



Council

Town Hall
Wallasey

12 July, 2019

Dear Councillor

This supplement for the Council meeting to be held at **6.00 p.m. (or on the rising of the extraordinary meeting, whichever is the later) on Monday, 15 July 2019** in the Council Chamber, within the Town Hall, Wallasey, should be read in conjunction with the Council Summons, dated 5 July, 2019.

This meeting will be webcast at
<https://wirral.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

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AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

6. LEADER'S, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' AND CHAIRS REPORTS

A. Cabinet Portfolio Summary Annual Report (Pages 1 - 2)

The Council is requested to consider an amendment in respect of the Annual Report of the 2020 Plan, submitted by the Liberal Democrat Group.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION (Pages 3 - 10)

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



Director: Governance and Assurance

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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.

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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 No. 1 – A BETTER OFFER FOR CARE LEAVERS

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Tom Anderson

Seconded by Councillor Wendy Clements

In paragraph 3 delete all from: ‘However, our commitment.....’ to ‘truly over,’

In paragraph 3 delete all from ‘and reverse.....’ to ‘us all.’

Insert ‘and’ between ‘priority’ and ‘provide’

Insert new paragraphs:

Council welcomes the Government’s Care Leavers Strategy and is fully committed to ensuring that this guidance is implemented within the local authority. Council requests that a report goes to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee detailing the progress in implementing this strategy.’

Council recognises the beneficial effect of employment on life chances. To give our care leavers the best start possible, Council requests Cabinet to ensure Officers continue their work to prioritise apprentice vacancies within the authority and working with our partners, for care leavers. Thereby ensuring they have a better start in life.

Therefore, the final three paragraphs read:

The Council supports the £20m investment made in 2018/19 and is committed to continued investment in Children’s services. Council calls on the government to set children as their number one priority and provide adequate funding for local councils.

Council welcomes the Government’s Care Leavers Strategy and is fully committed to ensuring that this guidance is implemented within the local authority. Council requests that a report goes to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee detailing the progress in implementing this strategy.

Council recognises the beneficial effect of employment on life chances. To give our care leavers the best start possible, Council requests Cabinet ensures Officers continue their work to prioritise apprentice vacancies within the authority and working with our partners, for care leavers. Thereby ensuring they have a better start in life.

(2) Notice of Motion No. 1 – A BETTER OFFER FOR CARE LEAVERS

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by Councillor Andy Corkhill

Insert after para 3...

Council also believes that the Government needs to take steps to intervene in the operation of the private sector providing residential placements for children. In particular, the findings of the National Audit Office 'Pressures on children's social care' (18 January 2019) highlighted the spiralling cost of care in that sector (paras 1.26 and 1.27).

The Government also needs to review the operation of the 'market' in care homes where the shortage of suitable places in some localities leads to increased charges. It should be noted that, at the end of August 2017, 43 private companies ran 41 per cent of all children's homes in England, with the five largest companies accounting for about 17 per cent of all homes.

However, only 14 per cent of privately-owned homes were judged to be "outstanding" overall by Ofsted in 2016/17, compared with 25 per cent of homes run by local authorities and 19 per cent of homes run by voluntary organisations. (source: Children and Young People Now, 17 July 2018)

www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/2005543/call-for-councils-to-monitor-profits-of-private-childrens-home

(3) Notice of Motion No. 3 – INVESTING TO CHANGE OUR URBAN SCENE

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Liz Grey
Seconded by Councillor Janette Williamson

Delete all after, "Council recommends that Cabinet invites Ward Members to submit reports on the areas that they believe need upgraded."

Replace with:

This would be over and above minor maintenance but should be a series of suggestions for improving the environment and road safety. A target date for submissions should be offered so that a planned programme of improvement can be drawn up.

Council also requests that Cabinet reports back on how long it would take to improve the situation along our roads and pavements at current spending levels and if the deterioration might be reversed and resourced through prudential borrowing or capital investment.

(4) Notice of Motion No. 4 – GLYPHOSATE-FREE WIRRAL

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Liz Grey

Seconded by Councillor Julie McManus

Delete all after: “Pets and children should not be playing in parks, in our streets or any area treated with such chemicals.”

Replace with “Council recognises that WBC does not use glyphosate in Green Flag areas.

Council welcomes the fact that WBC is trialling the use of alternatives to glyphosate, such as hot foam, for use in our other areas, with the intention of phasing out the use of glyphosate as soon as possible.

Council requests Cabinet /or recommends that cabinet resolves to:

- Grant an exception to the above ban regarding the control of Japanese knotweed, Hogweed or other invasive species. In such cases, all means possible will be used to minimise the spread of the chemicals into the surrounding area.
- Write to the prime minister to inform the government of this Council’s opposition to glyphosate-based herbicides and to call for a UK-wide programme to phase out their use.

1. <http://www.pan-uk.org/pesticides-agriculture-uk/> Link to external page/site

2. <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/oct/07/monsanto-trial-cancer-appeal-glyphosatechemical> Link to external page/site

3. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1383574218300887> Link to external page/site

4. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/10/plummeting-insect-numbers-threatencollapse-of-nature-> Link to external page/site”

(5) Notice of Motion No. 4 – GLYPHOSATE-FREE WIRRAL

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Andrew Gardner

Seconded by Councillor Tony Cox

Delete all after: ‘France is working towards this.’

And insert:

Council notes that cases in the USA are brought by common law and not statute.

Recent research published in Science Direct

(<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1383574218300887>)

has described those with “**very** high exposure” have an increased risk of cancer but further notes that the report itself states that its results “should be treated with caution” due to “heterogeneity and publication bias”.

Council notes that the World Health Organisation classes glyphosate as 2A probable carcinogen along with red meat, hot drinks, high temperature frying, household biomass combustion.

Council further notes that the European Food Agency stated that glyphosate was “unlikely to be carcinogenic to humans”, that the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment stated that glyphosate toxicity and risk of being a carcinogen was “contradictory and far from convincing.”

Council therefore resolves to recommend to Cabinet that given the heightened awareness of possible risk that:

- other avenues of herbicide should be researched for consideration for future use
- Council employees receive premium personal, protective equipment (PPE)
- until such times as national guidelines change, glyphosate remains available for Council use and to treat invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed and Spartina Grass.

(6) Notice of Motion No. 4 – GLYPHOSATE-FREE WIRRAL

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Line 1, insert after "Council notes..."

...the research reported within the Notice of Motion as set out here.

Insert additional bullet point immediately after 'Council recommends that cabinet resolves to:'

- Request that officers establish how the Wirral can move from a borough where there is clearly a problem with the prevalence of long established and persistent weeds on footways, roadsides and traffic islands to a borough where the alternative controls and courses of action suggested can be introduced as set out.

(7) Notice of Motion No. 5 – VERGES AND POLLINATORS

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Pat Cleary

Seconded by Councillor Steve Hayes

Add a new final paragraph:

In the meantime, Council requests Cabinet to ensure that officers work proactively with residents who wish to create wild flower meadows on council-owned land in appropriate locations.

(8) Notice of Motion No. 7 – TV LICENCES

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Janette Williamson

Seconded by Councillor Christine Spriggs

Delete paragraph 1, 'Council notes and condemns...'

Replace with:

Council notes that in 2015 the Conservative government announced that the BBC would take over the cost of providing free licences for over 75s by 2020, at the cost of £745m, a fifth of their budget.

Council notes the decision made by the BBC to remove free TV licences from over 75s except for those on pension credit.

Delete paragraph 3, 'Therefore...'

Replace with:

Therefore Council requests the Chief Executive to write to the government to properly fund the BBC in order that it can reinstate unconditionally free TV licences for over 75s.

(9) Notice of Motion No. 8 – INCONSIDERATE PARKING AROUND SCHOOLS

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Liz Grey

Seconded by Councillor Tom Usher

Delete all after: "Council believes that it is time that such schemes were introduced around targeted Wirral schools, especially primary schools."

Replace with:

Council recommends that Cabinet should explore the use of Controlled Parking Zones around schools and a number of schools most affected by this can be identified for pilot schemes if recommended by ward councillors.

(10) Notice of Motion No. 8 – INCONSIDERATE PARKING AROUND SCHOOLS

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Pat Cleary
Seconded by Councillor Chris Cooke

In final paragraph, delete all after "at selected schools" and replace with:

with pilot schools to be determined following cross-party discussions and incorporating advice from relevant council officers with specific reference to schools adjacent to main roads where controlled parking is likely to have the most impact on air quality concerns.

(11) Notice of Motion No. 9 – THE TORIES’ NATIONAL HOUSING SHORTAGE, POVERTY INCOMES, UNEMPLOYMENT AND PRIVATE-SECTOR OVERCROWDING

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Ian Lewis
Seconded by Councillor Mike Collins

Insert after Paragraph 1:

Council notes Labour’s failure to produce a Local Plan; to introduce a policy to regulate Houses in Multiple Occupation and to tackle a housing waiting list of 8,797 households.

Council also notes that, nationally, more council houses were built under the Conservative-Liberal Democrat Coalition (2010-15) than under the entire period of the previous New Labour Government.

Delete paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Paragraph 10: delete all after ‘Wirral council housing’

(12) Notice of Motion No. 10 – TYRED

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Janette Williamson
Seconded by Councillor Brian Kenny

Add additional sentence:

Council thanks Maria Eagle MP, Steve Rotherham Metro Mayor and our trade unions for their ongoing political support for the Tyred campaign, and for putting pressure on the Conservative Government to implement the new legislation.

(13) Notice of Motion No. 13 – WIRRAL VIEW

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Pat Hackett

Seconded by Councillor Janette Williamson

Delete all after: 'free local media rather than its own publication.'

Replace with:

Council does however recognise the value community organisations, charities and other groups place on their ability to promote their work through Wirral View.

Council therefore requests officers to review how the publication is delivered, and present options back to the relevant scrutiny committee by the end of the calendar year in order for Members to fully debate the future direction of the publication.

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