

Council – 9 October 2023

Amendments to Motions on Notice

The Council is requested to consider the following amendments submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.3.

2. NEW DEAL FOR WORKING PEOPLE

Proposed by Councillor Judith Grier

Seconded by Councillor Jo Bird

Insert additional paragraph at the end:

‘Council further agrees that the letter should include the request from Council that the New Deal for Working People should include a commitment to offer at least the real living wage to all workers delivering council services.’

3. CLEAN AIR FOR A HEALTHIER WIRRAL

Proposed by Councillor Liz Grey

Seconded by Councillor Gill Wood

Insert additional paragraph after paragraph 7:

‘Council welcomes that fact that Wirral officers have successfully secured £171,000 of DEFRA funding to engage with residents in campaigns aimed at developing understanding and behaviour that will improve Air Quality in Wirral. This included a very successful workshop with interested stakeholders and experts from across the region held in Wirral earlier this year.’

3. CLEAN AIR FOR A HEALTHIER WIRRAL

Proposed by Councillor Andrew Gardner

Seconded by Councillor Jenny Johnson

Insert additional paragraph at the end:

‘To further safeguard against adverse effects of air pollution, Council resolves to continue monitoring air quality across the borough and bring a report back to the relevant committee within the guidance of committee terms of reference.’

3. CLEAN AIR FOR A HEALTHIER WIRRAL

Proposed by Councillor Stuart Kelly
Seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Insert '*as means to tackle health inequalities within the Borough*' after '*Wirral Plan*' in the penultimate paragraph.

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2. NEW DEAL FOR WORKING PEOPLE

Proposed by Councillor Judith Grier

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This Council recognises that there must be a fundamental change in our economy, and for this to happen the world of work must be fundamentally changed, to the benefit of all working Wirral residents.

Council therefore agrees that there must be a New Deal for Working People. Council notes with concern that the Government wants to continue with insecure and exploitative employment eg Zero hours contracts, resulting in many Wirral residents suffering.

Council affirms that Wirral residents need to have a new partnership with employers and trade unions, to create jobs and build a society where everyone is entitled to fair pay, job security and dignity at work.

To achieve this, all Wirral workers must have a comprehensive set of rights and protections with trade unions empowered to organise, bargain and win for working people.

Council agrees that fair and decent work that provides security, improves national productivity, increases economic opportunity, and protects health is what all Wirral residents deserve.

Council affirms that it is entirely possible to have a future economy that rebalances wealth and power to serve the needs of working people.

Council is adamant that all Wirral residents need and deserve improved living standards and economic security.

Council therefore agrees to request the Council Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions – Mel Stride MP, to insist that a New Deal for Working People is agreed and introduced, as soon as possible.

Council further agrees that the letter should include the request from Council that the New Deal for Working People should include a commitment to offer at least the real living wage to all workers delivering council services.

3. CLEAN AIR FOR A HEALTHIER WIRRAL

Proposed by Councillor Liz Grey
Seconded by Councillor Gill Wood

Health inequalities on Wirral are substantial, deeply rooted, and in many cases, worsening.

The *2022/2023 Wirral Plan Refresh* underscores that health inequalities within our borough remain 'stubbornly persistent', and outlines addressing them as a key priority for the upcoming year.[1]

Health inequalities are caused by a web of many complex factors. One such factor is poor air quality, as recognised in the *Wirral 2023 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)* published this June.[2] The report additionally recognises how air pollution disproportionately affects the most vulnerable in our communities, including children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing heart and lung conditions. Considering our commitment to reducing the significant health inequalities on Wirral, it is vital that we proactively pursue strategies able to mitigate contributing factors to these disparities.

In *Bidston St James, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead & Tranmere*, and *Seacombe* the number of deaths from respiratory diseases is over twice the expected rate based on national data.[3] On Wirral, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), a respiratory condition linked to both air pollution levels and income,[4] is more prevalent compared to the rest of England. However, the Wirral COPD burden is not spread evenly, with the rate of emergency hospital admissions in Seacombe five times higher than in Heswall.[5]

Last year, Wirral Council undertook monitoring of the pollutant nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) at 56 sites across the borough.[2] These monitoring sites encompassed roadside and kerbside detection, and sensors outside of seven schools. At one-third of the 43 sites with comparative data from 2021, NO₂ levels had increased, while just one of the 56 sites met World Health Organization (WHO) air quality guidelines (10 µg/m³ for annual average NO₂ levels).[6] Four out of five sensors placed at schools also showed an increase in NO₂ levels compared to 2021. Furthermore, PM_{2.5} (particulate matter which causes a range of diseases) has seen no overall reduction between 2018 and 2022 and remains above WHO guidelines.[6]

Currently, the 'Wirral Plan 2022/23 Refresh' document does not make any explicit mention or reference to air quality.

Council welcomes that fact that Wirral officers have successfully secured £171,000 of DEFRA funding to engage with residents in campaigns aimed at developing understanding and behaviour that will improve Air Quality in Wirral. This included a very successful workshop with interested stakeholders and experts from across the region held in Wirral earlier this year.

Council therefore requests the Chief Executive to include air quality considerations in the refreshed Wirral Plan to be presented to P & R in November 2023, taking into account the recommendations and priorities detailed in the *Wirral Air Quality Annual Status Report*.

Furthermore, in alignment, with the Council's commitments to reduce health inequalities and safeguard against the adverse effects of air pollution, Council supports the World Health Organization Air Quality Guidelines as long-term targets, and requests that the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee consider the adoption and implementation of these as part of its work programme.

1: <https://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50091567/Enc.%20%20for%20Wirral%20Plan%20Update.pdf>

2: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/files/wbc036-wirral-air-quality-annual-status-report-2023.pdf>

3: <https://www.localhealth.org.uk/>

4: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31285306/>

5: <https://wirral.communityinsight.org/>

6: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240034228>

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