



Council

Town Hall
Wallasey

7 October, 2011

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at **6.15 pm on Monday, 17 October 2011** in the Council Chamber, within the Town Hall, Wallasey, to take into consideration and determine upon the following subjects :

Contact Officer: Andrew Mossop
Tel: 0151 691 8501
e-mail: andrewmossop@wirral.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

AGENDA

1. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

To receive the Mayor's announcements and any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The members of the Council are invited to consider whether they have a personal or prejudicial interest in connection with any matter to be debated or determined at this meeting and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of such interest.

3. PETITIONS

To receive petitions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 21.

Two petitions with a combined total number of signatories of 1503 have been received (Council minute 17 (18/7/11) refers) requesting improved security at Central Park, Wallasey. In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, whereby petitions have exceeded the threshold of 1500 signatures, a Council debate should be triggered. However, the Director of Technical Services has confirmed that his

staff are working with the Friends group at the park and the lead petitioner, to resolve the issues raised and the lead petitioner has confirmed that she is happy for the petition not to be debated in light of this ongoing work.

4. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 34)

To receive as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 July, 2011.

5. LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Pages 35 - 36)

In accordance with Article 7.3 (iii) (d) of the Council's Constitution, the Council is requested to consider the attached motion.

6. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

7. MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL

To consider matters referred to the Council for determination.

7(a) MINUTES (Pages 37 – 45)

The relevant minutes are attached as follows; copies of the related reports can be provided for Council members on request.

In accordance with Standing Order 7(1), these matters will be taken as approved except in respect of any to which objections or amendments are submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(2).

CABINET REFERRALS TO COUNCIL

- (i) Minute 67 (21/7/11) - Appointment of a Proper Officer (and others) for the Purposes of the National Assistance Act 1948 and 1951
- (ii) Minute 76 (21/7/11) - Local Development Framework – Liverpool City Region Overview Study
- (iii) Minute 96 (1/9/11) - Local Development Framework – Local Geological Sites Update
- (iv) Minute 123 (22/9/11) - Revision of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules
- (v) Minute 125 (22/9/11) - Local Development Framework – Joint Merseyside Waste Development Plan Document
- (vi) Minute 132 (22/9/11) - Cockling off the Leasowe to New Brighton Coast

(vii) Any other matters referred to the Council by Cabinet at its meeting on 13 October, 2011, including:

- Capitalisation of Statutory Redundancy Payments

COMMITTEE REFERRALS TO COUNCIL

(i) Minute 9 (Licensing, Health & Safety and General Purposes Committee – 21/9/11) – Upton Woods Village Green Application – Appointment of Inspector to Hold a Public Inquiry

(ii) Minute 10 (Licensing, Health & Safety and General Purposes Committee – 21/9/11) – The Warrens Demonstration Area Village Green Application – Appointment of Inspector to Hold a Public Inquiry

7(b) REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES (Pages 47 – 50)

The Council is invited to consider the report and recommendations of the Independent Panel on Members' Allowances.

7(c) LOCAL PAY AWARD 2011/12 (Pages 51 – 56)

The Council is invited to consider a report from the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management in response to the Cabinet decision of 21 July, 2011 (minute 58 refers).

8. MATTERS FOR NOTING (Pages 57 - 58)

The following matter, determined by the Cabinet, is drawn to the Council's attention in accordance with the Constitution (copies of the related report can be provided for Council members on request):

Minute 80 (Cabinet – 21/7/11) – Local Development Framework for Wirral – Core Strategy Development Plan Document (compliance with Contract Procedure Rule 1.2.4)

9. QUESTIONS

To deal with questions from councillors and from members of the public, in accordance with Standing Order 11.

10. MATTERS REFERRED FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES (Pages 59 - 60)

To consider and determine any references from overview and scrutiny committees, in particular:

Minute 12 (Scrutiny Programme Board – 8/9/11) – Options for Streamlining Scrutiny Call-In Process

The Council is invited to consider amending the Constitution to streamline the call-in process as outlined in parts (2) and (3) of the Board's resolution.

11. NOTICES OF MOTION (Pages 61 - 70)

Notice has been given, in accordance with Standing Order 8(1), of motions on the following subjects. They are listed in the order received, and the full text of each motion is attached.

1. We Are All In This Together
2. A Sure Start for Every Child In Wirral
3. Cancer Drugs Fund
4. Fairer Safer, Voting
5. Appointment of Metropolitan Police Commissioner
6. Corporate Governance Crisis
7. International Trade Centre
8. Response to Civil Disorder: Breaking the Cycle
9. Smoking Bans in Outdoor Play Areas
10. Links with China
11. Success of Birkenhead Businesses
12. "Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development"
13. Corporate Governance Report

12. MATTERS FOR DEBATE

Pursuant to Standing Order 5(2)(n), and in accordance with Standing Order 5(4), to consider written comments, objections or amendments to minutes submitted under Standing Order 7(2), together with those motions, submitted under item 9 above, that the Council agrees to debate at this meeting and any minority reports submitted in accordance with Standing Order 35(4).

13. VACANCIES (Pages 71 - 72)

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

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

To consider any other items of business that the Mayor accepts as being urgent.



Director of Law, HR and Asset Management

COUNCIL

Monday, 18 July 2011

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Moira McLaughlin) in the Chair
Deputy Mayor (Councillor Gerry Ellis)

Councillors	RL Abbey	J Hale	C Povall
	T Anderson	T Harney	D Realey
	C Blakeley	P Hayes	L Rennie
	E Boulton	A Hodson	D Roberts
	A Bridson	M Hornby	L Rowlands
	A Brighthouse	P Johnson	J Salter
	S Clarke	M Johnston	H Smith
	W Clements	AER Jones	T Smith
	A Cox	C Jones	W Smith
	J Crabtree	P Kearney	J Stapleton
	G Davies	J Keeley	A Sykes
	P Davies	S Kelly	S Taylor
	WJ Davies	B Kenny	J Walsh
	D Dodd	I Lewis	G Watt
	P Doughty	D McCubbin	S Whittingham
	D Elderton	AR McLachlan	R Wilkins
	S Foulkes	C Meaden	I Williams
	P Gilchrist	D Mitchell	KJ Williams
	P Glasman	B Mooney	P Williams
	JE Green	S Mountney	S Williams
	P Hackett	S Niblock	K Wood

Apologies Councillor A McArdle

15 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor's Chaplain, Revd Bernard McConnell, led the Council in prayers.

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors R Abbey, C Blakeley and J Salter declared prejudicial interests in Motion 12 (Merseytravel Allowances) by virtue of their membership of the Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority and left the chamber whilst this matter was considered.

Councillor S Clarke declared a personal interest in Motion 2 (Low Paid Wirral Council Workers – Pay Increase) by virtue of her daughter's employment.

Councillor I Lewis declared a personal interest in Motion 13 (Cruise Turnaround Review) by virtue of his employment.

Councillor S Mountney declared a personal interest in Motion 2 (Low Paid Wirral Council Workers – Pay Increase) by virtue of his wife's employment.

Councillor L Rowlands declared a personal interest in Motion 2 (Low Paid Wirral Council Workers – Pay Increase) by virtue of his wife’s employment and a prejudicial interest in Motion 12 (Merseytravel Allowances) by virtue of his membership of the Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority and left the chamber whilst this matter was considered.

Councillor S Taylor declared personal interests in Motions 8 (Localism for Merseyrail) and 12 (Merseytravel Allowances) by virtue of her employment.

Councillor C Povall declared a personal interest in Motion 2 (Low Paid Wirral Council Workers – Pay Increase) by virtue of her daughter’s employment.

Councillor S Williams declared a personal interest in Motion 2 (Low Paid Wirral Council Workers – Pay Increase) by virtue of his wife’s employment.

Councillor A Brighouse declared a personal interest in Motion 2 (Low Paid Wirral Council Workers – Pay Increase) by virtue of his wife’s employment.

Councillor M Johnston declared a prejudicial interest in Motion 2 (Low Paid Wirral Council Workers – Pay Increase) by virtue of his wife’s employment and left the chamber whilst the matter was considered.

Councillor T Harney declared a personal interest in Motion 2 (Low Paid Wirral Council Workers – Pay Increase) by virtue of him being Chair of Governors at two schools.

Councillor C Meaden declared a personal interest in Motion 2 (Low Paid Wirral Council Workers – Pay Increase) by virtue of her daughter’s employment.

Councillor G Davies declared a personal interest in Motion 2 (Low Paid Wirral Council Workers – Pay Increase) by virtue of his wife’s, daughter’s and daughter-in-law’s employment.

17 **PETITIONS**

In accordance with Standing Order 21, the Mayor received petitions submitted by –

Councillor C Blakeley on behalf of 300 signatories in support of planning application 00/727 by Wirral Partnership Homes for works at 80 Town Meadow Lane, Moreton.

Councillor S Clarke on behalf of 31 signatories requesting that the road surface of Kirkway, Higher Bebington be restored and made good.

Councillor I Lewis on behalf of 36 signatories (to be added to the 356 signature petition submitted at Council on 18 April 2011) requesting that land adjacent to the Ditton Nature Reserve, currently designated as a residential development plot, be designated as unsuitable for development by the Council in the next Local Development Framework.

Councillor C Jones on behalf of 679 signatories (to be added to the 824 signature petition submitted at Council on 23 May 2011) requesting improved security at Central Park, Wallasey.

Councillor S Niblock on behalf of 31 signatories requesting the installation of alleygates to the rear entries of terraced properties in New Ferry.

Councillor S Niblock on behalf of 71 signatories requesting a ban on customers smoking or drinking in front of licensed premises in New Ferry.

Resolved – That the petitions be noted and referred to the appropriate chief officer in accordance with Standing Order 34.

18 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16 and 23 May, 2011, had been circulated to members and, subject to the addition of Councillors Anderson, I Lewis and B Mooney to the attendance list for the 23 May meeting, it was –

Resolved – That the minutes be approved and adopted as a correct record.

19 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Foulkes, addressed the Council on the following matters:

- The Leader would be meeting with Bob Neill, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government on 6 September and he invited the Party leaders to join him in making representations to the Government on the issue of funding.
- The Leader together with the Chief Executive, Head of HR and OD, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Resources had set up regular meetings with senior union officials of the two largest unions representing council employees.
- The Leader would be appointing Councillor Jerry Williams as Heritage Champion and the terms of reference of the Culture, Tourism and Leisure Portfolio would therefore be amended to take this into account. Other champions, Carer's – Councillor Sheila Clarke, Play – Councillor Chris Meaden and Compact (to define and strengthen relationships between the statutory sector and the voluntary community sectors) – Councillor Jean Stapleton would continue whilst their roles were reviewed. The four most recent champions (Fair Trade, Faith Based Organisations, Sure Start and Wirral's Libraries), created by the former Leader, had ceased in their role following his election as Leader. He stated that the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees could take on a champion's role or could make a recommendation to the Executive to appoint a champion if that was their wish.
- The Leader reported that the Independent Remuneration Panel which should be setting Councillor's allowances was due to convene a meeting around 27 September, 2011.

- The Leader commented upon economic regeneration matters including the recent successful visit of a delegation from Suzhou, China, in June. The three Party Leaders were as one in wanting to bring new businesses to Wirral.

20 **MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL**

In accordance with Standing Order 7(1) a number of matters were submitted for approval by the Council.

On a motion by Councillor Foulkes, seconded by Councillor P Davies, it was –

Resolved – That the following matters be approved:

- (i) Minute 26 (Cabinet – 23/6/11) Financial Out-Turn 2010/11 (subject to the objection to be debated – see minute 24 post).**
- (ii) Minute 27 (Cabinet – 23/6/11) Capital Out-Turn and Financing 2010/11.**
- (iii) Minute 28 (Cabinet – 23/6/11) Treasury Management Annual Report 2010/11.**
- (iv) Minute 29 (Cabinet – 23/6/11) Insurance Fund Annual Report.**
- (v) Minute 37 (Cabinet - 23/6/11) Revision of Contract Procedure Rule 16.**
- (vi) Minute 45 (Cabinet - 23/6/11) Housing Strategy 2011-2026.**
- (vii) Minute 7 (Employment and Appointments Committee - 9/6/11) Appeals Sub-Committee.**

21 **MATTERS FOR NOTING**

Resolved – That appendices B (Statutory and Advisory Committees, Working Parties and Panels) and C (Appointments to Outside Bodies) to minute 14 (Council 16 and 23 May, 2011) be noted.

22 **QUESTIONS**

Mr J Brace, having given the appropriate notice in accordance with Standing Order 11, submitted the following question:

“The press and the public (except the petitioner) were not admitted to the Council meeting on 1 March until part way through the third item. Many had turned up to hear the petition about the care home closures. Both myself and my wife have hearing problems and found it hard to follow the meeting due to the disturbances. When the meeting was adjourned, the public gallery was cleared. The public were sent to Committee Room 1 where speeches could not be heard (for example Councillor Green’s) over the speakers and someone was smoking. Many members of the public went home.

During the adjournment my wife and I spoke to Bill Norman and were told that members of the public would be readmitted to the public gallery after those present to create a disturbance had left. One of my local councillors spoke on the issue.

Councillor Green is quoted in the Wirral Globe of 25 February as stating, "Technology now means that people can blog, film or broadcast using their phone or hi-definition video camera. I want people to have as much information as they want about their council, whether they are sitting in the public gallery at the Town Hall or sitting at home on their laptop."

It was clearly not possible for any member of the public to film using their phone or video camera as they weren't allowed in the same room! Wirral Council has a legal requirement to "afford reasonable facilities for taking their report" of those from the local press, news agencies or recording sound or video. I have discussed what happened with fellow NUJ colleagues. Can you provide a written response regarding Wirral Council's current policy in this area which will help at future meetings?"

The Leader of the Council responded, "As I wasn't Leader at the time the incident referred to occurred, I have asked the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management to respond on my behalf, in writing, after consultation with the then Leader, Councillor Green."

The following Councillors, having given the appropriate notice in accordance with Standing Order 11 submitted questions on the topics listed:

- (i) Councillor Phil Gilchrist to Councillor Phil Davies (Wirral's Agriculture)
- (ii) Councillor Phil Gilchrist to the Leader of the Council (Strategic Change Programme)
- (iii) Councillor Tom Harney to Councillor Jean Stapleton (Neighbourhood Plans and Area Forum Funding)
- (iv) Councillor Bob Wilkins to Councillor Brian Kenny (Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reports)
- (v) Councillor Dave Mitchell to Councillor Ron Abbey (Merseytravel)
- (vi) Councillor Alan Brighthouse to Councillor Phil Davies (Chinese Investment)
- (vii) Councillor Stuart Kelly to Councillor Phil Davies (Plans for Birkenhead)

The Councillors responded accordingly.

23 **MATTERS FOR DEBATE**

The matters listed for debate in accordance with Standing Order 5(2) (m) were dealt with as indicated in minutes 24 to 35 below.

On a motion by Councillor W Davies, seconded by Councillor C Blakeley, it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That Standing Order 7 (8) be applied from 8.15pm.

24 **MOTION: BUDGET OVERSPEND AND OBJECTION: MINUTE 26 (CABINET 23 JUNE, 2011) FINANCIAL OUT-TURN 2010/11**

The Council agreed to have one debate in respect of the Motion, 'Budget Overspend' and objection to Cabinet minute 26, 'Financial Out-Turn 2010/11', with two separate votes at its conclusion.

Motion – Budget Overspend

Proposed by Councillor Steve Foulkes
Seconded by Councillor Phil Davies

- (1) Council expresses its dismay at the £5.3m overspend on last year's budget in Adult Social Services, Children's Services and Technical Services, as reported to the meeting of Cabinet on the 23rd June.
- (2) In view of the massive cut in Council funding approved by the previous administration and given that the pressures creating the overspends were well known, Council believes that corrective action should have been taken at an earlier stage in order to avoid placing more pressure on the current year's budget.
- (3) Council notes that these overspends have been covered by one-off savings from Treasury Management and Housing Benefit, however, as resources get scarcer such one-off sums cannot be relied upon to bail out over-spending areas.
- (4) Council therefore takes this opportunity to remind Chief Officers that they have a Constitutional responsibility: *"to ensure that spending remains within the services overall cash limit and that individual budget heads are not overspent, by monitoring the budget and taking appropriate corrective action where significant variations from the approved budget are forecast."*

Amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(2):

Proposed by Councillor Tom Anderson
Seconded by Councillor Simon Mountney

Delete all and insert:

Council notes:

- (1) The £5.3 million overspend on last year's budget in Adult Social Services, Children's Services and Technical Services as reported to the meeting of Cabinet on the 23rd June 2011 and that this overspend has been offset by the previous Conservative - Liberal Democrat administration's careful stewardship of its Treasury Management function and Housing Benefit reserve.
- (2) That the previous Coalition administration's budget for 2011/12 has reduced spending by £52 million, delivered a 0% council tax increase, left Council balances of £14 million and reduced debt by £10 million.

- (3) Council thanks staff and the senior management team for their work during 2010/11 to bear down on expenditure while seeking to maintain spending at levels proposed in the Labour-led Council's budget for 2010/11 which given the report to Cabinet on the 23rd June 2011, has now been shown to be inadequate.

Amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(2):

Proposed by Councillor Tom Harney
Seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Amend paragraph (1) to read:

- (1) Council notes the £5.3m overspend on last year's budget in Adult Social Services, Children's Services and Technical Services, as reported to the meeting of Cabinet on the 23rd June.

Delete existing paragraphs (2) and (3) and insert new paragraph (2):

- (2) Council recognises the achievement that the deficit in Adult Social Services has been halved under the previous coalition administration after inheriting the worst Adult Social Services department in the country at a time of severe financial pressures and whilst substantial and transformational change has been initiated.

Renumber existing paragraph (4) as paragraph (3) and delete "therefore":

- (3) Council takes this opportunity to remind Chief Officers that they have a Constitutional responsibility: "to ensure that spending remains within the services overall cash limit and that individual budget heads are not overspent, by monitoring the budget and taking appropriate corrective action where significant variations from the approved budget are forecast."

Insert new paragraph (4):

- (4) Council therefore asks that Chief Officers continue to be open, honest and proactive with all elected members, through financial monitoring reports and other reports to the Cabinet, Audit and Risk management Committee and relevant scrutiny committees about projected and potential overspends and the necessary corrective actions.

Objection – Minute 26 (Cabinet – 23 June, 2011) Financial Out-Turn 2010/11

Moved by Councillor Tom Harney
Seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Delete resolution and insert: That

- (1) the revenue out-turn for 2010/11 be agreed;
- (2) the provisions and reserves be agreed;
- (3) it be noted as an achievement that the deficit in Adult Social Services has been halved under the previous coalition administration after inheriting the worst Adult

Social Services department in the country at a time of severe financial pressures and whilst substantial and transformational change has been initiated;

- (4) that Chief Officers are asked to continue to be open, honest and pro-active with all elected members, through financial monitoring reports and other reports to the Cabinet, Audit and Risk management Committee and relevant scrutiny committees about projected and potential overspends and the necessary corrective actions.

Following a debate and Councillor Foulkes having replied, the motion was put to the vote. Councillors Anderson and Harney agreed that their amendments be combined and the composite amendment was put and carried (36:28) (One abstention)

The substantive motion was then put and carried (36:28) (One abstention)

Resolved (36:28) (One abstention) -

Council notes:

- (1) The £5.3 million overspend on last year's budget in Adult Social Services, Children's Services and Technical Services as reported to the meeting of Cabinet on the 23rd June 2011 and that this overspend has been offset by the previous Conservative - Liberal Democrat administration's careful stewardship of its Treasury Management function and Housing Benefit reserve.**
- (2) That the previous Coalition administration's budget for 2011/12 has reduced spending by £52 million, delivered a 0% council tax increase, left Council balances of £14 million and reduced debt by £10 million.**
- (3) Council thanks staff and the senior management team for their work during 2010/11 to bear down on expenditure while seeking to maintain spending at levels proposed in the Labour-led Council's budget for 2010/11 which given the report to Cabinet on the 23rd June 2011, has now been shown to be inadequate.**
- (4) Council recognises the achievement that the deficit in Adult Social Services has been halved under the previous coalition administration after inheriting the worst Adult Social Services department in the country at a time of severe financial pressures and whilst substantial and transformational change has been initiated.**
- (5) Council takes this opportunity to remind Chief Officers that they have a Constitutional responsibility: "to ensure that spending remains within the services overall cash limit and that individual budget heads are not overspent, by monitoring the budget and taking appropriate corrective action where significant variations from the approved budget are forecast."**
- (6) Council therefore asks that Chief Officers continue to be open, honest and pro-active with all elected members, through financial monitoring reports and other reports to the Cabinet, Audit and Risk Management Committee**

and relevant scrutiny committees about projected and potential overspends and the necessary corrective actions.

The objection to Cabinet minute 26, 'Financial Out-Turn 2010/11', was then put to the vote and it was –

Resolved (36:28) (One abstention) –

That,

- (1) the revenue out-turn for 2010/11 be agreed;**
- (2) the provisions and reserves be agreed;**
- (3) it be noted as an achievement that the deficit in Adult Social Services has been halved under the previous coalition administration after inheriting the worst Adult Social Services department in the country at a time of severe financial pressures and whilst substantial and transformational change has been initiated;**
- (4) Chief Officers are asked to continue to be open, honest and pro-active with all elected members, through financial monitoring reports and other reports to the Cabinet, Audit and Risk Management Committee and relevant scrutiny committees about projected and potential overspends and the necessary corrective actions.**

25 LOW PAID WIRRAL COUNCIL WORKERS - PAY INCREASE

Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green
Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Council notes:

- (1) That the previous Labour Government brought this country to the brink of bankruptcy doubled the national debt and left us with the biggest budget deficit in our peacetime history.
- (2) That as a country we have to spend more than £120 million every single day just to pay off the interest on Labour's debt and this is in fact Labour's true legacy.
- (3) The previous Council coalition administration listened to Wirral residents and delivered a budget that saved £52 million, invested in economic development and child protection, protected key services, delivered a zero percent Council Tax increase leaving Council balances of £14 million and reduced the Council's debt by £10 million.
- (4) That despite having to make difficult decisions to achieve this, provision was made, and the Council's current budget contains, £800,000 specifically to ensure that the Council's lowest paid workers receive a £250 non consolidated pay increase.

Council believes that the current increase in global commodity prices is having a real impact on the price of groceries and fuel.

Council thanks our better paid staff for their understanding and acceptance of the need for a public sector pay freeze, due to the previous Labour Government's profligacy and debt, however, in the interest of fairness, wishes to assist those who earn the least and are often impacted the most when commodity and other prices rise.

Council therefore insists:

- (1) As a matter of urgency all required action is taken by the current Labour Administration to ensure the Council honours the implied bargain of a general public sector pay freeze with a £250 payment to those employed by the Council and earning below £21,000 per year.
- (2) A report is provided to all members of the Council informing us of the progress of discussions with staff representatives and when this payment will be made
- (3) Subject to agreement with the Director of Law, HR & Asset management, the content of this resolution is communicated to all staff.

Amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(2):

Proposed by Councillor Adrian Jones
Seconded by Councillor Denise Roberts

Delete all after "Council notes:" replace with:

- (1) That the budget deficit experienced by this country is a direct result of reckless decisions taken by a global banking industry which required decisive action by the Labour government in order to protect the savings of ordinary people and prevent a thirties style depression.
- (2) Council believes that ordinary people are now being asked to pay the price of bailing out the bankers while bonuses continue to flourish in the city.
- (3) Council recognises that the pay freeze imposed on local government workers by the Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition impacts most severely on lower paid workers, particularly at a time when the economy is stalling and prices are rising as a consequence of an ill thought out attempt to cut the deficit too rapidly.
- (4) Council also notes that the potential for a flat rate pay increase of £250 to low paid staff formed part of the national pay negotiations for local authority staff and that a provision of £800,000 was set aside in the budget to meet any such pay rise, should it be agreed nationally.
- (5) Council further notes that the national negotiations have now concluded and the Local Authority Employers have reported that no pay rise has been agreed.
- (6) Council recognises that the payment of any non consolidated amount, outside the national agreement, would constitute a local agreement, which would require

extensive consultation with the union on a number of issues, and that any decision taken on low paid staff within the Council would also impact on non teaching staff in schools on the same terms and conditions.

- (7) Council further notes that schools are committed to paying national agreements, but not necessarily local agreements and that the amount within the Council's General Fund does not cover the additional schools cost, which would be £621,000 in ongoing revenue costs, which has not been budgeted for.
- (8) Council also notes that no North West Employer has paid this increase.
- (9) Council therefore believes that the implications of any such decision to negotiate a local agreement, in addition to the national agreement, would need to be seriously considered in the proper manner, and within the overall budgetary context, and that a politically motivated Council Notice of Motion is not the appropriate way to formulate a local agreement."

Amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(2):

Proposed by Councillor Stuart Kelly
Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

After 'Council notes' add additional paragraph (5):

- (5) Council also supports the concept of a living wage for workers <http://www.citizensuk.org/campaigns/living-wage-campaign/> and notes that 48 employees of the council earn below the £7.20/hour which is considered a living wage, including apprentices, bar assistants and leisure coaches.

After 'Council therefore insists' add new paragraph (3):

- (3) Council asks Cabinet to make arrangements to bring those council employees earning below £7.20/hour up to living wage levels and that contractors supplying public services are also asked to ensure they pay a living wage.

Renumber existing paragraph (3) as (4).

Following a debate and Councillor Green having replied, Councillor Green along with five Conservative Members, asked that a 'card vote' be recorded.

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management informed the Council that in accordance with Standing Order 18 (7) a 'Card Vote' could not be taken, as Standing Order 7 (8) was now in force.

On a motion by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Rowlands, it was –

Resolved (35:28) (One abstention) – That Standing Order 18 (7) be suspended for this motion.

The amendment proposed by Councillor A Jones was put and the Council divided as follows:

For the amendment (28) - Councillors RL Abbey, JA Crabtree, G Davies, PL Davies, WJ Davies, D Dodd, P Doughty, S Foulkes, P Glasman, P Hackett, AER Jones, C Jones, BM Kenny, ARC McLachlan, CM Meaden, B Mooney, SAM Niblock, DE Realey, DE Roberts, J Salter, H Smith, PA Smith, WW Smith, J Stapleton, J Walsh, S Whittingham, I Williams, KJ Williams.

Against the amendment (35) - Councillors T Anderson, C Blakeley, E Boulton, A Bridson, A Brighthouse, SL Clarke, W Clements, T Cox, DM Elderton, GJ Ellis, PN Gilchrist, JE Green, J Hale, T Harney, P Hayes, AC Hodson, M Hornby, PSC Johnson, P Kearney, J Keeley, SE Kelly, I Lewis, D McCubbin, GD Mitchell, SR Mountney, C Povall, Mrs LA Rennie, SL Rowlands, A Sykes, S Taylor, GCJ Watt, R Wilkins, Mrs P Williams, S Williams and Mrs K Wood.

Abstentions (1) – Councillor M McLaughlin

Councillor Green's motion, incorporating Councillor Kelly's amendment which he agreed to accept as a friendly amendment, was then put to the vote and the Council divided as follows:

For the motion (35) - Councillors T Anderson, C Blakeley, E Boulton, A Bridson, A Brighthouse, SL Clarke, W Clements, T Cox, DM Elderton, GJ Ellis, PN Gilchrist, JE Green, J Hale, T Harney, P Hayes, AC Hodson, M Hornby, PSC Johnson, P Kearney, J Keeley, SE Kelly, I Lewis, D McCubbin, GD Mitchell, SR Mountney, C Povall, Mrs LA Rennie, SL Rowlands, A Sykes, S Taylor, GCJ Watt, R Wilkins, Mrs P Williams, S Williams and Mrs K Wood.

Against the motion (28) - Councillors RL Abbey, JA Crabtree, G Davies, PL Davies, WJ Davies, D Dodd, P Doughty, S Foulkes, P Glasman, P Hackett, AER Jones, C Jones, BM Kenny, ARC McLachlan, CM Meaden, B Mooney, SAM Niblock, DE Realey, DE Roberts, J Salter, H Smith, PA Smith, WW Smith, J Stapleton, J Walsh, S Whittingham, I Williams, KJ Williams.

Abstentions (1) – Councillor M McLaughlin

Resolved -

Council notes:

- (1) That the previous Labour Government brought this country to the brink of bankruptcy doubled the national debt and left us with the biggest budget deficit in our peacetime history.**
- (2) That as a country we have to spend more than £120 million every single day just to pay off the interest on Labour's debt and this is in fact Labour's true legacy.**
- (3) The previous Council coalition administration listened to Wirral residents and delivered a budget that saved £52 million, invested in economic development and child protection, protected key services, delivered a zero percent Council Tax increase leaving Council balances of £14 million and reduced the Council's debt by £10 million.**

- (4) That despite having to make difficult decisions to achieve this, provision was made, and the Council's current budget contains, £800,000 specifically to ensure that the Council's lowest paid workers receive a £250 non consolidated pay increase.
- (5) Council also supports the concept of a living wage for workers <http://www.citizensuk.org/campaigns/living-wage-campaign/> and notes that 48 employees of the council earn below the £7.20/hour which is considered a living wage, including apprentices, bar assistants and leisure coaches.

Council believes that the current increase in global commodity prices is having a real impact on the price of groceries and fuel.

Council thanks our better paid staff for their understanding and acceptance of the need for a public sector pay freeze, due to the previous Labour Government's profligacy and debt, however, in the interest of fairness, wishes to assist those who earn the least and are often impacted the most when commodity and other prices rise.

Council therefore insists:

- (1) As a matter of urgency all required action is taken by the current Labour Administration to ensure the Council honours the implied bargain of a general public sector pay freeze with a £250 payment to those employed by the Council and earning below £21,000 per year.
- (2) A report is provided to all members of the Council informing us of the progress of discussions with staff representatives and when this payment will be made
- (3) Council asks Cabinet to make arrangements to bring those council employees earning below £7.20/hour up to living wage levels and that contractors supplying public services are also asked to ensure they pay a living wage.
- (4) Subject to agreement with the Director of Law, HR & Asset management, the content of this resolution is communicated to all staff.

The motion having been carried, advice was sought from the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management in relation to the implementation of this decision. He advised the Council that as £800,000 was already in the Council budget to fund this measure, his expectation was that this decision of the Council would be implemented.

The Leader of the Council expressed the view that it was wrong for the Council to be making budget decisions on an ad hoc basis, especially as no formal negotiations had been held with the trades unions on this matter nor had the full budgetary implications been considered in relation to this motion.

26 **MOTION: VAT RE-THINK TO JUMP START ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Proposed by Councillor Phil Davies
Seconded by Councillor Pat Hackett

Council notes that:

- (1) Retail sales fell by twice the expected rate in May (1.4%).
- (2) The Office of Budget Responsibility has revised its overall growth forecasts for 2011 from 2.6% to 1.7%.
- (3) Unemployment forecasts for the next 4 years have been revised upwards. Inflation forecasts for the end of 2011 have risen sharply from 1.6% to 4.2% with a further increase next year.

In the light of evidence that economic recovery is at best sluggish and at worst has completely stalled, Council calls for the coalition government to reverse temporarily the 2.5% increase in VAT introduced in January until the economy is growing strongly again.

Council agrees that slowing down the pace of deficit reduction with a temporary VAT cut now would give the flat-lining economy the jump-start it so urgently needs, boost jobs especially in the retail sector, and be a better way to get the deficit down for the long term.

Amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(2):

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by Councillor Alan Brighthouse

Delete paragraph (1)

Delete all after paragraph (2), renumber paragraph (2) as paragraph (1) and add:

- (2) A temporary VAT cut would reverse deficit reduction, increase debt pressures and Government borrowing and risk undermining sensitive bond markets and lowering investor confidence, which is needed to create jobs.
- (3) Any cut in VAT will add to inflationary pressures later.
- (4) Had decisive action on the deficit not been taken at an early stage in this Parliament, the economic recovery would have been undermined by international and market pressures.
- (5) Acknowledges that times are tough for people due to Labour's failure to properly regulate the financial and banking system.

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 7(8) the Council did not debate this matter.

The amendment was put and carried (36:28) (One abstention).

The substantive motion was then put and carried (36:28) (One abstention).

Resolved (36:28) (One abstention) –

Council notes that:

- (1) The Office of Budget Responsibility has revised its overall growth forecasts for 2011 from 2.6% to 1.7%.**
- (2) A temporary VAT cut would reverse deficit reduction, increase debt pressures and Government borrowing and risk undermining sensitive bond markets and lowering investor confidence, which is needed to create jobs.**
- (3) Any cut in VAT will add to inflationary pressures later.**
- (4) Had decisive action on the deficit not been taken at an early stage in this Parliament, the economic recovery would have been undermined by international and market pressures.**
- (5) Acknowledges that times are tough for people due to Labour's failure to properly regulate the financial and banking system.**

27 MOTION: SELF DIRECTED CARE AND PERSONAL BUDGETS

Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green
Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Council welcomes the freedom and choice given to Wirral residents by self directed care and personal budgets

Council notes:

- (1) The national target requiring, in compliance with NI130, Wirral to facilitate self directed assessments with 30% of service users.
- (2) The Labour led Wirral Council had, at the end of the activity year 2009 – 2010, achieved just 8% of such assessments.
- (3) That in response to this inadequate and unacceptable performance last year's coalition administration extended the personalisation project to all service users and required an increase in those residents benefiting from self directed support for the remainder of the activity year 2010 – 2011 and every subsequent year.
- (4) The result reported that at the end of May 2011 Wirral had offered 41% of eligible residents self directed support, improving our performance from where Labour left us in the bottom 5 to comfortably in the top third of 153 authorities.
- (5) All Council contracts for domiciliary care, personal supported living and residential and nursing care have been updated to ensure the service will be provided in a personalised way and focussed on delivering outcomes such as improved health and well being and dignity in care.

Council further notes:

- (1) The replacement of the HART service with the STAR service (short term assessment and reablement) and the important role it plays in helping people to return home and live independently following illness and discharge from hospital.
- (2) The critical role the STAR service has in supporting people through an assessment and recovery process and facilitating the opportunity for a support planned and personal budget to be organised following their discharge from the service.
- (3) The previous coalition administration's plans for the STAR service to be co-located with Wirral University Teaching Hospital and the DASS locality teams and to ensure the independent providers of the enablement part of the new service is thorough and of high quality, as requested by residents in the 'Wirral Future' consultation, is progressing well.
- (4) The changes made have provided further opportunity to develop integrated working with Wirral University Teaching Hospital, particularly around the work of occupational therapists, physiotherapists, community nurses and the planning for effective discharge.
- (5) The most recent reports show that the number of delayed discharges from hospital has been reduced to zero and the Department, together with Wirral University Teaching Hospital and Wirral NHS have been asked to present to a regional conference as a case study of excellence in partnership working.

Council expresses its thanks and appreciation to:

The new Director, all of the staff and leaders within DASS and across the Council, who have worked so hard to achieve this strategic and transformational change in the breadth and quality of service provided to Wirral residents.

The new independent providers, NHS Wirral and the Wirral University Teaching Hospital for their support and partnership working to create a truly integrated care pathway.

Former Councillor Bob Moon for resisting the opposition calls to stop this change and sustaining it while receiving the unwarranted personal abuse thrown at him as he worked as the Executive Member for DASS with his department and partners to ensure the former coalition administration's vision for a transformed public service was delivered.

Council requests:

The new processes, including the resource allocation model (RAS), continue to be monitored closely, with any further opportunities for improvements identified and reported.

Subject to agreement with the Director of Law, HR & Asset Management, the content of this resolution and the Council's thanks be communicated to all DASS, Finance, Strategic Change and internal Comms staff involved in achieving this transformation.

Amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(2):

Proposed by Councillor Anne McArdle
Seconded by Councillor Pat Glasman

Delete everything after "Council notes" and replace with:

- (1) The national target NI130 required all councils to ensure that by April 2011 at least 30% of all eligible carers/service users had a personal budget. This was achieved.
- (2) By the end of May 2011 Wirral had offered 41% of eligible residents self directed support through personal budgets. This achievement was down to hard work by DASS staff and a credit to their professionalism under challenging circumstances. This statistic puts Wirral 41st out of 153 authorities which is excellent news.
- (3) While the extension of personal choice to individuals in this way is clearly a success story, Council is aware that real choice will ultimately be dependant on the ability of personal budgets to actually purchase the care needed, and that charging policies need to be monitored with this in mind.
- (4) Council further notes that all new Council contracts for domiciliary care, residential and nursing care have now been accepted by providers. In regards to Supported Living, meetings between tenants, carers and their selected new providers have now concluded and the new arrangements commenced on July 1st. Again this was achieved through an excellent partnership approach between DASS staff, carers and providers.
- (5) While Council welcomes the fact that the STAR service, which replaced the HART re-ablement service, now provides a full re-ablement service, it regrets the break up and part privatisation of an extremely successful and cost effective service which saw 70% of its clients either needing fewer services or no services at all after the six week intensive re-ablement programme, thereby saving the Council considerable sums of money.
- (6) Council also regrets the fact that the transition was managed in such a way that for a twelve week period clients who should have received a full re-ablement service did not receive that service but received a standard domiciliary care service instead. On past figures, that would mean that over 300 people did not have the intensive specialist care to get them back to independent living, which would have allowed their level of ongoing care requirements to drop or stop altogether, thereby saving the Council considerable sums of money, which will now be an ongoing cost to the Council instead.
- (7) Council welcomes the co-location of the STAR service with Wirral University Teaching Hospital and the DASS locality teams and the moves to ensure the quality of the enablement on offer, as campaigned for by Wirral residents and other stakeholders, including the Older Person's Parliament and Wirral Local Involvement Network (LINK).

- (8) Council asks that the new processes, including the resource allocation model (RAS) continue to be monitored closely, with any further opportunities for improvements identified and reported.

Amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(2):

Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green
Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

After "Council expresses its thanks and appreciation to:" insert the following new paragraph:

All service users and their carers who supported this agenda with endurance and enthusiasm throughout the pilot stage.

Alter the final paragraph to:

Subject to agreement with the Director of Law, HR & Asset Management, the content of this resolution and the Council's thanks be communicated to all DASS, Finance, Strategic Change, internal Comms staff, service users and carers in achieving this transformation.

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 7(8) the Council did not debate this matter.

The amendment proposed by Councillor McArdle was put and lost (28:36) (One abstention).

The amendment proposed by Councillor Green was put and carried (36:28) (One abstention).

The motion, as amended, was put and carried (36:28) (One abstention).

Resolved (36:28) (One abstention) -

Council welcomes the freedom and choice given to Wirral residents by self directed care and personal budgets

Council notes:

- (1) The national target requiring, in compliance with NI130, Wirral to facilitate self directed assessments with 30% of service users.**
- (2) The Labour led Wirral Council had, at the end of the activity year 2009 – 2010, achieved just 8% of such assessments.**
- (3) That in response to this inadequate and unacceptable performance last year's coalition administration extended the personalisation project to all service users and required an increase in those residents benefiting from self directed support for the remainder of the activity year 2010 – 2011 and every subsequent year.**

- (4) The result reported that at the end of May 2011 Wirral had offered 41% of eligible residents self directed support, improving our performance from where Labour left us in the bottom 5 to comfortably in the top third of 153 authorities.
- (5) All Council contracts for domiciliary care, personal supported living and residential and nursing care have been updated to ensure the service will be provided in a personalised way and focussed on delivering outcomes such as improved health and well being and dignity in care.

Council further notes:

- (1) The replacement of the HART service with the STAR service (short term assessment and reablement) and the important role it plays in helping people to return home and live independently following illness and discharge from hospital.
- (2) The critical role the STAR service has in supporting people through an assessment and recovery process and facilitating the opportunity for a support planned and personal budget to be organised following their discharge from the service.
- (3) The previous coalition administration's plans for the STAR service to be co-located with Wirral University Teaching Hospital and the DASS locality teams and to ensure the independent providers of the enablement part of the new service is thorough and of high quality, as requested by residents in the 'Wirral Future' consultation, is progressing well.
- (4) The changes made have provided further opportunity to develop integrated working with Wirral University Teaching Hospital, particularly around the work of occupational therapists, physiotherapists, community nurses and the planning for effective discharge.
- (5) The most recent reports show that the number of delayed discharges from hospital has been reduced to zero and the Department, together with Wirral University Teaching Hospital and Wirral NHS have been asked to present to a regional conference as a case study of excellence in partnership working.

Council expresses its thanks and appreciation to:

All service users and their carers who supported this agenda with endurance and enthusiasm throughout the pilot stage.

The new Director, all of the staff and leaders within DASS and across the Council, who have worked so hard to achieve this strategic and transformational change in the breadth and quality of service provided to Wirral residents.

The new independent providers, NHS Wirral and the Wirral University Teaching Hospital for their support and partnership working to create a truly integrated care pathway.

Former Councillor Bob Moon for resisting the opposition calls to stop this change and sustaining it while receiving the unwarranted personal abuse thrown at him as he worked as the Executive Member for DASS with his department and partners to ensure the former coalition administration's vision for a transformed public service was delivered.

Council requests:

The new processes, including the resource allocation model (RAS), continue to be monitored closely, with any further opportunities for improvements identified and reported.

Subject to agreement with the Director of Law, HR & Asset Management, the content of this resolution and the Council's thanks be communicated to all DASS, Finance, Strategic Change and internal Comms staff, service users and carers in achieving this transformation.

28 MOTION: SHALE GAS FRACKING

Proposed by Councillor Mark Johnston

Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Council notes with concern that:

- (1) Mining company Cuadrillo Resources is undertaking test drilling for shale gas deposits near Blackpool in Lancashire. They are using a technique called hydraulic fracturing; an American technology known as 'fracking', controversial because it involves drilling dozens of wells over a relatively small area and pumping hazardous chemicals underground at high pressures to fracture the rock and release the gas. Drilling was recently suspended following earthquakes on the Fylde coast.
- (2) IGas Energy has licenses, over more than 700km² between Manchester and the Mersey / Dee estuaries, to extract gas from onshore underground coal seams covering land from West Manchester to North Wales, including locations in Liverpool and Wirral. The company has estimated that 1.95 trillion cubic feet of shale gas may lie trapped under Wirral alone. A new licence round is planned by DECC this year.
- (3) IGas has announced a framework agreement with Peel Environmental Ltd that gives access to coal bed methane production sites within Peel's land holdings in the North West. As part of this agreement, Peel will give unlimited access to their entire land holdings in the North West of England for the purpose of identifying those sites suitable for IGas operations.
- (4) In May, amid environmental concerns, the French Parliament voted overwhelmingly in favour of a motion to ban hydraulic fracturing.
- (5) There is a lack of understanding and evidence in relation to the environmental impact and safety of shale gas 'fracking'. There is also uncertainty concerning the adequacy of regulatory powers and oversight.

(6) The Co-operative commissioned study from the University of Manchester's Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, 'Shale gas: a provisional assessment of climate change and environmental impacts' reported a number of conclusions in relation to the extraction and use of shale gas, including:

- A significant risk of ground and surface water contamination by the hazardous chemicals involved in extraction.
- The requirement for high volumes of water in shale gas extraction could put considerable pressure on local water supplies.
- The likelihood that close proximity of extraction sites to population centres would create additional pressure on scarce land-use resources through increased risk of intrusive noise pollution, truck movements and land use demands that could arise.
- The likelihood that exploitation of this additional fossil fuel resource will increase net carbon emissions.
- The risk that exploitation of shale gas will delay major investments in zero- and very low-carbon technologies.

Therefore, Council:

- (a) States its opposition to any application by IGas or other companies to carry out shale gas or coal gas methane testing or extraction in Wirral until such time as the Council is satisfied as to the safety of the process and that the risk of adverse environmental impacts have been fully addressed.
- (b) Requests the appropriate chief officer prepare a report for the Planning Committee, the Economy and Regeneration and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committees to aid members in better understanding the council's responsibility and regulatory role in relation to gas exploration.
- (c) Further requests the Economy and Regeneration OSC to include a study of the potential economic impacts of shale gas exploration and exploitation in Wirral in its workplan, including whether the impact of a proliferation of shale gas drilling on the Liverpool City Region will adversely impact on it becoming a leading area for the manufacture of low carbon technologies and development of a green economy.

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 7(8) the Council did not debate this matter.

Resolved (unanimously) – That the motion be approved.

29 **MOTION: FAIR DEAL FOR WIRRAL**

Proposed by Councillor Steve Foulkes
Seconded by Councillor Phil Davies

- (1) Council notes that, under current proposals for the localisation of business rates, Wirral could be severely disadvantaged as the area would raise far less in business rates than it currently receives as part of a national redistribution of rates.

- (2) Council notes that the proposals contain an initial equalisation of resources to prevent any immediate loss, but that this would be a one off solution and that over time the gap between what Wirral can collect and the resources available to other wealthier councils will grow considerably, adding to the disparity of resources between richer and poorer areas already created by specifically targeting cuts on the Area Based Grant which was designed to help poorer areas.
- (3) Council therefore re-iterates its demand that any new system should be designed in such a way that Wirral and similar Councils with a low economic base and high levels of deprivation should be given a Fair Deal and not deprived of much needed resources.

Amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(2):

Proposed by Councillor Tom Harney
Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Delete all after paragraph (1) and replace with:

- (2) Council believes that what is needed is a long term solution that delivers a fair funding formula for all local authorities.
- (3) Council reminds Cabinet and Chief Officers that the previous coalition administration instructed, at its meeting of 14th April 2011:
 - That Officers and Members, as appropriate, undertake detailed work and proactively make representations to influence Government, with the aim of securing a fair and rebalanced funding formula to tackle Wirral's underlying problems and provide adequate resources for local services.
 - That input be made to collective lobbying through bodies such as SIGOMA, LGA, Liverpool City Region, other Councils and representative bodies, as appropriate, to promote the case for equalisation, seeking to ensure that those local authorities with a low income from business rates and a high level of Government grant support are not adversely affected by the proposed repatriation of business rates
- (4) Council reminds Cabinet members that this Chamber agreed at its meeting of 18th April 2010 to:
 - Request Cabinet to draw together a report to highlight data on Wirral's underlying social problems, in particular highlighting how Wirral has benefited substantially from the redistribution of the business rates over the years, with the aim of securing a fair and rebalanced funding formula to tackle those underlying problems and provide adequate resources for local services.
 - This report be then used as part of a campaign involving SIGOMA, the Local Government Association and other councils in speaking up for local Councils and ensuring the Department for Communities and Local Government specifically understand local needs
- (5) Council, therefore, is disappointed that this proactive work, requested with the aim of influencing Government thinking on development of a fair funding formula has not been forthcoming and that too the emphasis needs to shift away from

complaining about the Government and towards influencing and improving the Government's proposals.

- (6) Council is further concerned that the current Labour Administration is demonstrating a lack of confidence in their own abilities to stimulate Wirral's economy and that they would prefer to rely on a system of handouts from Whitehall than to take any responsibility for localised fund raising.
- (7) Council welcomes the opportunity for a delegation to meet with Eric Pickles in order to continue to influence Government thinking for the benefit of the people of Wirral in the development of a fair funding formula for local government that is sustainable in the longer term, from which the Council can properly plan the delivery of local services and which properly recognises factors important to Wirral, such as social and economic deprivation.

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 7(8) the Council did not debate this matter.

The amendment was put and carried (36:28) (One abstention).

The substantive motion was then put and carried (36:28) (One abstention).

Resolved (36:28) (One abstention) –

- (1) Council notes that, under current proposals for the localisation of business rates, Wirral could be severely disadvantaged as the area would raise far less in business rates than it currently receives as part of a national redistribution of rates.**
- (2) Council believes that what is needed is a long term solution that delivers a fair funding formula for all local authorities.**
- (3) Council reminds Cabinet and Chief Officers that the previous coalition administration instructed, at its meeting of 14th April 2011:**
 - **That Officers and Members, as appropriate, undertake detailed work and proactively make representations to influence Government, with the aim of securing a fair and rebalanced funding formula to tackle Wirral's underlying problems and provide adequate resources for local services.**
 - **That input be made to collective lobbying through bodies such as SIGOMA, LGA, Liverpool City Region, other Councils and representative bodies, as appropriate, to promote the case for equalisation, seeking to ensure that those local authorities with a low income from business rates and a high level of Government grant support are not adversely affected by the proposed repatriation of business rates**
- (4) Council reminds Cabinet members that this Chamber agreed at its meeting of 18th April 2010 to:**
 - **Request Cabinet to draw together a report to highlight data on Wirral's underlying social problems, in particular highlighting how Wirral has benefited substantially from the redistribution of the business rates**

over the years, with the aim of securing a fair and rebalanced funding formula to tackle those underlying problems and provide adequate resources for local services.

- This report be then used as part of a campaign involving SIGOMA, the Local Government Association and other councils in speaking up for local Councils and ensuring the Department for Communities and Local Government specifically understand local needs
- (5) Council, therefore, is disappointed that this proactive work, requested with the aim of influencing Government thinking on development of a fair funding formula has not been forthcoming and that too the emphasis needs to shift away from complaining about the Government and towards influencing and improving the Government's proposals.
- (6) Council is further concerned that the current Labour Administration is demonstrating a lack of confidence in their own abilities to stimulate Wirral's economy and that they would prefer to rely on a system of handouts from Whitehall than to take any responsibility for localised fund raising.
- (7) Council welcomes the opportunity for a delegation to meet with Eric Pickles in order to continue to influence Government thinking for the benefit of the people of Wirral in the development of a fair funding formula for local government that is sustainable in the longer term, from which the Council can properly plan the delivery of local services and which properly recognises factors important to Wirral, such as social and economic deprivation.

30 MOTION: LOCALISM FOR MERSEYRAIL

Proposed by Councillor Chris Blakeley

Seconded by Councillor Les Rowlands

- (1) This Council notes with disappointment the decision made by the controlling Labour Group on the Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority to end immediately, without further reports, or the results of any business case study the opportunity to take local control of the Merseyrail Electrics network from Network Rail.
- (2) Council notes that this process has been ongoing for many years, and that in 2005/06 a business case for Full Local Decision Making (FLDM) was prepared and submitted showing clear benefits for Merseyside. This was endorsed by the Merseyside Passenger Transport Authority and was a Key Policy in Local Transport Plan Two (LTP2).
- (3) Council further notes that FLDM was relaunched as Localism for Merseyrail (LFM) in 2010 and that the imperative for greater local control over the network infrastructure remains and the commitment to developing the case for this was reiterated in Local Transport Plan Three (LTP3).

- (4) Council also notes that LFM has the support of the Department for Transport (DfT), Network Rail, Office of the Rail Regulator (ORR) and the Rail Freight Industry.
- (5) Council believes that a fully integrated Merseyrail network would be in the best interests of Merseyside's commuters and would enable local people and rail customers to have greater say in the decisions taken affecting the rail network in Merseyside.

Council therefore requests:

- (1) That the Chief Executive writes to the Chief Executive and Director General of Merseytravel, Neil Scales, and to the Chairman of the Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority (MITA), expressing our Council's disappointment at the decision made at the Authority's meeting on 27th June, 2011.
- (2) That MITA reverse the decision made at its meeting of the 27th June and ask that Merseytravel Passenger Transport Executive (MPTE) commission a Business Case Study to determine benefits and risks of LFM. The results of that study are considered by a future MITA Authority meeting before a final decision is made on whether to move this matter forward to the next stage.

Amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(2):

Proposed by Councillor Ron Abbey
Seconded by Councillor John Salter

Replace all the motion with:

- (1) The Council notes that the Chair of Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority, Councillor Mark Dowd, raised concerns about the validity of Virtual Integration via a letter dated 10th September 2010 which was published in November 2010 in a Modern Railways publication.
- (2) In the context of this letter, which pointed out problems specific to Merseyside, including the constant problems caused by closeness to the River Mersey, and in the light of the McNulty report of June 2011 which called for a 30% reduction in rail funding and the relaxation of Health and Safety at Work regulations, Council recognises that it would have been imprudent to spend a further £1.1m on a business study after £1.5m had already been paid for a previous report.

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 7(8) the Council did not debate this matter.

The amendment was put and lost (28:36) (One abstention).

The motion was put and carried (36:28) (One abstention).

Resolved (36:28) (One abstention) -

- (1) **This Council notes with disappointment the decision made by the controlling Labour Group on the Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority**

to end immediately, without further reports, or the results of any business case study the opportunity to take local control of the Merseyrail Electrics network from Network Rail.

- (2) Council notes that this process has been ongoing for many years, and that in 2005/06 a business case for Full Local Decision Making (FLDM) was prepared and submitted showing clear benefits for Merseyside. This was endorsed by the Merseyside Passenger Transport Authority and was a Key Policy in Local Transport Plan Two (LTP2).
- (3) Council further notes that FLDM was relaunched as Localism for Merseyrail (LFM) in 2010 and that the imperative for greater local control over the network infrastructure remains and the commitment to developing the case for this was reiterated in Local Transport Plan Three (LTP3).
- (4) Council also notes that LFM has the support of the Department for Transport (DfT), Network Rail, Office of the Rail Regulator (ORR) and the Rail Freight Industry.
- (5) Council believes that a fully integrated Merseyrail network would be in the best interests of Merseyside's commuters and would enable local people and rail customers to have greater say in the decisions taken affecting the rail network in Merseyside.

Council therefore requests:

- (1) That the Chief Executive writes to the Chief Executive and Director General of Merseytravel, Neil Scales, and to the Chairman of the Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority (MITA), expressing our Council's disappointment at the decision made at the Authority's meeting on 27th June, 2011.
- (2) That MITA reverse the decision made at its meeting of the 27th June and ask that Merseytravel Passenger Transport Executive (MPTE) commission a Business Case Study to determine benefits and risks of LFM. The results of that study are considered by a future MITA Authority meeting before a final decision is made on whether to move this matter forward to the next stage.

31 **MOTION: CONSULTATION**

Proposed by Councillor Tom Harney
Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

This Council:

- (1) Reaffirms its commitment to enhanced community engagement to ensure that major policy decisions include more robust processes of public consultation, as appropriate, before decisions are taken, as agreed unanimously by Notice of Motion at Council on 15 February 2010.

- (2) Believes that last year's Wirral's Future consultation, using the task force model and public questionnaire, followed the principles set out in that Notice of Motion to:
- Share the problem or issue and develop broad support on the need for change before progressing on to possible solutions;
 - Develop a 'green paper' approach to setting out options and possible solutions within the operational, policy and financial constraints with genuine opportunity for people to influence decision making, and;
 - Improve the use of the Council's website as a consultation portal, with a list of active consultations in progress and with the relevant supporting documents available as downloads.
- (3) Acknowledges the need for consultation to include a strong independent element and recognises the crucial work of the independent task forces - comprised of experts in their thematic fields - and thanks them again for their work.
- (4) Also believes that this approach played a substantial and legitimate role in achieving a balanced Budget for 2011/12 whilst protecting services, cutting the cost of running the Council and ensuring no compulsory redundancies.
- (5) Calls on the Leader to set out detailed plans, timetables and targets for how this year's Budget consultation will be conducted.

Amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(2):

Proposed by Councillor Steve Foulkes
Seconded by Councillor Phil Davies

After "This Council:" Delete everything and replace with:

- (1) Believes that it is important to consult people not just on general priorities, but on the specific proposals, and that the role of Scrutiny by elected members is crucial in this process.
- (2) Notes that the role of Scrutiny in the budget process is enshrined in the Constitution because of its importance. Council further recognises that it is within the power of Scrutiny Committees to ask independent members from organisations outside the Council to provide information to Scrutiny Committees in order to widen the debate taking place and ensure that a strong independent element can be retained.
- (3) Recognises the need to consult properly with those service users directly affected by budget proposals and to include this either within the Scrutiny Process or through statutory consultation, as appropriate.
- (4) Further believes, in line with the localism agenda, that many people have strong affinities to the neighbourhood in which they live and would welcome the chance to review the services available to them and to use the funding available to enhance the life of the local community. Council therefore welcomes the coming launch of a wide spread Consultation, involving members of the public, residents associations and community representatives, which will lead, through the Area

Forums, to the production of Neighbourhood Plans, based on a carefully collated Area Profile, which can be used to specify local priorities.

- (5) Believes that this will allow the Council to map demands for services, or changed services, across areas and identify patterns of priority and need across the borough and that this in turn can be fed into the budget process.
- (6) Therefore asks the Cabinet to consider the appropriate consultation measures to be used as part of the budget procedure, including specifically targeted consultation, locally targeted consultation and/or a more comprehensive approach reaching as wide a constituency across the borough as possible in order to enhance the credibility of the process.
- (7) Asks the Cabinet to report on the possible timetable for any such consultations.

Amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(2):

Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green
Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Delete all after: "(5) Calls on the Leader to" and replace with:

- Confirm the venues and dates at which the public will have the opportunity to take part and notes that, at this stage of the successful 'Wirral's Future' consultation in 2010, the main programme had already circulated.
- Confirm which organisations, employers, service users and partners are involved in the consultation, noting that, at this stage of the successful 'Wirral's Future' consultation in 2010, this information was already available.
- Publish the names of the individuals who have written the questionnaire and the names of those who will consider the responses from the public and notes that, at this stage of the successful 'Wirral's Future' consultation in 2010, this information had already been circulated.
- State how many contacts and how many qualitative responses will be considered a 'success', noting his Party's criticism of the contact with more than 40,000 people and 5,500 completed questionnaires in the successful 'Wirral's Future' consultation in 2010.

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 7(8) the Council did not debate this matter.

The amendment proposed by Councillor Foulkes was put and lost (28:36) (One abstention).

The amendment proposed by Councillor Green was put and carried (36:28) (One abstention).

The motion, as amended, was put and carried (36:28) (One abstention).

Resolved (36:28) (One abstention) –

This Council:

- (1) Reaffirms its commitment to enhanced community engagement to ensure that major policy decisions include more robust processes of public consultation, as appropriate, before decisions are taken, as agreed unanimously by Notice of Motion at Council on 15 February 2010.**
- (2) Believes that last year's Wirral's Future consultation, using the task force model and public questionnaire, followed the principles set out in that Notice of Motion to:**
 - Share the problem or issue and develop broad support on the need for change before progressing on to possible solutions;**
 - Develop a 'green paper' approach to setting out options and possible solutions within the operational, policy and financial constraints with genuine opportunity for people to influence decision making, and;**
 - Improve the use of the Council's website as a consultation portal, with a list of active consultations in progress and with the relevant supporting documents available as downloads.**
- (3) Acknowledges the need for consultation to include a strong independent element and recognises the crucial work of the independent task forces - comprised of experts in their thematic fields - and thanks them again for their work.**
- (4) Also believes that this approach played a substantial and legitimate role in achieving a balanced Budget for 2011/12 whilst protecting services, cutting the cost of running the Council and ensuring no compulsory redundancies.**
- (5) Calls on the Leader to:**
 - Confirm the venues and dates at which the public will have the opportunity to take part and notes that, at this stage of the successful 'Wirral's Future' consultation in 2010, the main programme had already circulated.**
 - Confirm which organisations, employers, service users and partners are involved in the consultation, noting that, at this stage of the successful 'Wirral's Future' consultation in 2010, this information was already available.**
 - Publish the names of the individuals who have written the questionnaire and the names of those who will consider the responses from the public and notes that, at this stage of the successful 'Wirral's Future' consultation in 2010, this information had already been circulated.**

- **State how many contacts and how many qualitative responses will be considered a 'success', noting his Party's criticism of the contact with more than 40,000 people and 5,500 completed questionnaires in the successful 'Wirral's Future' consultation in 2010.**

32 MOTION: BRITAIN'S LOST TALENT

Proposed by Councillor Ann McLachlan
Seconded by Councillor Tony Smith

Council notes that:

- (1) Under the Tory-led Government youth unemployment has hit almost one million, or 1 in 5 young people;
- (2) The coalition government has scrapped Labour's successful Future Jobs Fund and abolished Labour's guarantee of work or training for every 18-24 year old on the dole for six months;
- (3) Putting young people on the dole is not just a waste of talent but a waste of money. Failing to get Britain back to work fast enough is helping to push up welfare waste by £12.5 billion, the equivalent of £500 per household.

Council supports Labour's 'Britain's Lost Talent' campaign which calls for the coalition government to repeat last year's bank bonus tax and use a portion of the money raised to create over 100,000 youth jobs and prevent another lost generation like the 1980s.

Amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(2):

Proposed by Councillor Alan Brighthouse
Seconded by Councillor Mark Johnston

Delete and replace paragraph (1):

- (1) Youth unemployment has fallen amongst those aged 16-24 in the three months to April 2011. It fell by 79,000 to 895,000 but still stands at more than 19%.

Delete paragraph (2) and replace with:

- (2) The last time youth unemployment was lower was in the three months to April 2009 and that the peak in youth unemployment was caused by the recession precipitated under Labour's watch by the financial and banking crisis.

Delete final paragraph and insert additional paragraph (4):

- (4) Council, therefore, welcomes recent news that the government has delivered an extra 103,000 apprenticeships over the last year, twice as many as expected, helping to break down barriers between academic and vocational learning in sectors such as advanced manufacturing and IT.

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 7(8) the Council did not debate this matter.

The amendment was put and carried (35:28) (Two abstentions).

The substantive motion was then put and carried (35:28) (Two abstentions).

Resolved (35:28) (Two abstentions) –

- (1) Youth unemployment has fallen amongst those aged 16-24 in the three months to April 2011. It fell by 79,000 to 895,000 but still stands at more than 19%.**
- (2) The last time youth unemployment was lower was in the three months to April 2009 and that the peak in youth unemployment was caused by the recession precipitated under Labour's watch by the financial and banking crisis.**
- (3) Putting young people on the dole is not just a waste of talent but a waste of money. Failing to get Britain back to work fast enough is helping to push up welfare waste by £12.5 billion, the equivalent of £500 per household.**
- (4) Council, therefore, welcomes recent news that the government has delivered an extra 103,000 apprenticeships over the last year, twice as many as expected, helping to break down barriers between academic and vocational learning in sectors such as advanced manufacturing and IT.**

33 MOTION: 20 MPH ZONES

Proposed by Councillor Tom Harney

Seconded by Councillor Bob Wilkins

Council:

- (1) Notes its ongoing policy and strong commitment to road safety in Wirral through the introduction of 20 mph zones on all non-major roads in residential areas and in the vicinity of schools, funded as part of a four year programme in both the 2010/11 and 2011/12 Council Budget.
- (2) Notes that a similar commitment is being shown to road safety in other local authority areas, such as Liverpool, Warrington and Portsmouth, to reduce the number and severity of accidents by increasing the number of residential roads with a 20 mph speed limit.
- (3) Values the positive improvement in road safety and reduction in the frequency and numbers of people killed and seriously injured on Wirral's roads that reducing the speed limits in residential areas brings.
- (4) Welcomes recent changes announced by Norman Baker MP to Department for Transport rules making it easier for councils to introduce changes to 20 mph speed limits.

- (5) Is concerned that, to date, none of the £1.1m available for this four year policy option in Wirral has yet been committed to reducing speed limits to 20 mph on non-major residential roads.
- (6) Therefore, instructs the Director of Technical Services, in consultation with residents, Area Forums and ward councillors to commence the programme of works necessary to implement 20mph speed limits on all non-major residential roads, setting out a prioritised timetable for completion of the scheme and starting with existing 'Accidents Down 2 Zero' areas, where appropriate.

Amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(2):

Proposed by Councillor Harry Smith
Seconded by Councillor Ann McLachlan

Delete all after paragraph (4) and insert new paragraph (5)

- (5) Recognises the value of instigating a rolling programme setting up 20mph zones but believes that, in the current difficult budgetary climate where high numbers of priorities are competing for limited resources, it would be prudent to consider the speed and scale of this programme as part of the overall budget process before making any final financial commitments.

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 7(8) the Council did not debate this matter.

The amendment was put and lost (28:36) (One abstention).

The motion was put and carried (36:28) (One abstention).

Resolved (36:28) (One abstention) –

Council:

- (1) Notes its ongoing policy and strong commitment to road safety in Wirral through the introduction of 20 mph zones on all non-major roads in residential areas and in the vicinity of schools, funded as part of a four year programme in both the 2010/11 and 2011/12 Council Budget.**
- (2) Notes that a similar commitment is being shown to road safety in other local authority areas, such as Liverpool, Warrington and Portsmouth, to reduce the number and severity of accidents by increasing the number of residential roads with a 20 mph speed limit.**
- (3) Values the positive improvement in road safety and reduction in the frequency and numbers of people killed and seriously injured on Wirral's roads that reducing the speed limits in residential areas brings.**
- (4) Welcomes recent changes announced by Norman Baker MP to Department for Transport rules making it easier for councils to introduce changes to 20 mph speed limits.**

- (5) Is concerned that, to date, none of the £1.1m available for this four year policy option in Wirral has yet been committed to reducing speed limits to 20 mph on non-major residential roads.
- (6) Therefore, instructs the Director of Technical Services, in consultation with residents, Area Forums and ward councillors to commence the programme of works necessary to implement 20mph speed limits on all non-major residential roads, setting out a prioritised timetable for completion of the scheme and starting with existing 'Accidents Down 2 Zero' areas, where appropriate.

34 **MOTION: MERSEYTRAVEL ALLOWANCES**

Proposed by Councillor Dave Mitchell
Seconded by Councillor Bob Wilkins

- (1) This Council welcomes attempts by Liberal Democrat and Conservative councillors to increase transparency and public accountability through calls for an independent remuneration panel to be set up to investigate Merseytravel allowances paid to councillors.
- (2) Council notes that Merseytravel is the only travel authority not to have an independent review for members' allowances and expresses its disappointment and concern that the Labour-dominated authority has rejected the plan for their allowances to be set independently, choosing instead to set their own salaries and allowances.
- (3) Council urges Merseytravel members from Wirral to push for an independent review to happen at the earliest opportunity.

Amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(2):

Proposed by Councillor Harry Smith
Seconded by Councillor George Davies

Replace all the motion with:

The Labour Group on Wirral Council call on the Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority to confirm that an independent remuneration panel has been set in motion to look into Authority Members' allowances.

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 7(8) the Council did not debate this matter.

The amendment was put and lost (26:34) (One abstention).

The motion was put and carried (34:26) (One abstention).

Resolved (34:26) (One abstention) –

- (1) **This Council welcomes attempts by Liberal Democrat and Conservative councillors to increase transparency and public accountability through**

calls for an independent remuneration panel to be set up to investigate Merseytravel allowances paid to councillors.

(2) Council notes that Merseytravel is the only travel authority not to have an independent review for members' allowances and expresses its disappointment and concern that the Labour-dominated authority has rejected the plan for their allowances to be set independently, choosing instead to set their own salaries and allowances.

(3) Council urges Merseytravel members from Wirral to push for an independent review to happen at the earliest opportunity.

35 MOTION: CRUISE TURNAROUND REVIEW

Proposed by Councillor Ann Bridson

Seconded by Councillor Stuart Kelly

(1) This Council welcomes the Government's decision to review the case for cruises to start and end at Liverpool's Pier Head and re-iterates its support for the campaign calling for the licence to be granted for cruise turnarounds.

(2) Council requests the chief executive, and other officers as appropriate, to continue to lobby the case for a Pier Head turnaround, highlighting the economic benefit to the entire city region area.

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 7(8) the Council did not debate this matter.

Resolved (unanimously) – That the motion be approved.

36 VACANCIES

The Council was requested to deal with the following appointment:

Council Committees

Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes

Councillor John Salter as third deputy.

Resolved – That the appointment be approved.

Motion moved in accordance with Article 7.3 (iii) (d)

Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green

Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Council notes

(1) That under Councillor Foulkes' leadership Wirral residents have had to endure:

Two Public Information Disclosure Act Reports

A Secretary of State intervention leading to the Sue Charteris Library Report

Audit Commission Red Flag

A damning Care Quality Commission Report

A number of issues raised by the Director of Finance in the Council's own Corporate Governance Statements

District Audit qualification of the Council's ability to secure Value for Money from a contract let under his leadership

That under Cllr Foulkes' leadership extra ordinary failings have become ordinary

The overt politicisation of the Council's administration, starting with the break up of the all party approach to Council governance and the dismissal of Conservative members from an all party Cabinet. Council believes this excluding tendency was compounded by his dismissal of Conservative members from the all party 'HESPE Council members working party'

The erroneous claim by Cllr Foulkes himself that "the Martin Morton affair had proved that anyone within the council with a complaint - 'or a whistleblower, as the term has been used in this case' - would have their grievances properly investigated and acted upon." Leading Martin Morton himself to give the withering response that "This reinforced the experience repeated over the last few years of living in a parallel universe where wrong is right, bad is good and lies are truth".

The warnings from Council members following the SAR Libraries debacle of the damage his macho approach to leadership was doing to Wirral and that and that its culture, under his leadership, had become one of secrecy, fear and intimidation.

That in Cllr Foulkes' current role as Cabinet member for Finance he has refused to share any ideas or plans to meet the Council's reported £25 million budget shortfall with the public or the Council's Scrutiny Committees

(2) Council believes the published elements of the AKA report highlight:

The leadership failings of Councillor Foulkes who by refusing members calls to order an independent inquiry himself into the Martin Morton affair attempted to sweep aside Council members genuine concerns.

Cllr Foulkes' assertion that Mr Morton's grievance (generated from his concerns for some of the most the most vulnerable people in Wirral) had been properly investigated and acted upon were nothing short of appalling and have now been shown to be, as members said at the time, breathtaking in their complacency, cruelty and incompetence.

He presided over a corrosive culture leading to back covering, secrecy, intimidation and machination

(3) Council further believes:

- A one party Labour Party Cabinet Committee to refresh and renew the Council's Governance is an inadequate response to what are extraordinary failings
- The AKA report is shaming and means we cannot go on as we are and an extraordinary response is required from the Council to respond to the failings highlighted
- The lack of action on the Council Notice of Motion recommendations calling for the reintroduction of an all party Committee system of governance demonstrates Cllr Foulkes unwillingness to adopt the inclusive approach to leadership now demanded
- That accountability starts at the top

(4) Council resolves -

(i) That Cllr Foulkes be removed from the office of leader of the Council with immediate effect.

(ii) That Council elect a new Leader in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 5B

(iii) To take all necessary steps to establish and convene an all party Council Advisory Committee of 11 members (4:5:2) to oversee and guide the long term process of refreshing and renewing the Council's governance arrangements. The terms of reference for this Advisory Committee to be initially determined by the Director of Law

(iv) That with effect from the 1st November 2011 increase the size of the Employment and Appointments Committee by one to nine places (4:4:1) and decrease the size of the Planning Committee by one to 11 (4:5:2)

(5) That the next Leader of the Council is recommended to:

1. Adopt an inclusive approach to decision making, taking account of different points of view from across the Council and seeking all party engagement through an all party Cabinet/Executive Board.
2. Take immediate action, working with all political groups, to develop a committee system and supporting scheme of delegation to be completed by December 2011 and submitted to Council for adoption as soon as practicable.
3. Take immediate action, working with all political groups, to reconfigure the existing Scrutiny arrangements to allow a shadow committee system to be implemented to advise the new Leader and, using current strong leader powers of delegation to facilitate this as necessary, to be in place and in use by January 2012 at the latest with reference to extraordinary meetings of the council, if required, prior to implementation.
4. Review and, where necessary, remove or amend current officer delegations given by the Leader of the Council (including those relating to the Strategic Change Programme) to ensure transparency, effective democratic oversight and good governance.

COUNCIL – 17 OCTOBER 2011

REFERRALS TO COUNCIL

CABINET - 21 JULY 2011

MINUTE 67 APPOINTMENT OF A PROPER OFFICER (AND OTHERS) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 AND 1951

A report by the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management sought approval for the appointment of:

- a Proper Officer
- a Deputy Proper Officer
- Appointed Officers

for the purposes of section 47 the National Assistance Act 1948 as amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951 (“the Acts”).

The authority of the Cabinet was also sought to enable the Interim Director of Adult Social Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Leader for Social Care and Inclusion, to appoint, if considered necessary, alternative Appointed Officer(s) for the purposes of the Acts.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) **Fiona Johnstone, Director of Public Health, be appointed the Council’s Proper Officer; Jane Harvey, Consultant in Public Health and Teresa Owen, Deputy Director of Public Health, be appointed the Council’s Deputy Proper Officers; and Debbie Mayor, Deputy Director Strategic Partnerships, and Rick O’Brien, Head of Branch (DASS), be appointed as Appointed Officers for the purposes of section 47 the National Assistance Act 1948 as amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951.**
- (2) **the Director of Adult Social Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio Leader for Social Care and Inclusion, be authorised to appoint, if considered necessary, alternative Appointed Officer(s) for the purposes of the National Assistance Act 1948 and National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951;**
- (3) **the Council be recommended to amend the Council’s Scheme of Delegations to Officers contained within the Council’s Constitution to include:**
 - **the appointment of the named Proper Officer and Deputy Proper Officers in paragraph (1); and**
 - **the authority delegated to the Director of Adult Social Services in paragraph (2)**

for the purposes of the National Assistance Act 1948 and National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951.

MINUTE 76 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – LIVERPOOL CITY REGION OVERVIEW STUDY

A report by the Interim Director of Corporate Services informed Members of the main findings of the Housing and Economic Development Evidence Base Overview Study for the Wider Liverpool City Region (“the Overview Study”), produced by GVA on behalf of the Councils of Sefton, Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens, West Lancashire and Wirral. The Overview Study examined whether a sufficient, appropriate and deliverable supply of land was available to meet housing and employment requirements across the study area. It also assessed the extent to which any excess supply in one or more local authority area(s) could be used to meet the needs of neighbouring or other local authorities, as part of the need to consider cross-boundary interactions in the preparation of the Core Strategy for Wirral. Once endorsed, the study would form part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework for Wirral.

In terms of housing, results indicated that potential supply and demand, across the study area as a whole, was likely to be relatively balanced over the period from 2010 to 2031, although the more local position differed within individual authorities. Wirral, Liverpool and Halton demonstrated sufficient capacity to meet likely future housing requirements, while Sefton, Knowsley, St Helens and West Lancashire faced a position of potential undersupply of housing land beyond 2020. The potential for authorities in a position of oversupply (including Wirral) to absorb the potential shortfalls within other authorities was, however, considered to be limited by recent patterns of migration, the localised nature of the majority of household moves and the pattern and extent of local housing needs. The Study, nevertheless, noted the ability of planning policies and regeneration initiatives to influence future housing market relationships and highlighted the potential for city centre and waterfront developments in Liverpool and Wirral to absorb some of the younger, more ‘mobile’ households generated within surrounding authorities.

In terms of employment land, sufficient supply was identified in the short-term to accommodate employment growth across the core area, with potential shortfalls expected to emerge in Halton, Knowsley, West Lancashire and Cheshire West and Chester over the medium to longer-term. These conclusions were based on the assumption that the current employment land supply within each of the local authorities would be protected and maintained.

The Overview Study recommended that each local authority continued to monitor the supply/requirement position and that authorities facing a potential undersupply should closely examine the extent of additional land that may be required. With regard to housing this could include consideration of the potential release of Green Belt but this should only be undertaken where needs could not otherwise be met by alternative means and in accordance with prevailing national planning policy.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) it be recommended to the Council that the findings the Housing and Economic Development Evidence Base Overview Study for the Wider Liverpool City Region are used to inform the content of the emerging Local Development Framework for Wirral and are adopted as a material planning consideration in the determination of individual planning applications; and**
- (2) the Housing and Economic Development Evidence Base Overview Study for the Wider Liverpool City Region Main Report and Technical Reference Report, attached to the report, be published for comment alongside the Draft Core Strategy for Wirral.**

CABINET - 1 SEPTEMBER 2011

MINUTE 96 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – LOCAL GEOLOGICAL SITES UPDATE

A report by the Interim Director of Corporate Services advised the Cabinet of the proposed changes to the schedule of Sites of Local Importance for Earth Science identified since the adoption of the Wirral Unitary Development Plan in 2000. The report proposed that Cabinet recommend to the Council that it formally adopts the revised schedule of Local Geological Sites as a material consideration for use by the Planning Committee in the determination of individual planning applications.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet recommend to Council that the revised schedule of Local Geological Sites, attached to the report, be adopted as a material consideration for use by the Planning Committee in the determination of individual planning applications and be used to form part of the evidence base for the emerging Local Development Framework for Wirral.

CABINET – 22 SEPTEMBER 2011

MINUTE 123 REVISION OF THE COUNCIL’S CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

Further to minute 74 (21/7/11) the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management sought Cabinet approval for the revision of the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules (“CPR”). The CPR formed part of the Council’s Constitution and therefore the proposed changes could only take effect once approved by Council. If Cabinet was agreeable to the revision made to the CPR, Council would be recommended to endorse the revision at its meeting on 17 October 2011.

The revision of the CPR had principally been undertaken so as to address issues raised by the Audit Commission following their review of the Council's Highway and Engineering Services Procurement Exercise ('HESPE').

The Council had agreed, as part of the action plan endorsed by the Audit Commission, to revise the CPR to improve (amongst other things) clarity in relation to the governance arrangements, in-house bids, roles of officers and the tender process.

Resolved –

- (1) That Cabinet approves the revised Council's Contract Procedure Rules as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.**
- (2) That Cabinet recommend the Council approve the revised Council's Contract Procedure Rules as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.**

MINUTE 125 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – JOINT MERSEYSIDE WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

The Interim Director of Corporate Services reported that Wirral Council had formally agreed with the councils for Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton and St Helens (Council, 11 July 2005, minute 20 refers) and Halton (Council, 30 October 2006, minute 50 refers) to prepare a single joint Waste Development Plan Document to cover the whole of Merseyside and Halton.

Four stages of public consultation had already taken place over previous years. Approval was now being sought from each of the six partner authorities to enable the draft Waste DPD, submitted as an appendix to the report, to be published for six weeks and submitted to the Secretary of State for public examination. The report also recommended that provision was made to delegate decisions to the Interim Director of Corporate Services and the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning Strategy to make typographical changes and to enable the Council to respond quickly to any comments raised following the publication of the draft Waste DPD and during the following public examination.

It was noted that approval of the publication and submission of the Waste DPD would require a decision of the Council.

Resolved -

- (1) That Cabinet notes the findings of the Preferred Options 2 Consultation on New Sites Results of Consultation Report, as attached to the report.**
- (2) That Cabinet recommend to Council that the spatial distribution of one sub-regional site per district be approved.**
- (3) That Cabinet recommend to Council that the draft Joint Waste Development Plan Document for Merseyside and Halton, as attached to the report, is**

published for final representations on the soundness of the plan and is submitted to the Secretary of State for public examination.

- (4) That Cabinet recommend to Council that delegated authority be given to the Interim Director of Corporate Services to make any necessary minor changes to the Waste DPD and in addition in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning Strategy to approve any changes necessary to secure the soundness of the plan, before and during the public examination of the Waste DPD.**

MINUTE 132 COCKLING OFF THE LEASOWE TO NEW BRIGHTON COAST

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management submitted a report which updated the Cabinet in respect of the actions that had been taken to mitigate the potentially adverse impact to Wirral residents arising from the harvesting of cockles from the Leasowe/New Brighton Beds.

The report also sought an amendment to the Council's Constitution in relation to responsibility for Sea Fisheries matters. This responsibility was currently listed within the responsibilities of the Cabinet Member holding the Environment Portfolio, which suggested that it was an Executive function. However, this was an erroneous allocation, as Sea Fisheries was a Council function by virtue of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended). As such, the Cabinet might wish to consider recommending to Council that responsibility for matters relating to Sea Fisheries should be included within the terms of reference of the Licensing, Health & Safety and General Purposes Committee.

Resolved -

- (1) That Cabinet recommends to Council that the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management be requested to write to the North West Inland Fisheries Conservation Authority (NWIFCA), urging that: consideration be given to the adequacy of the control regime pertinent to the Leasowe/ New Brighton Shellfish Bed; with a view to NWIFCA taking the necessary steps (including the use of Orders under the Sea Fisheries (Shellfish) Act 1967), to provide effective controls to help protect those Wirral residents affected by the harvesting activity and the sustainability of the fishery.**
- (2) That Cabinet recommends to Council that the responsibilities in relation to Sea Fisheries matters be delegated the Licensing, Health & Safety and General Purposes Committee.**
- (3) That once Council allocates responsibility for Sea Fisheries matters, the Leader amends the extent of the Environment Portfolio by deleting reference to Sea Fisheries.**

LICENSING, HEALTH & SAFETY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE –
21 SEPTEMBER 2011

**MINUTE 9 UPTON WOODS VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATION – APPOINTMENT
OF INSPECTOR TO HOLD A PUBLIC INQUIRY**

Councillor C Blakeley declared a personal interest in this matter by virtue of being a neighbouring ward Councillor.

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management reported that the Council was the Registration Authority under s15 of the Commons Act 2006 and therefore responsible for determining applications made under that legislation for the registration of land as a Town or Village Green. Counsel advised that the Registration Authority should only proceed to consider an application to which there were objections after receiving the report of an independent expert who had, at the registration authority's request, held a non-statutory inquiry.

The Registration Authority had received an application for registration of land at Upton Woods, Moreton as a Town and Village Green. Following publication of the statutory notice, objections had been received. The Committee was therefore requested to approve the appointment of an independent expert to hold a public inquiry into the application and to make a report to the Committee prior to the Committee determining the application.

The Committee was also requested to recommend to Council that the Scheme of Delegation of Functions to Officers be amended so that the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management be given delegated authority to approve the appointment of an independent expert to hold a public inquiry relating to s15 Commons Act 2006 applications where there were objections to the application.

It was moved by Councillor C Blakeley and seconded by Councillor I Lewis that -

“This Committee:

- (1) agrees the appointment of an independent expert to hold a public inquiry into the application under S15 Commons Act 2006 for the registration of land at Upton Woods Moreton as a Town or Village Green and that the independent expert be requested to then report to this Committee prior to the Committee determining the application.
- (2) agrees that the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management in consultation with the Chair of this Committee formally appoint a suitably qualified expert to hold the non-statutory Public Inquiry.
- (3) recommends to Council that the Scheme of Delegation of Functions to Officers be amended so that the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management be given delegated authority in consultation with the Chair of this Committee to approve the appointment of an independent expert to hold a public inquiry

relating to S15 Commons Act 2006 application where there are objections to such an application and that this be done prior to 31 October 2011.”

Reference was subsequently made to an email having been sent from a Cabinet Member to the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management and some Members of the Committee regarding this matter. As a consequence, Councillors B Davies, C Jones and J Salter abstained from voting on this matter.

The motion was put and carried (7:0).

Resolved (7:0) (3 abstentions) -

That this Committee:

- (1) agrees the appointment of an independent expert to hold a public inquiry into the application under S15 Commons Act 2006 for the registration of land at Upton Woods Moreton as a Town or Village Green and that the independent expert be requested to then report to the Committee prior to this Committee determining the application.**
- (2) agrees that the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management in consultation with the Chair of this Committee formally appoint a suitably qualified expert to hold the non-statutory Public Inquiry.**
- (3) recommends to Council that the Scheme of Delegation of Functions to Officers be amended so that the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management be given delegated authority in consultation with the Chair of this Committee to approve the appointment of an independent expert to hold a public inquiry relating to S15 Commons Act 2006 application where there are objections to such an application and that this be done prior to 31 October 2011.**

MINUTE 10 THE WARRENS DEMONSTRATION AREA VILLAGE GREEN APPLICATION – APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTOR TO HOLD A PUBLIC INQUIRY

Councillor I Lewis declared a personal interest in this matter by virtue of a family members' employment.

Councillor M Johnston declared a prejudicial interest in this matter by virtue of the fact that a close relative occupies the premises adjacent to the site and left the room during its consideration.

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management reported that the Council was the Registration Authority under s15 of the Commons Act 2006. It was therefore responsible for determining applications made under that legislation for the registration of land as a Town or Village Green. The Council was also the landowner of The Warrens Demonstration Area site. Counsel had advised that the Registration Authority should only proceed to consider an application to which there were

objections and where the Council was also the landowner, after receiving the report of an independent expert who had, at the registration authority's request, held a non-statutory inquiry.

The Registration Authority had received an application for registration of land at The Warrens Demonstration Area, Thingwall, as a Town and Village Green. Following publication of the statutory notice, objections had been received. The Committee was therefore requested to approve the appointment of an independent expert to hold a public inquiry into the application and to make a report to the Committee prior to the Committee determining the application.

The Committee was also requested to recommend to Council that the Scheme of Delegation of Functions to Officers be amended so that the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management be given delegated authority to approve the appointment of an independent expert to hold a public inquiry relating to s15 Commons Act 2006 applications where there were objections to the application and where the Registration Authority was also the landowner.

It was moved by Councillor C Blakeley and seconded by Councillor I Lewis that -

“This Committee:

- (1) agrees the appointment of an independent expert to hold a public inquiry into the application under S15 Commons Act 2006 for the registration of land at Upton Woods Moreton as a Town or Village Green and that the independent expert be requested to then report to the Committee prior to this Committee determining the application.
- (2) agrees that the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management in consultation with the Chair of this Committee and where the Council is landowner and interested party the portfolio holder for Corporate Services formally appoint a suitably qualified expert to hold the non-statutory Public Inquiry.
- (3) recommends to Council that the Scheme of Delegation of Functions to Officers be amended so that the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management be given delegated authority in consultation with the Chair of this Committee and where the Council is land owner and interested party the portfolio holder for Corporate Services to approve the appointment of an independent expert to hold a public inquiry relating to S15 Commons Act 2006 application where there are objections to such an application and where the registration authority is also land owner and that this be done prior to 31 October 2011.”

Reference was subsequently made to an email having been sent from a Cabinet Member to the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management and some Members of the Committee regarding this matter. As a consequence, Councillors B Davies, C Jones and J Salter abstained from voting on this matter.

The motion was put and carried (6:0).

Resolved (6:0) (3 abstentions) -

That this Committee:

- (1) agrees the appointment of an independent expert to hold a public inquiry into the application under S15 Commons Act 2006 for the registration of land at Upton Woods Moreton as a Town or Village Green and that the independent expert be requested to then report to this Committee prior to the Committee determining the application.**
- (2) agrees that the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management in consultation with the Chair of this Committee and where the Council is landowner and interested party the portfolio holder for Corporate Services formally appoint a suitably qualified expert to hold the non-statutory Public Inquiry.**
- (3) recommends to Council that the Scheme of Delegation of Functions to Officers be amended so that the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management be given delegated authority in consultation with the Chair of this Committee and where the Council is land owner and interested party the portfolio holder for Corporate Services to approve the appointment of an independent expert to hold a public inquiry relating to S15 Commons Act 2006 application where there are objections to such an application and/or where the registration authority is also land owner and that this be done prior to 31 October 2011.**

This page is intentionally left blank

WIRRAL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

27 September 2011

Introduction

1. The Panel last reported in December 2007. No further review of the Scheme has been carried out since then. There is a requirement to review the Scheme of Members' Allowances after four years, which would be in 2012. In the light of this the Panel considered that only essential changes should be made prior to the full review taking place next year.
2. However in the past two years the climate surrounding the payment of allowances to elected members has changed and we are now in a period of austerity. Members are aware of this and some have personally elected to take a 5% reduction in basic and special responsibility allowances (SRAs). Other members have also expressed their willingness to play their part so long as the Independent Panel advise the Council on the best way forward.
3. We compared the current Scheme with other Merseyside and Cheshire Local Authorities and considered the findings of the National Census of Local Authority Councillors - 2008. In particular we noted that Councillors spend an average of 22 hours per week on Council business and that this was consistent with surveys previously undertaken in both 2004 and 2006. The Panel has also taken into account the requirements of Government Regulations on Members' Allowances.
4. The Independent Panel comprised:

Don Latham, Private Local Government Consultant (Chairman)
Dr. Nunzia Bertali, Italian Consul
Pauline Brown, Eclipse Executive Ltd
Ray Allan, non-practising solicitor – formerly 174 Law Solicitors
5. Surjit Tour, Head of Legal and Member Services and Shirley Hudspeth, Democratic Services Manager, supported the Panel throughout the review. We would like to record our thanks to them together with the Leader of the Council - Councillor Steve Foulkes, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group - Councillor Tom Harney, and Leader of the Conservative Group - Councillor Jeff Green, who offered personal evidence in response to our questions. Written representations were also received from Councillors Adrian Jones and Patricia Williams.

Summary of recommendations

6. The Panel's recommendations are as follows:
- That in order to achieve a 5% reduction in allowances the basic allowance be reduced from £9,171 to £8,700 (Para 8).
 - That no change be made in the basis of calculation of SRAs until a full review takes place in 2012 (Para 10).
 - That members should continue to be restricted to one SRA (Para 11).
 - That no change be made in the allowances paid to the Mayor (£10,700) and Deputy Mayor (£1,500) until a full review takes place next year (Para 15).
 - That in future the scheme of allowances be updated for inflation by the use of the NJC increase applied to staff pay (Para 16).

General Commentary and Findings

7. The Panel adopt the approach that a realistic basic allowance is fundamental to a sound scheme of allowances. We still believe that this represents 'best practice.' There is now an increasing focus on Councillors as community leaders and the Census findings show that Councillors are dedicated and devote a great deal of their own time to serving their community. Members have to work in a rapidly changing context of economic and social pressures along with increasing levels of public expectation and scrutiny. In different circumstances a case could be made for increasing the basic allowance and the Panel would wish to review this next year when a full review is undertaken.

Basic allowance

8. Having reviewed alternative ways of making the proposed saving of 5% (Total budget including SRAs £900,000 – saving £45,000) the Panel is of the view that the only transparent way of doing this is to reduce the basic allowance from £9,171 to £8,700. We were informed that members of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Groups have already volunteered to make this change.

Special Responsibility Allowances

9. The Panel has not undertaken an in depth review. Nevertheless a comparative exercise has taken place and we believe that the current Scheme is still soundly based and that SRAs are set at a minimum but realistic level. We believe that SRA's should be restricted to the minimum number of Councillors. The Government regulations are not explicit but the intention is clear that only a minority of members should be expected to receive an SRA. Currently the Council scheme provides for 31 (47%).

10. We recommend, in line with good practice, that the use of the basic allowance as a multiplier for SRA calculations should continue and we consider that SRAs are currently set at an appropriate level. But the Council could consider streamlining the process of governance and reducing the number of SRAs as an alternative to reducing the basic allowance. As this has not been suggested by the Council at this time we do not recommend changes to SRAs prior to a full review to taking place next year. We believe in the meantime that a 5% reduction in the basic allowance is the best way to achieve the saving. The reduction of the basic allowance would automatically have the effect of reducing SRAs by 5 %.
11. The Panel recommends, in line with current practice, that an individual Councillor is restricted from claiming more than one allowance.

Other Bodies

12. The Panel is aware that a number of members also receive allowances through representing the Council on other organisations such as Mersey Transport, Police, Fire and Waste Disposal Authorities. All Leaders agree that it is vital that the 'best' members are selected to undertake these important representative roles which are allocated on a politically proportionate basis. They can result in a few members receiving high value allowances from two organisations. These roles require significant time and additional responsibilities. We believe it is a matter for the political Group Leaders to select the most appropriate members for these key roles in terms of representing the people of Wirral. The allowances paid by these organisations are a matter for these external bodies to determine.
13. The Labour Group has introduced a protocol that if one of their members receives an SRA from an external body that the member should forgo any SRA that might be available to them for work undertaken for Wirral MBC. Such a protocol cannot be legally enforced on any group or member but we did ask other Leaders to consider the possibility of this becoming an across the board gesture. It would nevertheless not make a significant contribution to the savings target.
14. We did examine alternative ways of making savings by introducing a higher level of reduction on those receiving SRAs and some form of financial banding so that members who only get a basic allowance did not suffer disproportionately. We looked at the prospect of some members deciding to voluntarily forgo their SRAs or that SRAs should be reduced by more than 5%. The basic allowance has to be a set amount payable to every Councillor. This is prescribed by the Government Regulations. We discounted other ways of making the savings because they would be complex and difficult to administer. The advantages of the current scheme is simplicity, clarity and transparency. We believe

that any reductions should be made in a way that maintains these principles.

Mayoral Allowance

15. The Mayor and Deputy Mayors allowances are currently outside the scheme. We do not recommend a change in the allowances paid to the Mayor (£10,700) and Deputy Mayor (£1,500) until a full review of the scheme takes place in 2012.

Updating

16. The LGA daily rate was used previously to update the allowances for inflation. The Association has decided to withdraw this advice so the Panel recommends in future that the scheme of allowances be updated for inflation by the use of the NJC increase applied to staff pay. Accordingly there would be no increase in the basic allowance for 2011/12.

WIRRAL COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

17 OCTOBER 2011

SUBJECT:	LOCAL PAY AWARD 2011-12 – UPDATE
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW, HR AND ASSET MANAGEMENT
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CLLR ADRIAN JONES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 On 18 July 2011, Council resolved to support a non-consolidated payment to employees of the Council who earned below £21,000 per annum.
- 1.2 Council requested that a report was provided to all members of the Council to inform them of progress of discussions with staff representatives and details when this payment will be made.
- 1.3 This report set out the arrangements for the payment of this Local Pay Award which will be paid on 28 October 2011 and seeks Council's agreement on those arrangements.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 2.1 That Council agrees the arrangements that have been put in place for the payment of a non-consolidated Local Pay Award of £250 to Council employees earning below £21,000 per year.
- 2.2 That this payment will be made to eligible employees in accordance with the key principles set out at Appendix One to this report.
- 2.3 That Council agrees that a sum of £190,000 is transferred from the General Budget to the Schools Budget to assist in funding this payment.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 3.1 To ensure the Council fulfils its commitment to making a non-consolidated payment of £250 to those Council employees earning below £21,000 per year.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 On 18 July Council resolved to support a non-consolidated payment should be made to employees of the Council who earned below £21,000 per annum.

- 4.2 On 21 July 2011, Cabinet further recommended that the payment should be net of Income Tax, National Insurance and Pension Contributions and should be a one-off payment.
- 4.3 The payment will be net of Tax and NI so that eligible employees receive the full net amount up to £250.
- 4.4 Specific arrangements for the pension contribution element are proposed at Appendix One and have been discussed with trade unions.
- 4.5 In practical terms as the Local Government Pension Scheme is a final salary scheme and based on years' contributions. Payment of pension contributions for a one off, non consolidated payment would not have impact on pensionable pay when an employee accesses their pension in future. Therefore, a pension contribution will have no benefit for the employee. However, where employees are in their final year and retire on or before 31 March 2012, we will ensure that their individual case is assessed to determine if the non-consolidated payment would be of financial benefit to their pension.
- 4.5 Consultation has taken place with the trade unions around the principles and operational arrangements for the payment.
- 4.6 In accordance with Council decision also taken on 18 July 2011 around the Living Wage, work is also currently being undertaken to bring those Council employees earning below £7.20/hour up to living wage levels.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 None

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 None

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation has taken place with Trade Unions.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 8.1 None

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 9.1 The cost of implementing the Local Pay Award is estimated at £1,630,000.
- 9.2 At Cabinet on 21 July 2011, the Director of Finance reported that budgetary provision of £1,000,000 exists in the General Fund and £640,000 in the Schools Budget.
- 9.3 Cabinet agreed to recommend to Council that a sum of £190,000, included in the total estimated cost above, should be transferred from the General Fund

Budget to the Schools Budget to meet the cost of Income Tax, employees' National Insurance and employees' pension contributions.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None

11.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

(a) Is an EIA required? No

(b) If 'yes', has one been completed?

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 No issues arising

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 No issues arising

REPORT AUTHOR: Tony Williams
Employee Relations Manager
telephone: (0151 691 8678)
email: tonywilliams@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix One Key Principles non-consolidated Pay Award 2011/12

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Local Paid Wirral Council Workers – Pay Increase	18 July 2011

This page is intentionally left blank

Key Principles Non-Consolidated Pay Award 2011/12

On 18 July 2011, the Council agreed that a payment of £250 should be made to those employees earning below £21,000 per year.

This document sets out the principles of how this payment will be made;

The key principles are:

1. Employees whose full-time salary is £21,000 or below (i.e. Spinal Column Point 24 or below) are eligible for the payment.
2. The first day of April 2011 will be used as the basis for calculating employee hours and spinal column point for the payment.
3. The payment will be made to all eligible Council and schools based employees (non-teaching) employed on or after 1 April 2011, subject to the approval of the governing body where appropriate.
4. All eligible employees who have commenced employment since 1 April will be eligible for the payment, pro-rata for each full month worked between 1 April 2011 and 31 March 2012.
5. The payment will be applied on a pro-rata basis to employees who work part time and/or part year.
6. The Authority will pay all Tax and National Insurance arising from the payment.
7. The payment is non-consolidated and there will no pension contribution made as part of the payment as it will not have an impact on their pension.
8. Any employees who leave the Council before 31 March 2012 and access pension will be assessed at that time to establish if the payment has an impact on their pensionable earnings and where the payment has a positive impact – the pension payment will be made.
9. The payment is to a maximum of £250 per person irrespective of the number of posts held with the Authority. For employees with more than one post, payment will be made on contracted hours for each post up to a maximum of £250.
10. The payment will be made into employees' bank accounts on 28 October 2011. This will be a supplementary payment outside of normal salary payment arrangements and each employee eligible will have a separate pay advice slip.
11. 'Casual' and employees paid by timesheet will be paid based on the hours that they have worked between 1 April and 30 September 2011. An hourly pro-rata figure, derived from the £250 will be applied to make this payment. As the Council cannot predict future employment for casual

employees, a further assessment will be made after 31 March 2012 and payment made accordingly, up to the maximum payment of £250.

12. Any employee who leaves the Authority after the payment has been made will have the pro-rated amount from their date of leaving and 31/03/12 deducted from their final pay

COUNCIL 17 OCTOBER 2011

MATTERS FOR NOTING

CABINET – 21 JULY 2011

MINUTE 80 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR WIRRAL – CORE STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT

A report by the Interim Director of Corporate Services summarised the responses received to public consultation on the Council's Preferred Options for a statutory Core Strategy Development Plan Document for Wirral to replace the Unitary Development Plan for Wirral adopted in February 2000 (Council 18 October 2010, Minute 36 refers); on the findings of the Wirral Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (Cabinet 2 September 2010, Minute 121 refers); and on the findings of the Wirral Open Space Assessment (Cabinet 4 February 2010, Minute 308 refers). It also reported that a 366 name petition was received opposing residential development at an additional site submitted to the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment consultation, at Ditton Lane in Leasowe and Moreton East Ward. It recommended the further action that would be needed before a Draft Core Strategy could be prepared and published for consultation before being submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

The Draft Core Strategy would be the subject of a further report to the Cabinet and would require a decision of Full Council before it could be published for public consultation towards the end of the year and submitted to the Secretary of State in 2012.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Draft Core Strategy be prepared in line with the recommendations set out in Appendices 1 to 3 of the report;**
- (2) additional informal consultation be undertaken to inform the drafting of Settlement Area Policies, including with local Ward Members;**
- (3) Article 14.2 of the Council's Constitution be waived, in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rule 1.2.3, to enable AP Sheenan to be re-commissioned to provide an independent appraisal of the Council's updated Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment; and**
- (4) Article 14.2 of the Council's Constitution be waived, in accordance with Council's Contract Procedure Rule 1.2.3, to enable BE Group to be re-commissioned to provide an update to the labour supply and labour demand forecasts contained within the Council's Employment Land and Premises Study.**

This page is intentionally left blank

REFERRALS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

SCRUTINY PROGRAMME BOARD – 8 SEPTEMBER 2011

MINUTE 12 OPTIONS FOR STREAMLINING SCRUTINY CALL-IN PROCESS

Further to minute 4(3) (9 June 2011), the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management referred to the requirements of the Local Government Act 2000 in relation to a call-in mechanism and to the Call-in Guidelines and Committee Terms of Reference contained within the Council's constitution. In order to attempt to make the Scrutiny Call-In process more efficient and to ensure scrutiny call-ins were considered as quickly as possible, the Director had considered a number of options for consideration, having examined the practice adopted by each Merseyside and Cheshire Local Authority, which he submitted for information. The options for consideration included –

- the establishment of a Call-in Committee with Terms of Reference to consider all Call-ins received;
- amendment of the Scrutiny Programme Board's Terms of Reference so that it could deal with all call-in notices without referring them to any of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, with Members of the relevant Committee(s) being able to make representations;
- delegating authority to the Chief Executive (or the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management on his behalf) in consultation with the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Board to allocate the call-in notice to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee or to the Board itself, for consideration.

On a motion by Councillor Hodson and seconded by Councillor Mountney, it was –

Resolved –

- (1) That the Scrutiny Programme Board notes the bureaucratic and cumbersome way current Call-In requests are allocated, with the associated costs in officers' time.**
- (2) Therefore, the Scrutiny Programme Board recommends that the Council's Constitution and processes be amended to allow the Chief Executive or the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management, in consultation with the Chair and spokespersons of the Scrutiny Programme Board to allocate the Call-In notice to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee, or to the Board, for consideration.**
- (3) That, if it is not possible for agreement to be reached by the group spokespersons, the Call-In notice be referred to the Scrutiny Programme Board for a decision on allocation.**

This page is intentionally left blank

Council – 17 October, 2011

Motions

The following motions have been submitted in accordance with the notice required by Standing Order 8(1) and are listed in the order received. The actual order in which they are debated will be determined by the party groups in accordance with Standing Order 5(3).

(1) WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Proposed by Councillor Geoffrey Watt

Seconded by Councillor Cherry Povall

- (1) Council believes trade unions play a vital part in a functioning democracy and believes they have an important role in a market economy.
- (2) Council notes that some trade union leaders are calling for further industrial action in response to the Coalition Government's reform of public services and the pensions provided to public sector workers.
- (3) Council urges trade union leaders to recognise that:
 - Following the debts left by the previous Government, all parties would have been forced to make cuts to public spending, as recognised by the Labour Leader during his Party's Conference.
 - The independent review into the future of public sector pensions, by Labour's former Work and Pensions Secretary, concluded that change was unavoidable.
 - The Coalition Government is working constructively with public sector unions on taking forward future reforms and ministers are meeting unions regularly as part of ongoing engagement on the Government's plans to increase employee pension contributions.
 - The Leader of the Labour Party has refused to back the strikes and has welcomed the trade union reforms introduced by previous Governments.
- (4) Council therefore believes that it is premature to strike while the discussions - set up at the request of the TUC - are ongoing and believes that, in the absence of support from any of the three Party leaders, the union leaders should remain at the negotiating table to seek the best possible deal for their members and the taxpayer.

(2) A SURE START FOR EVERY CHILD IN WIRRAL

Proposed by Councillor Sheila Clarke

Seconded by Councillor Wendy Clements

- (1) Council believes that the creation of Sure Start Centres was one of the outstanding successes of the previous Government and that all parties support the principle of targeted, early intervention to ensure that no child is left behind.
- (2) Council welcomes the action taken by the previous Administration to protect the budget for Wirral's Children's Centres and the provision of a new grant, direct to each centre, to be invested as local circumstances required.
- (3) Council welcomes the commitment of the Coalition Government to recruit 4,200 qualified Health Visitors to work with Children's Centres to further enhance the service provided to the most vulnerable parents in our communities.
- (4) Council, however, notes with concern the intention of the administration to reduce the Children's Centres budget by £1.2 million without consultation.
- (5) Council therefore requests that parents, staff and partner organisations, and the wider public, are consulted on the proposed changes and a report be brought to a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the results of that consultation before any changes are implemented.

(3) CANCER DRUGS FUND

Proposed by Councillor Cherry Povall

Seconded by Councillor James Keeley

- (1) Council has long been concerned with health inequalities in Wirral and has previously debated survival rates for prostate cancer sufferers in Wirral.
- (2) Council therefore welcomes:
 - The creation by the Coalition Government of a new £200 million Cancer Drugs Fund to enable patients to be given the treatment they need.
 - Reform of the National Institute for Clinical Excellence and the introduction of value-based pricing to enable all patients to access the drugs and treatments their doctors think they need.
 - The decision by the Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology and Primary Care Trust to make available to patients a new drug to extend the life of those suffering from skin cancer.

(4) FAIRER, SAFER VOTING

Proposed by Councillor Ian Lewis

Seconded by Councillor Chris Blakeley

- (1) Council welcomes the commitment by the Coalition Government to reduce electoral fraud by the introduction of Individual Voter Registration.
- (2) Council therefore requests a report on how this will be implemented by the Council to be brought to a meeting of the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee.

(5) APPOINTMENT OF METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSIONER

Proposed by Councillor Bob Wilkins

Seconded by Councillor Stuart Kelly

This Council congratulates former Merseyside Police chief Bernard Hogan-Howe on his recent appointment as Metropolitan Police Commissioner and instructs the Chief Executive to write him a letter of congratulations and thanks on behalf of the Council.

(6) CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CRISIS

Proposed by Councillor Tom Harney

Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

- (1) Council welcomes the Corporate Governance report by AKA Ltd and recognises the seriousness of the findings and the need to take corrective action to put things right.
- (2) Council recognises the significant financial challenges facing Wirral over the next few years, as it strives to provide the level of services local people want and deserve within diminishing financial resources.
- (3) Council believes a “business as usual approach” will simply not do and that a radical and politically brave solution is needed.
- (4) In relation to the AKA report, Council:
 - a. Requests that the presentation from AKA Ltd to all Councillors as agreed at Cabinet (22nd Sept 2011) be arranged as a matter of urgency.
 - b. Notes that AKA Ltd has not yet completed a report to review issues raised by a whistleblower relating to concerns in the Department of Adult Social Services Learning Disabilities Services and asks that full information be made available to all Councillors as it becomes available.
- (5) In relation to the current governance structures, Council:

- a. Has no confidence in the Strong Leader Model of Governance to navigate Wirral Council through this unprecedented period of challenge or to bring the necessary correction to existing cultural, structural and financial problems.

(6) Going forward, Council:

- a. Calls on all three Parties to work in unity for the sake of the Wirral residents, businesses, employees of the Council and the reputation of the Council and therefore resolves:
 - (i) To seek the earliest possible abandonment of the Strong Leader Model.
 - (ii) To recommend the Leader of the Council to appoint an emergency All Party Unity Cabinet, to be given the following powers:
 - (1) to develop and recommend to Council a new shadow Committee Structure by January 2012
 - (2) to review the current scheme of delegation and require individual Cabinet Members before taking delegated decisions to consult with the relevant all party shadow committee structure
 - (3) to immediately start processing the recommendations of the Corporate Governance Report and report back to full council regularly on its progress

(7) Council believes that new structures should be built on a firm statement of inclusivity, democracy and transparency from the outset and resolves that the following principles apply during the transition and after:

- a. Membership of committees should reflect the wishes of the electorate at the ballot box and be proportional to seats held.
- b. The leadership of the council should normally fall to the largest party represented on the council as expressed by the electorate at the ballot box.

(7) INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTRE

Proposed by Councillor Pat Williams

Seconded by Councillor Mark Johnston

(1) This Council:

- (i) Is delighted that the Peel International Trade Centre is to be opened in the Borough and recognises that there is widespread support for the project in Wirral.
- (ii) Places on record its appreciation of the co-ordinated action to get people into work

- (iii) Believes that the opening of the Centre will give an opportunity to get many more people into work.
 - (iv) Views this project as the first step in the development of the areas of derelict docklands.
 - (v) Recognises the need for the council to act as the community leader so that the public, private and voluntary sectors work together to ensure we are ready to welcome new businesses into Wirral.
- (2) Council considers that the economic benefit of this and subsequent developments will only be maximised if the community of Wirral work together to prepare the ground during the next three years.
- (3) Therefore, having regard to the need to involve the communities in the area around the new development and working closely with Peel, Council resolves to recommend that the Leader:
- a. Instructs officers to identify the groups which should be involved and to draw up an initial action plan designed to prepare unemployed and the young to work in the development and businesses which will service it.
 - b. Instructs officers to ensure that contact is made with business and other organisations to co-ordinate the work that is being planned.
 - c. Instructs officers to discuss with head teachers the ways in which schools can be involved.
 - d. Instructs officers to work with local communities to ensure that the new businesses are welcomed. Council recognises the importance of local councillors in this, and in particular the Area Forum system.
 - e. Works with the other party leaders to lobby the government for financial and other support as the various projects develop. In addition, the importance of local MPs is recognised therefore, it is essential that they be kept informed.

(8) RESPONSE TO CIVIL DISORDER: BREAKING THE CYCLE

Proposed by Councillor Mark Johnston

Seconded by Councillor Pat Williams

- (1) Council notes with concern and distress the disturbances that took place in Birkenhead on 9th August 2011 and across the country during the same week.
- (2) Council condemns and deplores the behaviour of all those who participated in disorder and other illegal activity, bringing disruption, fear and violence to our streets. The criminal behaviour of a tiny minority of our citizens cannot be excused or tolerated.

- (3) Council congratulates and expresses its sincere thanks to Merseyside Police, Fire and Rescue Service and other emergency services who dealt with matters in a highly professional and dedicated manner. Council also thanks the Courts for their swift response and robust approach to dealing with those found guilty of criminal acts.
- (4) Council praises the resilience, restraint and community spirit demonstrated by the overwhelming majority of residents of the Borough.
- (5) Council believes that the community response to the disorder more accurately reflects the state of our communities than the disturbances themselves, but further believes that it is important that the causes of the disorder are identified, understood and dealt with through long term measures and thoughtful consideration of the issues.
- (6) Whilst there can be no excuses for the behaviour of those involved in the disorder, Council recognises the damaging affects of poverty and worklessness and its role in creating social exclusion and therefore welcomes the draft child poverty strategy report to Cabinet. Council welcomes the contribution to its development from the Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working Group and thanks the voluntary and faith sector representatives, officers and councillors who have served on it.
- (7) In particular, Council believes the following issues identified in the draft strategy are crucial to ensuring that that no young people are left behind or excluded from our society and that action in these areas should help contribute to ensuring the August disturbances are never repeated:
 - Targeting efforts to make work the best route out of poverty
 - Improving life chances for children through early interventions such as: support for effective parenting, promoting social and emotional development through greater emphasis on the early years and closing the gap in educational attainment
 - Supporting neighbourhoods by building on community assets
- (8) Council requests the Leader to ensure that the recommendations in the report form the basis of a robust and properly resourced action plan that is embedded into the work programme of the authority. The cycle of child and family poverty is a generational blight on some of our communities and breaking into this damaging pattern must be a priority of this Council. Council requests that regular updates of progress in implementing the recommendations are provided to the Children and Young People and Economy & Regeneration Scrutiny Committees.

(9) SMOKING BANS IN OUTDOOR PLAY AREAS

Proposed by Councillor Pat Williams

Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

This Council:

- A Notes that other local authorities within the UK, such as Inverclyde and Pendle, have or are in the process of implementing smoking bans in children's play areas and that many other areas are considering it.
- B Notes that Cheshire and Merseyside Tobacco Control Alliance, in partnership with Heart of Mersey are campaigning to implement a voluntary smoke-free code within playground areas on council owned land across the North West sub-region.
- C Notes that research suggests public support for smoke-free play areas is high: A YouGov survey undertaken by ASH in March 2010 found that 73% of the general population backed a smoking ban in children's play areas.
- D Believes that, in the long term, smoke-free play areas will assist in decreasing the number of young people who start smoking and will also help to reduce levels of unsightly cigarette litter such as cigarette butts, matches, empty packets and wrappers in children's play areas.

Therefore, Council:

- (1) States support for the principle of a voluntary smoking ban in children's play areas within Wirral.
- (2) Welcomes preparatory work undertaken to date to gauge local support for smoking bans in play areas and in parks and urges consultation with playground users to assess support for this initiative.
- (3) Requests the Leader to instruct officers to continue work, in partnership with the Cheshire and Merseyside Tobacco Control Alliance, to bring forward implementation plans for a voluntary smoke-free code for play areas in Wirral, with a view to introduction from early 2012 (subject to the outcome of consultations). Plans to include a smoke-free policy statement, training and enforcement programme, public awareness raising and a timetable for evaluation of the effectiveness of the smoke-free code.
- (4) Instructs the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management to prepare a report for the Health and Wellbeing, Children and Young People and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committees as to how powers contained in the Localism Bill may facilitate the introduction of legally enforceable bans.

(10) LINKS WITH CHINA

Proposed by Councillor Phil Davies

Seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes

- (1) This Council recognises the significant potential of investment by Chinese businesses to contribute to the future economic prosperity of Wirral, including the creation of substantial numbers of new employment opportunities for local residents.
- (2) Council acknowledges the importance of the recent visit to China by a joint delegation from Wirral Council and Peel Holdings to discuss the proposed International Trade Centre at Wirral Waters with representatives of businesses and government from the cities of Suzhou, Taicang and Jiang Yin. These discussions indicated a high level of interest by Chinese businesses in investing in the Trade Centre and will be followed up with more detailed conversations with a view to securing contracts.
- (3) Council also recognises the importance of the Sister City Agreement signed by the Mayor of Taicang and the Deputy Leader of the Council on the 29th of September.
- (4) This will facilitate the development of important links between Wirral and Taicang on a range of issues including economic development, port related activities, tourism, education, culture and heritage. These links will be further developed during 2012 when a delegation from Taicang will visit Wirral.

(11) SUCCESS OF BIRKENHEAD BUSINESSES

Proposed by Councillor Phil Davies

Seconded by Councillor Jean Stapleton

- (1) This Council welcomes the recent report from the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) which shows that Birkenhead has the highest number of fast growing companies in England, as measured by businesses that have increased by over 20% in each year for the previous three years.
- (2) Council also thanks all Officers who have assisted companies in Wirral to continue trading and in many cases expand their activities.
- (3) Council recognises that the results of the NESTA report are a remarkable achievement in the context of the current difficult economic climate.

(12) “PRESUMPTION IN FAVOUR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

Proposed by Councillor Brian Kenny

Seconded by Councillor George Davies

- (1) This Council expresses its real concern that the Coalition Government’s draft National Planning Policy Framework, as it currently stands, could create a major threat to Wirral’s highly valued Green Belt and countryside.
- (2) Council recognises that Wirral residents are fiercely protective of these areas and believes that the Government’s decision to advocate a “presumption in favour of sustainable development” fails totally to strike the right balance between growth and the protection of our natural environment, and ensuring the rights of local people to have a real say in what happens where they live.
- (3) Council further expresses its real concern about the apparent removal of the priority to build on Brown Field sites first, which will add further pressure on Green Belt land which is more attractive to builders and developers.
- (4) Council believes that this policy is fundamentally flawed and, if it is not addressed, could lead to a wrecking of Britain’s countryside and heritage in the interests of big businesses and property developers, without leading to an increase in affordable housing which is badly needed.
- (5) Council therefore urges this Government to think again, before it is too late.

(13) CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

Proposed by Councillor Steve Foulkes

Seconded by Councillor Phil Davies

- (1) This Council recognises the seriousness of the criticisms contained within the Supplementary Report on Corporate Governance.
- (2) Council further recognises that these criticisms relate to a culture which is insular and inward looking and which has failed to realise the level of its failings, either through denial of the truth, or through a lack of understanding of best practice elsewhere in Corporate Governance and Wirral’s shortcomings in relation to that best practice.
- (3) Council believes that this culture has grown up over a long period of time, covering many different political administrations, and the responsibility for a failure to change it lies jointly with all of us – with politicians of all parties, with Senior Officers and with our own staff.
- (4) Council also believes that the ability to change this culture transcends political differences and that it is essential that everyone works together to revitalise the

Council's Corporate Governance Arrangements to ensure that Wirral has the opportunity to become the excellent council we know it can be.

- (5) Council also believes that it is the hardwork and good will of many of its staff that has allowed good services to be delivered in many cases for the people of Wirral even where the structures and processes have been less than adequate, and believes that this hardwork and goodwill will carry us forward to a much better position when the appropriate rigorous measures have been carried out and a sturdy framework created to underpin any future service delivery.
- (6) Council therefore welcomes this Corporate Governance Report as a necessary Wake Up call to us all, and agrees to implement its recommendations in full.

COUNCIL VACANCIES – 17 October

Council Committees

Health and Well Being O&S Committee

Councillor Mrs P M Williams to replace Councillor Dave Mitchell

Outside Bodies

Housing and Community Safety

Leasowe Community Homes Management Board

Vacancy to replace Councillor Ian Lewis

This page is intentionally left blank