXTRACT

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

2 DECEMBER 2015

24 NOTICE OF MOTION - PROPOSAL FOR A FIRE STATION ON GREEN BELT LAND IN SAUGHALL MASSIE

Reference Minute No 11 (15 September, 2015), Members further considered the issues raised by the Motion put before the Council on 6 July 2015 (proposed by Councillor Chris Blakeley and seconded by Councillor Bruce Berry): That

“Council acknowledges the overwhelming public opposition to the proposal by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS) for a fire station on green belt land in Saughall Massie, as demonstrated by:

- The 200 people who attended a public meeting arranged by MFRS, and a further 270 who were unable to gain admission to the venue.
- The opposition of the Saughall Massie Village Area Conservation Society and the Wirral Society.
- The 970 people who have, so far, signed a petition against the proposal.

Council impresses upon Cabinet:

- (1) To maintain protection of Wirral’s Green Belt, as set by agreed policies and stop inappropriate development.
- (2) Not to gift, sell or lease the land concerned in Saughall Massie, because of the value it has for the community.”
- (3) To ask officers to continue to work co-operatively with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service in identifying and facilitating a more suitable brown field site for operational purposes and to maintain the amenity of the local people.”

That Motion had been rejected by the Committee at its meeting on 15 September 2015 but the Committee had not decided on its recommendation to the Council on the issues the Motion had raised.

A Member informed the Committee that as a result of the important issues raised by Councillor Blakeley when presenting his Motion and the subsequent debate on the item, the Committee’s Chair had requested that a Senior Officer from the Fire Service, with knowledge of the site selection process, be invited to attend the meeting in order to answer any questions.

Consequently, Mr Dan Stephens, Chief Fire Officer, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service was in attendance at the meeting.

Members questioned Mr Stephens on site selection for the proposed new Fire Station, requesting information on the circumstances behind the proposal to site a Fire Station on Green Belt land at Saughall Massie and availability of other possible locations not in the Green Belt.

Mr Stephens informed the Committee of the requirement to make significant budget savings in 2015/16, and explained how closures of existing fire stations and sharing/re-siting of services in other areas of Merseyside had been implemented to achieve this. At this point, the Chair quelled an interruption from the public gallery that had questioned the relevance of this information.

A Member noted that it was important to understand the context and pressures that had brought about this proposal.

Mr Stephens went on to inform the Committee of the mid-point location of the proposed site (equidistant between the current Upton Fire Station and West Kirby Fire Station). He explained that a 12 week consultation exercise had taken place across the affected areas earlier in the year, he also provided information on operational matters i.e. response times summarising the statistical analysis, and issues faced by the Fire Service regarding the initial site selection – Greasby Library (brownfield site), and acknowledged that as a result the only sites that met the requirements of a combined Fire Station that would achieve the required response times were located in the Green Belt. He explained that the matter would ultimately be decided by via submission of an application to the Council's Planning Committee. Mr Stephens informed that a number of alternative sites had been under consideration, but as the Fire Service did not have any compulsory purchase powers, any site would have to be purchased / leased with the permission of the owner.

Members questioned the Chief Fire Officer on a range of matters specifically related to the selection of the site in Saughall Massie, public objections to the planned location and the scope and outcome of the consultation process. The Committee noted the difficult position faced by the MFRS in terms of its budget, having lost 38% of its Revenue Support Grant i.e. £26million from an initial figure of £70million. It was noted that the most cost effective option available to the Fire Service in terms of location would arise from obtaining the land which was currently in the ownership of the Council.

A Member pointed out that the original Motion consisted of three elements – protection of the Green Belt, not to gift land, and to look for alternative sites. These were the issues upon which the Committee should report.

The Chair pointed out that it was the duty of the Committee to obtain as much information on the matter as was feasible before making its recommendation to the Council.

A Member pointed out that in the long run, whatever the site, the primary objective remained 'to save lives', and as such response times were a key factor to be taken into account.

A Member informed that whether the Committee agreed that a Saughall Massie site was appropriate or inappropriate, development in the Green Belt **was** ultimately subject to Planning Law and the Council's own Development Plan and by agreeing the Motion, the Committee could in effect block this essential service, and the debate to find a solution would have to continue.

The Head of Regeneration and Planning clarified that, at present, the use of Green Belt land for the building of a Fire Station under the Development Plan was classed as inappropriate development - unless special circumstances could prove otherwise – this could include technical data and information regarding the consideration of other sites. The matter would have to be considered by the Planning Committee in planning policy terms.

Discussion took place regarding the appropriateness of the site at Greasby Library and the complex reasons for its removal as an option for consideration. The Chief Fire Officer provided additional information about approaches to private land owners in the area, and how given the lack of response and refusal to engage in dialogue these site options had also been discounted.

At this point in the debate,

The following Motion was moved.

Proposed by: Councillor Matthew Patrick

Seconded by: Councillor Chris Spriggs

"The Council acknowledges that the devastating cuts to Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority put the Authority in an incredibly difficult situation.

Whilst the Council expresses strong disapproval of the Conservative Government's decision to cut 38% from the Fire Authority's grant, it acknowledges that there is a lack of time to force the Fire Service to find alternatives.

Council impresses upon the Cabinet to:

Support Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority in its obligations to balance the budget and ensure that a decision is not unnecessarily delayed.

The Council also recognises that the Planning Committee will be responsible for the planning aspect. It further recognises that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will also have to agree with the development's appropriateness."

A vote was taken:

For: 8

Against: 5

The Motion was therefore carried.

At this point, the Chair quelled an interruption from the public gallery relating to a Member's right to speak further on the original Motion (which had already been exercised at the previous meeting).

Resolved:

That the COUNCIL BE ADVISED that this Committee supports the Motion:

“The Council acknowledges that the devastating cuts to Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority put the Authority in an incredibly difficult situation.

Whilst the Council expresses strong disapproval of the Conservative Government's decision to cut 38% from the Fire Authority's grant, it acknowledges that there is a lack of time to force the Fire Service to find alternatives.

Council impresses upon the Cabinet to:

Support Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority in its obligations to balance the budget and ensure that a decision is not unnecessarily delayed.

The Council also recognises that the Planning Committee will be responsible for the planning aspect. It further recognises that the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will also have to agree with the development's appropriateness.”

MINUTE EXTRACT

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

2 DECEMBER 2015

25 **NOTICE OF MOTION - SUPPORTING WIRRAL'S PART IN OUR NUCLEAR INDUSTRIES**

Members of the Policy and Performance Regeneration and Environment Committee considered a motion to Council (6 July 2015) as proposed by Councillor Steve Williams and seconded by Councillor Wendy Clements, that:

“Council notes many Wirral residents work in our major nuclear power and defence industries, both directly (in companies such as Urenco, Cammell Laird and CNS) and indirectly, in the supply chain.

Council believes these highly-skilled, well paid advanced engineering jobs offer opportunities for residents and welcomes the skills and apprenticeship training at Wirral Metropolitan College for young people entering the industry.

Council agrees with the Leader of the Council that Wirral has a strong track record in manufacturing for the nuclear industry and calls on the Administration to play an even greater part in providing students with the skills required to play a full part in future manufacturing and production.”

At the invitation of the Chair, Councillor Williams introduced the Motion, and informed the Committee about the opportunities arising from Wirral’s well-established nuclear power and defence industries and available apprenticeship training. He provided detail regarding the types, and levels, of employment in the industries informing of the need to support and keep ‘high value, high tech’ employment opportunities on the Wirral. Members noted that the employment figures for those employed in the nuclear and defence industries on the Wirral were in the region of 21% compared to the National average of 10%.

Members applauded the Wirral businesses success welcoming any opportunity to develop or expand the workforce in such industries. Although supporting the Motion, a Member expressed concerns regarding the problems associated with the handling of nuclear waste by-products. Other Members of the Committee compared the cleanliness of nuclear power generation methods to fossil fuel power production, and informed that the local businesses included research facilities looking to further improve safety and cleanliness of the industry.

A vote was taken:

For: 9

Against: 1

Abstained: 3

Resolved:

That the COUNCIL BE ADVISED that this Committee supports the Motion in respect of Wirral's part in providing students with the skills required to play a part in the future of our Nuclear Industries i.e.

“Council notes many Wirral residents work in our major nuclear power and defence industries, both directly (in companies such as Urenco, Cammell Laird and CNS) and indirectly, in the supply chain.

Council believes these highly-skilled, well paid advanced engineering jobs offer opportunities for residents and welcomes the skills and apprenticeship training at Wirral Metropolitan College for young people entering the industry.

Council agrees with the Leader of the Council that Wirral has a strong track record in manufacturing for the nuclear industry and calls on the Administration to play an even greater part in providing students with the skills required to play a full part in future manufacturing and production.”

TRANSFORMATION AND RESOURCES POLICY AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

3 DECEMBER 2015

24 NOTICE OF MOTION - OPEN GOVERNMENT?

The Head of Legal and Member Services reported that at the meeting of the Council held on 12 October 2015 (minute 59 refers), the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist and seconded by Councillor Chris Carubia was referred by the Mayor to this Committee for consideration –

OPEN GOVERNMENT?

This Council recognises that the Information Commissioner's Office, as the independent authority set up to uphold information rights in the public interest and to promote openness by public bodies, upheld 13 complaints against Wirral Council in the past year.

Of the 18 notices issued between 29 September 2014 and 24 August 2015, the majority (72%) of complaints were upheld.

Council believes that this is a matter for concern, requiring an explanation to its Members. Council requests that lessons should be learned and applied from these decisions and questions whether Officers have been excessively cautious or defensive in their interpretation of the legislation.

Council, therefore, requests that the legislation is approached with greater regard to the 'public interest test' so that the risk of further reputational damage to Wirral can be reduced.

In accordance with Standing Order 7 (6), Councillor Gilchrist had been invited to attend the meeting in order for him to be given an opportunity to explain the Motion.

The Head of Legal and Member Services had also circulated a Briefing Note which gave details and a breakdown of the number of Fol requests and Information Commissioner's (ICO) Decision Notices.

The Briefing Note also referred to the Fol Scrutiny Review which was published in April 2014 which had made 8 recommendations, 6 of which had been implemented and two of which were in the process of being implemented. The ongoing work to achieve the two remaining recommendations was detailed in the Briefing Note.

Councillor Gilchrist sought clarification as to the status of the Briefing Note to which the Head of Legal and Member Services responded that it provided factual information and context to the Notice of Motion which Members would find relevant.

Councillor Gilchrist stated that the calculations circulated in the Briefing Note regarding Decision Notices issued between 29 September, 2014 and 24 August,

2015 (18 Notices containing 28 decisions of which 67.8% were upheld or partly upheld) and Decision Notices issued between 12 February, 2012 and 26 January, 2015 (43 Notices containing 69 decisions of which 68% were upheld or partly upheld) was not dissimilar to the figure of 72% referred to in his Motion. He referred to a couple of individual cases and the responses received from the ICO and also to comparisons with other Local Authorities and the number of Notices issued and upheld. He welcomed the fact that the Council was now better organised in terms of dealing with requests though questioned whether the Council was being excessively cautious or defensive in dealing with Fol requests.

The Head of Legal and Member Services stated that the Council had improved in its response rate to Fols and was now consistently achieving above target. He acknowledged that there were areas which needed to be improved upon. The Council did exercise a judgement around what it felt was disclosable and that sometimes the ICO agreed with the Council and sometimes it did not. Valid points had been made regarding lateness of responses though the Council did not ignore what the ICO requested of it, overall performance had come a long way since the previous issues of Fols had been raised. With six of the eight recommendations from the scrutiny review implemented and work in progress on the remaining two the position on Fols would further improve and he would be happy for a further Review to take place.

A Member commented that a Notice of Motion was a fairly blunt instrument for raising an issue such as this. He queried whether a list of names of those submitting Fol requests could be provided to the Committee either in open or closed session. Some Fols were also submitted from Members who could have asked for the information in another way.

The Head of Legal and Member Services, in response, stated that it was not lawful to disclose the names of requestors.

A Member commented that he was pleased that a lot of the recommendations from the review had been put in place but suggested that it would be worth looking into the fact that a number of complaints to the ICO had been upheld. With regard to Members sometimes requesting information through Fols he commented that maybe officers should be a bit more amenable with Members.

A Member suggested that with 3,975 Fols received and 1.1% of these resulting in complaints upheld this was a satisfactory response rate. The Motion gave the impression that the Council's approach to Fols was systemically dysfunctional when this was clearly not the case.

Responding to further comments the Head of Legal and Member Services stated that there were certain individuals who did regularly submit Fol requests but these prolific requestors did not make up the majority as Fol requests came in from a number of individuals and bodies / organisations. Requests were significant but probably not disproportionate to other similar sized Councils. There was a need to ensure that information was readily and easily available. Responses to those Fols which were relatively straightforward were provided well within the 35 day period.

The complexity of certain Fols was sometimes quite challenging when a variety of issues, sometimes sensitive matters, were raised.

It was then moved by Councillor Sykes, seconded by Councillor Muspratt, that –

“Given that the recommendations for improvements to the Fol process are still being implemented, which will hopefully improve the situation, but that this is an important issue to tackle, therefore the Committee asks for a reconvening of the Task and Finish Panel to look at whether further recommendations may be necessary and to review the progress of the current implementation in further detail.”

Councillor Gilchrist, in response to comments made stated that he had brought the matter to Council because he thought it was of sufficient general interest and he would welcome the reconvening of the Task and Finish Panel.

The Chair then moved an alternative motion, which was seconded by Councillor Muspratt, that –

“Committee acknowledges that the number of complaints upheld by the ICO total 1.19% of all Fol requests and that the Council is committed to working towards improving how it responds to Fols and recommends a further ‘task and finish’ review is undertaken.”

At this point Councillor Sykes withdrew his motion and it was then –

Resolved (14:0) – Committee acknowledges that the number of complaints upheld by the ICO total 1.19% of all Fol requests and that the Council is committed to working towards improving how it responds to Fols and recommends a further ‘task and finish’ review is undertaken.

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Amendments to Matters Referred from Policy and Performance Committees

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

AGENDA ITEM 10(A) Minute 24 - Notice of Motion, Proposal for a Fire Station on Green Belt land in Saughall Massie

Proposed by Councillor Chris Blakeley

Seconded by Councillor Bruce Berry

Council acknowledges the challenges faced by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority, like all taxpayer-funded organisations.

Council notes that Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service has provided operational cover to West Wirral residents in the last 18 months from the Upton Fire Station within the 10 minute response guidelines and congratulates all those involved in maintaining this level of service.

Council notes that Wirral's Planning Committee will be responsible for deciding on any planning application and notes that the Authority, in its published, written response to Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority, stated: "**in the light of your fall-back scenario of being able to redevelop the fire station at Upton within the urban area and with no impact on the Green Belt, very special circumstances will not exist. In which case, planning permission is not likely to be granted.**"

Cabinet is therefore asked to support Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority in identifying a suitable site that is not within Wirral's precious greenbelt, while maintaining the safety and security of Wirral residents and calls for further discussions on how best the additional £2.8 million granted by the Government can be used for this purpose.

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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 (iii) A STRONG, STABLE ECONOMY AND BENEFITS FOR WIRRAL RESIDENTS

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Seconded by Councillor Pat Williams

Insert at end of para 3 (ends ".....plan to date)

, noting that the plan was substantially revised and adjusted to cope with the uncertain state of the UK economy, the need to rebalance it and a recognition that there had to be a regional strategy.

Insert at end of para 4 (ends ".....and expect)

but remains wary of unrealistic assumptions that could rebound on and damage the Wirral economy and the nation's finances.

Delete in para 6 "and further contribute to the brighter economic outlook Government policies have secured."

Delete in para 7 "Council notes that the Conservative Government has not only developed sound economic policies to guarantee economic recovery but has also committed significant investment across the City Region including:"

And replace with new para 7:

"Council notes that a number of significant capital projects are now in hand, some with long lead-in times over many years and begun under the Coalition Government. The recently announced projects are in their early stages and have arisen from consistent pressure to close the north south divide. These include:"

(2) Notice of Motion (v) WIRRAL YOUTH ZONE

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Seconded by Councillor Chris Carubia

Insert after para (ends ".....self-esteem and confidence")

Council also recognises that the complex and emerging funding package for the Youth Zone requires a substantial contribution from the Council and remains anxious that the new Zone should not detract from the pattern of hubs established some years ago.

Council suggests that officers should examine, and report upon, how the development of the main facility in Oldham, The Mahdlo, led to the operation of youth services being taken on by that organisation yet was still expected to retain a co-ordinated offer to young people in the various communities.

(3) Notice of Motion (v) WIRRAL YOUTH ZONE

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Andrew Hodson

Seconded by Councillor Cherry Povall

Insert new paragraph:

Council acknowledges the good existing youth service provision across the Borough and notes the value residents place on this service; 64.7% of respondents to the last public consultation rejected the changes proposed to Youth and Play. Therefore Council, while welcoming the new Youth Zone in Birkenhead, is absolutely clear that this development will enhance the Borough's existing youth service and will not replace it.

(4) Notice of Motion (vi) CSR AND AUTUMN STATEMENT

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Seconded by Councillor Alan Brighthouse

Add the following after the two bullet points (under 'Council Resolves'):

- To work with Wirral's MPs to challenge the assumptions and interpretations built upon the OBR's 'Economic and fiscal outlook' and the forecast for 'local

authority self-financed expenditure' as set out on Page 58 and 59 in the 'Blue Book' Spending Review and Autumn Statement.

- To take part in the consultation the DCLG offers on the settlement and to establish whether the settlement and formula have any relationship to the House of Commons Library Briefing Paper 7327 'Deprivation in English Constituencies' published in October 2015.
- To highlight the practicalities of securing the growth in business rates given that part of that growth is already to be reinvested within the Enterprise Zone.
- To highlight the limited sums that can be raised based on the proportion of properties in lower bands compared to other areas and its implications for police funding.
- This time to take up the offer again made by the Liberal Democrat Group to assist and join in making representations and lobbying.

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