



Council

Town Hall
Wallasey

5 October, 2018

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held at **6.00 p.m. on Monday, 15 October 2018** in the Council Chamber, within the Town Hall, Wallasey, to take into consideration and determine upon the following subjects : -

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

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AGENDA

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Council are asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant 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.

2. CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

3. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 42)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 9 July (ordinary meeting) and on 10 September, 2018 (extraordinary meeting).

4. PETITIONS

- A. To receive petitions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 21**
- B. The following petition is referred to the Council for consideration in accordance with Standing Order 34 (Pages 43 - 44)**

A petition of some 15,033 signatures submitted by Ms Sarah Ashworth and Ms Amanda Lancaster opposing the proposal for a dog control public space protection order.

The front two pages of the petition are attached and in accordance with the Petition Scheme, the petition organiser has been invited to address the Council for up to five minutes. The Council should debate the matter for a maximum of 15 minutes before deciding how to respond.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To deal with questions from members of the public, in accordance with Appendix 1 to Standing Orders – up to 30 minutes.

6. LEADER'S, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' AND CHAIRS REPORTS (Pages 45 - 70)

To receive the written reports of the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs, and to receive questions and answers on any of those reports in accordance with Standing Orders 10(2)(a) and 11.

7. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

To consider Members' general questions to the Civic Mayor, Executive or Committee Chair in accordance with Standing Orders 10 (2)(b) and 11.

8. VACANCIES (Pages 71 - 74)

To consider a report of the Director of Governance and Assurance on the appointment of Committee places.

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

- Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Labour nominee to replace Councillor Mike Sullivan and nomination of 'link' member.
- Mersey Port Health Committee – Labour nominee to replace

Councillor Mike Sullivan

- Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust – Labour nominee to replace Councillor Mike Sullivan

9. MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL OR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

To consider any recommendations of the Executive or Council Committees which require the approval or consideration of the Council.

A. QUARTER 1 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - CAPITAL (Pages 75 - 78)

Cabinet, 16 July 2018, (Minute 11 refers)

The report and appendices can be viewed on the Council website [here](#).

The Council is requested to approve the revised Capital Programme of £86.4m.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION (Pages 79 - 90)

Notices of motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(1), are attached. They are listed in accordance with Standing Order 7(2), and the full text of each motion is attached. The Mayor, having considered each motion, in accordance with Standing Order 7(4) has decided that each will be debated:

1. CCG Public Consultation on Urgent Care
2. Standards in Public Life
3. Keeping the Builder's Hands off Our Farmland
4. Sustainable Transport for Wirral Waters
5. New ONS Housing Projections
6. UTS Foundation, Hoylake
7. New Ferry Explosion
8. Housing Growth



Director: Governance and Assurance

Audio/Visual Recording of Meetings

Everyone is welcome to record meetings of the Council and its Committees using non-disruptive methods. For particular meetings we may identify a 'designated area' for you to record from. If you have any questions about this please contact Committee and Civic Services (members of the press please contact the Press Office). Please note that the Chair of the meeting has the discretion to halt any recording for a number of reasons, including disruption caused by the filming or the nature of the business being conducted.

Persons making recordings are requested not to put undue restrictions on the material produced so that it can be reused and edited by all local people and organisations on a non-commercial basis.

COUNCIL

Monday, 9 July 2018

Present: The Civic Mayor (Councillor Geoffrey Watt) in the Chair
Deputy Civic Mayor (Councillor Tony Smith)

Councillors	RL Abbey	A Gardner	B Mooney
	T Anderson	P Gilchrist	C Muspratt
	B Berry	JE Green	M Patrick
	C Blakeley	P Hackett	C Povall
	A Brame	P Hayes	L Rennie
	P Brightmore	A Hodson	L Rowlands
	D Burgess-Joyce	K Hodson	C Spriggs
	K Cannon	AER Jones	J Stapleton
	C Carubia	C Jones	P Stuart
	P Cleary	S Jones	M Sullivan
	W Clements	T Jones	A Sykes
	T Cottier	M Jordan	T Usher
	A Davies	S Kelly	J Walsh
	G Davies	B Kenny	W Ward
	P Davies	A Leech	S Whittingham
	WJ Davies	I Lewis	I Williams
	P Doughty	M McLaughlin	KJ Williams
	D Elderton	J McManus	S Williams
	G Ellis	C Meaden	J Williamson
	S Foulkes	D Mitchell	G Wood

Apologies Councillors T Cox L Grey
S Frost T Norbury

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Prior to the meeting formally commencing and at the invitation of the Civic Mayor, Rev David Chester led the Council in prayer.

The Members of the Council were invited to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any matters to be determined at this meeting and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the interest.

Name	Item No. and Nature of Declaration
Councillor Paul Hayes	Item No. 10(4) – Notice of Motion (Minute 32 refers). Personal and prejudicial – by virtue of his employment.

Councillor Phill Brightmore	Item No. 10(5) – Notice of Motion (Minute 33 refers). Prejudicial – by virtue of his employment.
Councillor Stuart Whittingham	Item No. 10(3) – Notice of Motion (Minute 31 refers). Personal – by virtue of his employment.

15 **CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Civic Mayor noted that apologies had been received from Councillors Tony Cox, Sam Frost, Liz Grey and Tony Norbury.

The Civic Mayor informed the Council that Steve Baker, Executive Head Teacher at Kilgarth School, had been invited to address the Council in respect of Notice of Motion No. 6, 'Remembering Srebrenica'.

The Civic Mayor commented on the 77 engagements which he and the Mayoress had undertaken over the first seven weeks of his Mayoralty and referred to a number of highlights, including the reception at Birkenhead Town Hall for the Tranmere Rovers Football Club on their return to the Football League, the events for the Tall Ships on the River Mersey and the Wirral Coastal walk, which the Mayoress had undertaken with Councillor Ian Lewis and Councillors Cherry Povall and former Councillor Sheila Clarke for part of the walk.

The Civic Mayor also referred to the recent visit of children from Riverside Primary School, one of seven Wirral primary schools awarded School of Sanctuary status making a welcoming environment for refugees and asylum seekers. Some pupils from the Riverside school, with their teachers, then gave a short musical performance to the meeting in celebration of ethnic diversity and welcoming refugees.

The Civic Mayor then invited Councillor Warren Ward to read out a personal statement as follows:

"Mr Mayor - Thank you for the opportunity to address full council this evening.

I have had the honour and privilege to serve this borough over the past 2 years and it is with great regret that I announce that this evening's full council will be my last duty as an elected member in this chamber.

I have always been a believer in dedicating 100% of time and effort into everything that I do. It is this reason why I have taken the decision to resign.

I have a new role at the Chamber of Commerce supporting the local economy and supporting the creation of more enterprises here in

Wirral. This is an important and demanding role which requires my full attention.

Mr Mayor - I was elected to this council aged 18, the youngest elected councillor in this borough's history and one of the youngest in the country. I knew that being a young councillor was always going to be difficult with many hurdles along the road, but I hope that I have been able to inspire other young people to get involved in local politics to make a difference and to change their communities.

Though I am leaving politics for now, I will remain active in the local community and in particular, I will remain in post as Chairperson of the New Ferry Town Team.

I am absolutely passionate about supporting the New Ferry community. It's my home town, and I am so proud of what we have been able to achieve together over the past two years. Nobody could have ever imagined that the community would be at the centre of a major explosion we still continue the carry on and fight for funding.

New Ferry and Port Sunlight has an exciting future. I look forward to leading its growth and re-incarnation, not as a politician, but as a young lad who cares about his town's future.

My final words in this chamber have to be to thank all of our dedicated officers, the people of Bromborough, Port Sunlight and New Ferry and to all of our elected members.

But most importantly, I want to thank my partner, Steven McCulloch, my parents, Andy & Clare and all of my family. It is those closest to us who make the biggest sacrifices for our public service."

The Leader of the Council expressed his thanks to Councillor Warren Ward for his service to the people of Bromborough and New Ferry over the last two years and paid tribute to him and his ward colleagues for all their work in the aftermath of the explosion in New Ferry and wished him all the very best for the future.

Councillors Ian Lewis and Dave Mitchell added their tributes to Councillor Ward echoing the sentiments expressed by the Leader.

16 **PROCEDURAL MOTION**

It was moved by Councillor Ron Abbey, seconded by Councillor Phil Davies and –

Resolved (55:6) (One abstention) – That Standing Order 9(1) be suspended and the guillotine come into effect at 8.30pm or after motions (i), (ii) and (iii) have been debated.

17 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Council meetings held on 14 and 15 May, 2018 had been circulated to Members and it was –

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

18 **PETITIONS**

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

- (i). Councillor Bernie Mooney on behalf of 65 residents requesting the introduction of residential parking on Wright Street, Egremont.
- (ii). Councillor Jerry Williams on behalf of 160 residents requesting improvements to the traffic situation in Village Road, Bebington.
- (iii). Councillor Pat Cleary on behalf of 63 residents requesting effective calming measures be put in place to address the speed of traffic travelling along Elmswood, Tranmere.
- (iv). Councillor Adam Sykes on behalf of 320 residents requesting repairs to Brookhurst Children's Play Area.
- (v). Councillor Paul Hayes on behalf of 161 residents against the planning application APP/18/00694 for the erection of two dwellings on land to the rear of 240 – 240b Wallasey Village, Wallasey.
- (vi). Councillor Gerry Ellis on behalf of 463 residents against coastal car parking charges in West Kirby.
- (vii). Councillor Julie McManus on behalf of 50 residents requesting the replacement of the grass verge at the front of 1 Westpark Gardens to 45 Westpark Gardens, Beechwood with car parking spaces for residents' cars.
- (viii). Councillor Chris Blakeley on behalf of 15,063 residents opposing the proposal for a dog control public space protection order.

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

19 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Ms K O'Rourke, having given the appropriate notice in accordance with Standing Order 11, submitted a question on the subject of the Hoylake Golf Resort.

Councillor Phil Davies, Leader of the Council, responded accordingly.

Ms O'Rourke asked a supplementary question in accordance with Standing Order 10, and Councillor Phil Davies responded accordingly.

20 **LEADER'S, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' AND CHAIRS REPORTS**

The Mayor introduced the Wirral Plan Annual report and Overview and Scrutiny Annual report and invited questions to Cabinet Members on the report.

Councillor Mike Sullivan asked a question of Councillor Janette Williamson, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, regarding a community wealth building strategy. Councillor Williamson responded that this was a new approach to regeneration framed around co-operative values, self-help, participation, social responsibility and democratic accountability. It was a place based approach enabling local people to create and retain wealth and help local anchor institutions spend within the local supply chain wherever possible, keeping wealth within the community. Members of the Cabinet had visited Preston City Council where it was in operation.

Councillor Chris Blakeley asked a question of Councillor Phil Davies, Leader of the Council, on the projected increase in income from fines from the proposed Dog Control Public Space Protection Orders. Councillor Davies agreed that he would supply an answer in writing to this question. Councillor Blakeley then asked a question of Councillor Janette Williamson, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources on how the budget gap of £250,000 would be filled now that the Leader had decided to drop his plan for car parking charges at coastal locations. Councillor Williamson responded that the Cabinet were looking at alternatives to fill this gap in the budget.

Councillor Chris Carubia asked a question of Councillor George Davies, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning, on new build homes and where new home owners originate from and if enough affordable homes and house types were being built for local residents. Councillor Davies responded that with regard to affordable housing schemes it was known from the housing register and allocations system that the majority of people who moved into new schemes were local people of Wirral. The Council had never commissioned a report to ascertain where people in new private developments had moved from as unfortunately there was no requirement for

developers to provide this information to the authority. Keepmoat Homes had been able to advise the Council that houses had been bought by local people in the borough and also the local areas of Claughton, Birkenhead etc. In terms of local need and affordable housing, Councils had to undertake a Strategic Housing Market Assessment which set out the broad needs and objectives for new housing including the tenure and property types, including affordable homes.

Councillor Chris Carubia then asked a question of Councillor Angela Davies, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Growth, on the proposed Hoylake Golf Resort project. In response Councillor Davies commented that the Council was aware of the resignations from Branded Hotel Management but this did not create concerns as people resigned from Directorships for a number of reasons and the companies cited were continuing to perform their roles within the project. The Council would continue to do its due diligence at all stages of the Golf Resort Project.

Councillor Lesley Rennie asked a question of Councillor Phil Davies, Leader of the Council, regarding the proposed introduction of Public Space Protection Orders for dogs. Councillor Davies responded that the Council was still in the middle of a consultation period until 15 July on the proposal and this process would have to play out. He would be listening carefully to residents and had received a number of representations. He condemned those irresponsible dog owners and also people who littered the borough. He would like to have more resources but the Government had cut £250m from the Council's budget since 2010. Lord Porter, Conservative Chair of the Local Government Association had, just last week at the LGA Annual Conference, stated that the Government needed to put £8 billion into Local Authorities by 2023 just to stand still.

Councillor Pat Cleary asked a question of Councillor Matthew Patrick, Cabinet Member for Environment, regarding work being done to make sure Wirral reached its 50 per cent target of recycling all waste. Councillor Patrick acknowledged the difficult times caused by austerity and the need to educate people as to what they could and could not recycle. Any ideas as to how recycling rates could be increased would be very welcome.

Councillor Pat Cleary then asked a question of Councillor Angela Davies, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Growth, on what specific commitments had been given to the Growth Company partner as to the amount of time it would take to process relevant planning applications. Councillor Davies agreed that she would supply an answer in writing to this question.

Councillor Andrew Hodson asked a question of Councillor Matthew Patrick, Cabinet Member for Environment, regarding the proposed dog control Public Space Protection Orders. Councillor Patrick responded that the consultation was still ongoing until 15 July but it was not acceptable for people to allow

their dogs to foul in any area and he welcomed a proposed increase in fines from £50 to £100 for those irresponsible owners who allowed their dogs to foul in any area. Parts of the proposals have had complete support from lots of people and many interesting responses so far to the consultation.

In respect of £80m held in reserves and loans to other Councils, Councillor Janette Williamson, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, responded that loans to other Councils were good financial practice which Councils all over the country undertook and it was important that the Council maximised its cash flow with £300,000 in interest being generated a year and that she would be happy to receive any ideas on how monies could be generated.

Councillor Paul Hayes asked a question of Councillor Stuart Whittingham, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, regarding the length of time it had taken for the bridge between Wallasey and Birkenhead to be replaced and whether any financial penalties had been imposed and would he take political responsibility for this and resign. Councillor Whittingham responded no.

Councillor Stuart Kelly asked a question of Councillor Matthew Patrick, Cabinet Member for Environment, regarding the modernisation of waste collection. Councillor Patrick responded that there was no deviation from the previous plan and that he was looking at best practice across each authority in the City Region and across the country and he would welcome any ideas to improve waste collection and recycling.

Councillor Stuart Kelly then asked a question of Councillor Phil Davies, Leader of the Council, on Wirral Together and review of Constituency Committees. Councillor Davies responded that he would be bringing more proposals forward in the autumn on Wirral Together which was a partnership with residents and other key agencies in the public and private sector. It was based on a Wigan Council model and the need to be honest and open with residents over the funding constraints which the Council had, having lost 40 per cent of its funding in the last 8 years. With regard to Constituency Committees one size did not fit all and there were some which worked well and others not so well so there could be no uniform model and individual views across all four constituencies would need to be taken account of.

Councillor David Elderton asked a question of Councillor Angela Davies, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Growth, on how commitments could be made to drive significant progress on major development projects such as Hoylake Golf Resort before any viability assessments had been published. Councillor Davies responded that the commitment was to make sure the Council did have these feasibility studies, after which it would then become a planning matter.

Councillor David Burgess-Joyce asked a question of Councillor Bernie Mooney, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, regarding making Wirral an, 'employer of choice for social workers' and how many 'heads had rolled' following the resignation of her predecessor and the Director of Children's Services last year. Councillor Mooney responded that Wirral did want to have the best social workers providing an environment where they felt safe to work, supported properly with a proper management structure; some agency staff had already transferred to permanent employment with the Council. With regard to staff leaving the Council she stated that this information was already available.

Councillor Allan Brame asked a question of Councillor Stuart Whittingham, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, regarding the restoration of a bus service through Oxton Village. Councillor Whittingham responded that Avon's No. 90 service was withdrawn from 22 April 2018 as part of their own review of services rather than being due to the full area Network Review. As part of the changes made in April, services 90 and 92 were withdrawn, and service 91 was revised to incorporate sections of these routes, but did not include Oxton Village. Residents in the area were all within Merseytravel's policy guideline of being 400m from a bus service. It was acknowledged that the gradients were steep and following representations from local councillors Avon were asked if it was possible to divert the new 91 into Oxton Village. They looked into the possibility in detail, but determined that it was not possible due to the additional time required in the timetable. To include Oxton Village would have required either an additional vehicle (at a cost of £100,000 per year) or the omission of a section of route which would have been left outside of the 400m buffer. There was no proposed replacement bus service for Oxton Village, however both Merseytravel and Avon were aware of the issues and would give them due consideration should circumstances alter in the future.

Councillor Jeff Green asked a question of Councillor Phill Brightmore, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Recreation, on whether anymore consultants would be commissioned to undertake leisure reviews and whether monies spent up to now on reports had been wasted. Councillor Brightmore responded that it was not his intention to commission anymore consultants' reports and all reports commissioned up to this point formed part of an important evidence base for the leisure review which would soon conclude.

Councillor Bruce Berry asked a question of Councillor Bernie Mooney, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, regarding a new Government £1,000 bursary for care leavers to undertake an apprenticeship and what the Children's Department was doing to make care leaver's aware of this. Councillor Mooney responded that she would check with Children's Services staff and supply a written response. Agreement had been reached with Biffa to provide 10 apprenticeships a year for care leavers.

Councillor Cherry Povall asked a question of Councillor Bernie Mooney, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, on whether the Council's review of school provision would include giving school children on Wirral the opportunity to attend the new University of Liverpool Mathematics School. Councillor Mooney responded that she would provide a written response to the question.

Councillor Andrew Gardner asked a question of Councillor Janette Williamson, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, on how much advertising revenue was received from external organisations for advertisements placed in the Wirral View publication. Councillor Williamson responded that she would provide a written response.

Councillor Steve Williams asked a question of Councillor Matthew Patrick, Cabinet Member for Environment, regarding his predecessor's plans for food waste recycling bins. Councillor Patrick responded that there were no plans for food waste recycling.

Councillor Wendy Clements asked a question of Councillor Chris Jones, Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Health, on whether the Council had been given any indicative figures for the share that Wirral NHS would get from the additional £20 billion announced by the Government for the NHS. Councillor Jones responded that she would provide a written response.

Councillor Kathy Hodson asked a question of Councillor Janette Williamson, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, regarding whether the Council would be applying for a share of the £7.5m fund to improve digital services for local authorities announced by the Government. Councillor Williamson responded that she would provide a written response.

Councillor Gerry Ellis asked a question of Councillor Angela Davies, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Growth, regarding the Hoylake Golf Resort. Councillor Davies responded that the consultants on the project were being funded by the company, not the Council and once the outcome of these reports was known the matter would then be a planning decision.

Councillor Julie McManus asked a question of Councillor Paul Stuart, Cabinet Member for Law and Order, regarding the development of phase two of the Safer Wirral Hub and how it would respond to the needs of residents particularly concerning anti-social behaviour. Councillor Stuart responded that anti-social behaviour still blighted some areas, including the issues with scrambler bikes, and he would be working with officers to seek greater integration and to consider aligning services with a responsibility to enforce and regulate across the borough into the Safer Wirral Hub. He was keen to see more proactive work in preventing the borough's citizens from becoming offenders in the first place and phase two would build on the current model offering a single unit for professionals and residents to contact to resolve anti-social behaviour issues.

Councillor Ian Lewis asked a question of Councillor Paul Stuart, Cabinet Member for Law and Order, regarding rough sleeping and homelessness and whether it should fall within his portfolio which risked criminalising people who had done nothing wrong but be homeless and would this not sit better within the Housing and Planning portfolio. Councillor Stuart responded that Cabinet Members worked together and this was not about criminalising homeless people as his portfolio cut across most other portfolios and he was happy for this to sit within his brief.

Councillor Paul Doughty asked a question of Councillor Matthew Patrick, Cabinet Member for Environment, regarding the need for all political groups to come together and face up to the issue of the need in the future to collect food waste, as was happening across all Welsh Councils. Councillor Patrick responded that he was keen for the Council to be forward thinking with regard to recycling but there were currently no plans to recycle food waste.

At the conclusion of questions an amendment was moved in respect of the Wirral Plan 2020 Annual Report as follows:

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

"Council notes that the Foreword to the Annual Report refers to the original purpose of the Report as giving.....*"open, honest appraisals"* of the Council's *"progress"*.

The document states *"We're also continuing to get the basics right "* (page 4), an impression that is not shared by the public who are able to see, first hand, daily, the weeds and potholes and neglected appearance of their communities.

The key performance indicators referred to in the 2017 MORI survey of Wirral's residents referenced some decline in the satisfaction with local government but clearly stated that ...

"Although Wirral's drop in key measures follows the national trend, it should be noted that, across the board, performance indicators are significantly lower compared to its peers." (Ipsos MORI North, page 11)

The Liberal Democrat Group's concern over 'getting the basics right' was reported in the Wirral Globe on 21 February 2018 (page 30).

The Annual Report for 2016/17 (page 25) promised that in 2017/18.....
".....we will redouble our efforts to improve the public realm....."

The current Annual Report also states.....
"we will redouble our efforts to improve the public realm....." (page 35)

What has doubled is the size of the documentation, from 28 to 56 pages, when residents look for practical action rather than words.

The belated recognition of the need to tackle the state of Wirral is welcome, as set out in the priorities of the 2018/19 Delivery Plan (page 3). The general thrust of the policies and concerns as set out is worthy. It should be noted, though, that:

- (i). the need to place Children's Services on a 'solid' foundation flows from failings that were not recognised in the 2016 Annual Report;
- (ii). the 2017 Annual Report declared that the Leader was confident that residents would, as a result of the Growth Company, see "spades in the ground" .."within the next twelve months";
- (iii). the Major Project on "Stronger and more sustainable services" assures Council that the administration will "find the most appropriate, sustainable model to deliver parks, leisure libraries and cultural services".
It is a year since pre-decision scrutiny was promised at the Call In held on 19 June 2017. There was substantial expenditure on consultants' reports which were only made public after repeated requests.
- (iv). the Key Project 'Keep Wirral Moving' refers to the investment in "improving" potholes. Council is anxious that the new in-house arrangements will tackle this issue. The public simply want the potholes mended with a common sense logical approach.
- (v). the Major Project "creating jobs driving regeneration" refers to the Celtic Manor Golf Resort. Council places on record that it remains sceptical over this project and calls for the publication of all exempt material relating to it.

Council fully understands the uncertain financial climate under which the Council is operating. References to the removal of the Revenue Support Grant and the removal of 'core' grant reinforce the need to work with the Local Government Association to establish a respected and fairer grant funding system. The 'Major Project' does not refer to the consultation undertaken by the Secretary of State on the new funding formula. Council remains anxious that every opportunity should be taken to secure replacement funding."

Following speeches by movers and seconders and Councillor Phil Davies having replied, the amendment was put and lost (25:36) (One abstention).

The motion was put and carried (36:25) (One abstention).

Resolved – (36:25) (One abstention) – That the Wirral Plan 2020 Annual Report 2017/18, be noted.

The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18 was then considered by the Council and it was moved by Councillor Mike Sullivan, seconded by Councillor Anita Leech and –

Resolved (61:0) (One abstention) – That the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18, be noted.

21 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

In accordance with Standing Order 10(2) the Council had been advised of two questions.

Councillor Phil Gilchrist asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Environment in relation to the proposed Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order. Councillor Matthew Patrick replied accordingly.

Councillor Lesley Rennie asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Law and Order in relation to the Authority's response to the Government's draft Domestic Abuse Bill and also whether the Council would submit a bid for a share of the £19m fund established by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to expand support for survivors of domestic abuse. Councillor Paul Stuart replied accordingly.

22 **VACANCIES**

In accordance with Standing Order 25(6) the Council was requested to deal with the following matters in respect of the membership of committees and appointments to outside organisations.

COMMITTEES

Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Sharon Jones to replace Warren Ward and Councillor Tony Cottier to replace Sharon Jones as deputy.

Environment Overview and Scrutiny

Councillor Gillian Wood to replace Warren Ward and Councillor Adrian Jones to replace Gillian Wood as deputy.

Pensions Committee

Councillor Sharon Jones to replace Warren Ward as deputy.

Planning Committee

Councillor Liz Grey to replace Warren Ward as deputy.

STATUTORY AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND PANELS

Members' Equipment Steering Group.

Councillor Steve Williams to replace Lesley Rennie and Councillor Janette Williamson to replace Warren Ward.

Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education

Councillor Liz Grey to replace Councillor Brian Kenny.

Young People's Advisory Group

Councillor Liz Grey to replace Warren Ward.

OUTSIDE BODIES

North West Housing Consortium / NW Housing Forum

Councillor George Davies to be appointed

Resolved – That all the above appointments and nominations be approved.

23 MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL OR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

In accordance with Standing Order 5(2) six matters had been submitted for approval or consideration by the Council (see minutes 24 to 27 post).

24 COUNCIL CONSTITUTION UPDATE

The first matter requiring consideration was in relation to the Council Constitution update for the inclusion of the amended Contract Procedure Rules, noting amendments to be made to the Council Constitution by the Monitoring Officer and the intention of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee to undertake a major review of the Constitution.

On a motion by Councillor Adrian Jones, seconded by Councillor Moira McLaughlin, it was –

Resolved (57:0) (One abstention) – That the recommendations contained within minute 68 of the Audit and Risk Management Committee (12 March, 2018) and minute 6 of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee (12 June, 2018), be approved.

25 ADOPTION OF THE MODEL COUNCIL MEMBERS' PLANNING CODE

The second matter requiring consideration was in relation to the adoption of the Model Planning Code and to agree its inclusion in the Council

Constitution, as recommended by the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee of 12 June, 2018 (minute 4 refers), supported by the Planning Committee of 21 June, 2018 (minute 24 refers).

On a motion by Councillor Moira McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Anita Leech, it was –

Resolved (59:0) (Two abstentions) – That the recommendations contained within minute 4 of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee, be approved.

26 **FEE SETTING FOR 2018/19 - CABINET, 26 MARCH, 2018 (MINUTE 99 REFERS)**

The third matter requiring consideration was in relation to Fee Setting 2018/19, as recommended by Cabinet of 26 March, 2018 (minute 99 refers).

On a motion by Councillor Phil Davies, seconded by Councillor Bernie Mooney, it was –

Resolved (59:0) (One abstention) – That the recommendations contained within minute 99 of Cabinet, be approved.

27 **WIRRAL CORE STRATEGY LOCAL PLAN - WIRRAL EMPLOYMENT LAND AND PREMISES STUDY - CABINET, 26 MARCH, 2018 (MINUTE 102 REFERS)**

The fourth matter requiring consideration was in relation to the Wirral Core Strategy Local Plan - Wirral Employment Land and Premises Study 2017 and its approval as a material consideration for use by the Planning Committee in the determining of planning applications, as recommended by Cabinet of 26 March, 2018 (minute 102 refers).

On a motion by Councillor Phil Davies, seconded by Councillor Bernie Mooney, it was –

Resolved (54:0) (Six abstentions) – That the recommendations contained within minute 102 of Cabinet, be approved.

28 **NOTICES OF MOTION**

Notices of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(1) were reported to Council. The Civic Mayor having considered each motion, in accordance with Standing Order 7(4) had decided that they would each be debated and they were determined as detailed in Minutes 29 to 35 below.

MOTION - TACKLING POVERTY AMONG WOMEN AND GIRLS ON LOW INCOMES

Councillor Moira McLaughlin moved and Councillor Anita Leech seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

“One of the hidden effects of living on a low income is the startling fact that 40% of teenage girls in that situation cannot afford to buy proper sanitary protection and have to use unsuitable and degrading alternatives.

Council recognises the excellent work being done by volunteers involved in the ‘Feeding Birkenhead’ project in initiating their Pink Box campaign to address this and we are pleased that it is now being rolled out to other parts of the country through Feeding Britain and that Women’s Aid and other charities are providing similar help.

However, this is only a small part of what is needed and we are looking to gather support from across all political parties and faith and community groups in Wirral and across the country that are working to tackle the impact of poverty, to ask the government to recognise the extent of this as a problem and develop the approach taken in Scotland to ensure all women and girls living on low incomes have the sanitary protection they need to maintain their self-respect and dignity.

Council agrees that the Leader of the Council should write to the Prime Minister and ask that the government supports this campaign”.

Councillor David Burgess-Joyce moved and Councillor Wendy Clements seconded the following amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(9) such that the Motion be approved subject to –

The deletion of “.” In the final paragraph and the insertion of –

“and, as soon as practicable following our withdrawal from the European Union, applies a zero rating for Value Added Tax (VAT) to all sanitary products.

In the meantime, Council agrees to encourage all appropriate local organisations including ‘Feeding Birkenhead’ to apply for grants from the Tampon Tax Fund, established by the Government, which ring-fences VAT receipts from sanitary products to support projects working with women and girls.”

Following a debate conducted in accordance with Standing Order 12, and Councillor McLaughlin having replied, the amendment was put and carried (60:0) (One abstention).

The substantive motion, as amended, was put and carried (60:0) (One abstention).

Resolved (60:0) (One abstention) –

One of the hidden effects of living on a low income is the startling fact that 40% of teenage girls in that situation cannot afford to buy proper sanitary protection and have to use unsuitable and degrading alternatives.

Council recognises the excellent work being done by volunteers involved in the ‘Feeding Birkenhead’ project in initiating their Pink Box campaign to address this and we are pleased that it is now being rolled out to other parts of the country through Feeding Britain and that Women`s Aid and other charities are providing similar help.

However, this is only a small part of what is needed and we are looking to gather support from across all political parties and faith and community groups in Wirral and across the country that are working to tackle the impact of poverty, to ask the government to recognise the extent of this as a problem and develop the approach taken in Scotland to ensure all women and girls living on low incomes have the sanitary protection they need to maintain their self-respect and dignity.

Council agrees that the Leader of the Council should write to the Prime Minister and ask that the government supports this campaign and, as soon as practicable following our withdrawal from the European Union, applies a zero rating for Value Added Tax (VAT) to all sanitary products.

In the meantime, Council agrees to encourage all appropriate local organisations including ‘Feeding Birkenhead’ to apply for grants from the Tampon Tax Fund, established by the Government, which ring-fences VAT receipts from sanitary products to support projects working with women and girls.

30 MOTION - KEEPING WIRRAL PARKS AND COASTAL AREAS AVAILABLE FOR THE MANY NOT THE FEW

In standing to move a Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7, Councillor David Elderton sought the agreement of the Council to the variation of the Motion. The Council gave its agreement to the variation of the Motion as required by Standing Order 12(1), such agreement being given by general consent.

Accordingly, Councillor David Elderton moved and Councillor Gerry Ellis seconded the following varied Motion –

“Council believes the introduction of car parking charges at Wirral’s coastal areas and promenades, following the introduction of charges in our country parks:

- Will bring in relatively small amounts of money
- Will have a health and happiness cost, by discouraging residents from using green spaces and the beaches
- Will disproportionately impact on poorer residents, for whom access to the country parks and beaches is a relatively cheap activity, and for whom travel on public transport with children and associated equipment will be more expensive and inconvenient

Council also notes the views of Members in the Wards affected by the proposals for coastal parking charges (Wallasey, Hoylake & Meols and West Kirby & Thurstaston) who have highlighted the potential impact on small and medium sized businesses reliant on visitor and tourist trade.

Council therefore welcomes the rejection of coastal parking charges as proposed by the Cabinet Member for Highways following the rejection of similar proposals for our high streets and shopping areas in 2017 and urges the Leader of the Council to similarly remove parking charges in our country parks forthwith”.

Councillor Stuart Whittingham moved and Councillor Phil Davies seconded the following amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(9) such that the Motion be approved subject to –

The addition to bullet point one of “compared to the £250 million slashed from Wirral Council’s budget by Tory austerity policies”; and the deletion of the final paragraph and its replacement with “Council congratulates the Leader of the Council for having considered the results of the consultation on proposed parking charges and taking the sensible step of rejecting them, demonstrating his administration’s un-wavering support for Wirral’s visitor economy, and despite the enormous pressures Tory cuts are placing on the council, for his commitment to listen and act in the best interests of Wirral residents”.

Following a debate conducted in accordance with Standing Order 12, and Councillor Elderton having replied, a number of Members rose to request a ‘card vote’.

A recorded vote was then taken on the amendment and the Council divided as follows:

For the amendment (36) R Abbey, P Brightmore, K Cannon, T Cottier, A Davies, G Davies, P Davies, W Davies, P Doughty, S Foulkes, P Hackett, AER Jones, C Jones, S Jones, T Jones, B Kenny, A Leech, M McLaughlin, J McManus, C Meaden, B Mooney, C Muspratt, M Patrick, PA Smith, C

Spriggs, J Stapleton, P Stuart, M Sullivan, T Usher, J Walsh, W Ward, S Whittingham, I Williams, KJ Williams, J Williamson and G Wood.

Against the amendment (24) T Anderson, B Berry, C Blakeley A Brame, D Burgess-Joyce, C Carubia, P Cleary, W Clements, D Elderton, G Ellis, A Gardner, P Gilchrist, J Green, P Hayes, A Hodson, K Hodson, M Jordan, S Kelly, I Lewis, D Mitchell, C Povall, L Rennie, L Rowlands and S Williams.

One abstention - Councillor G Watt (Civic Mayor).

Prior to voting on the substantive motion, as amended, a number of Members rose to request a 'card vote'. A recorded vote was then taken and the Council divided as follows:

For the amendment (36) R Abbey, P Brightmore, K Cannon, T Cottier, A Davies, G Davies, P Davies, W Davies, P Doughty, S Foulkes, P Hackett, AER Jones, C Jones, S Jones, T Jones, B Kenny, A Leech, M McLaughlin, J McManus, C Meaden, B Mooney, C Muspratt, M Patrick, PA Smith, C Spriggs, J Stapleton, P Stuart, M Sullivan, T Usher, J Walsh, W Ward, S Whittingham, I Williams, KJ Williams, J Williamson and G Wood.

Against the amendment (24) T Anderson, B Berry, C Blakeley A Brame, D Burgess-Joyce, C Carubia, P Cleary, W Clements, D Elderton, G Ellis, A Gardner, P Gilchrist, J Green, P Hayes, A Hodson, K Hodson, M Jordan, S Kelly, I Lewis, D Mitchell, C Povall, L Rennie, L Rowlands and S Williams.

One abstention - Councillor G Watt (Civic Mayor).

Resolved (36:24) (One abstention) –

Council believes the introduction of car parking charges at Wirral's coastal areas and promenades, following the introduction of charges in our country parks:

- **Will bring in relatively small amounts of money compared to the £250 million slashed from Wirral Council's budget by Tory austerity policies.**
- **Will have a health and happiness cost, by discouraging residents from using green spaces and the beaches**
- **Will disproportionately impact on poorer residents, for whom access to the country parks and beaches is a relatively cheap activity, and for whom travel on public transport with children and associated equipment will be more expensive and inconvenient**

Council also notes the views of Members in the Wards affected by the proposals for coastal parking charges (Wallasey, Hoylake & Meols and

West Kirby & Thurstaston) who have highlighted the potential impact on small and medium sized businesses reliant on visitor and tourist trade.

Council congratulates the Leader of the Council for having considered the results of the consultation on proposed parking charges and taking the sensible step of rejecting them, demonstrating his administration's un-wavering support for Wirral's visitor economy, and despite the enormous pressures Tory cuts are placing on the Council, for his commitment to listen and act in the best interests of Wirral residents.

31 **MOTION - BETTER ACCESS TO HOSPITAL**

With the agreement of the mover and seconder of this motion and the whole Council, the guillotine, previously agreed as being after debate on the first three motions (see minute 16 ante), was brought forward as the whole Council was in agreement on this motion.

Councillor Dave Mitchell moved and Councillor Phil Gilchrist seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

“This Council recognises and appreciates the concerns expressed by the Wirral South Constituency Committee at its meeting on 21 June 2018 when the Motion, reproduced below, was proposed by Cllr Dave Mitchell, seconded jointly by Councillors Christina Muspratt and Mary Jordan, and agreed unanimously:

“This Constituency Committee is concerned at the inconvenient, lengthy and time-consuming bus journeys, affecting residents in southern Wirral when travelling to Arrowe Park Hospital and back.

The Committee recognises that, since the changes to bus services introduced in September 2017, patients and visitors have been faced not only with less frequent but also indirect services, part of a complex deal negotiated between Merseytravel and the bus companies.

We consider it totally unsatisfactory that residents face journeys that might involve changes in New Ferry or Birkenhead Bus Station, adding extra journey time, stress and the possibility of additional costs to their journeys.

Whilst some work has been started on ways to alleviate or tackle this situation, such as the meeting attended by Merseytravel, representatives of the Clinical Commissioning Group, this Council and Councillors Muspratt and Gilchrist, the issues have not yet been resolved.

In addition the Urgent Care Review also needs to take account of the need to access services.

This Committee, therefore, requests that the Leader of the Council and appropriate Cabinet members take this issue up with the LCR Transport Committee and the Mayor of the Liverpool City Region with a view to restoring a better and more direct service to Arrowe Park Hospital from those areas of southern Wirral most affected.”

Council requests that, in order to respond to the Motion, the Leader of the Council...

- takes steps to look into and raise these concerns and
- helps set up and progress meetings between Wirral South members, along with officers that serve the Liverpool City Region at a senior level ...with the aim of securing solutions to the problems experienced by people in southern Wirral and the needs of staff who require convenient and reliable services to enable them to travel to and from work”.

Having applied the guillotine, the Council did not debate this matter.

Resolved (60:0) (One abstention) – That the motion be approved.

32 **MOTION - SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL ACTION TO TACKLE OBESITY**

Having previously declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item, Councillor Paul Hayes vacated the Council Chamber and did not take part in the voting thereon (minute 14 refers).

Christine Jones moved and Councillor Bernie Mooney seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

- (1) The Council notes that obesity is a major public health concern with the majority of adults in England being overweight or obese and more than a third of our 10 to 11 years old being overweight or obese.
- (2) It is estimated that obesity is responsible for more than 30,000 deaths each year. Being overweight or obese increases the risk of a wide range of diseases including Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease and many cancers. It also negatively affects quality of life and mental wellbeing.
- (3) No one is ‘immune’ to obesity, but some people are more likely to become overweight or obese than others. Factors of income, social deprivation and ethnicity all have an important impact on the likelihood of person becoming obese. Data from the National Child Measurement Programme shows that obesity levels in the most deprived 10% of children is approximately double that of the least deprived 10%.
- (4) Obesity places a huge strain on health and social care as well as having a broader impact on economic development. The estimated

annual cost of obesity in England is around £32.5billion and if no action is taken these costs will increase.

- (5) Council recognises that the causes of obesity are complex. Environmental, physiological and behavioural factors all interrelate and play their part in influencing the prevalence of obesity. This is why at a local level Wirral has a wide range of activities to tackle obesity. This includes providing a 0 to 19 service working with schools and 0-5s to be health promoting, a number of services providing weight management support and having health promoting planning policies.
- (6) However, Council feels more needs to be done by national government to support the efforts of local areas and we call upon the Government to lead on three areas of action:
- (7) **Firstly Implement the Food Revolution actions.**
- (8) This is a campaign led by the Jamie Oliver Food Foundation and its Australian partners at the Good Foundation. It is committed to inspiring real, meaningful, positive change in the way children access, consume and understand food.
- (9) Working with medical experts and professionals Food Revolution has created a six-point plan for action which they believe governments across the world should be working towards as a priority.
- (10) Council welcomes that the UK government has implemented the first action, which is the introduction of a sugary drink tax, but strongly advocate that the government also acts upon the other 5 actions. These are;
- (11) 1. The introduction of sugar reformulation targets to reduce excessive sugar in all products and have penalties for non-compliance;
- (12) 2. Introduce fair marketing which would include a ban on food advertising targeted at children and cutting promotion of sugary products;
- (13) 3. Making clearer labelling mandatory with clear on-pack sugar information, such as traffic light labelling and having restrictions on portion sizes for confectionary and sugary drinks;
- (14) 4. Improving access to healthy food at schools for all children and prioritise food education in schools and,
- (15) 5. Providing greater education including clear national guides on what nutritious daily meals look like. This would include practical resources for both parents and teachers and better consistency between the classroom and home.

(16) Secondly Tackle Food Poverty

- (17) An affordable healthy diet is vital for good health. However, we know many people, due to rising food prices, low wages and reductions in benefits, have an insufficient income to buy healthy food. This ‘food poverty’ trap results in families cutting back on fresh fruit and vegetables and buying cheap, sweet, fatty, salty, or processed foods that need little cooking.
- (18) This results in poorer people having worse diets, greater levels of obesity and poorer health. Across the Liverpool City region many families are living in poverty and there is high demand on food banks.
- (19) Whilst there is considerable work across the Liverpool City Region (LCR) to tackle poverty, illustrated in the commitment set out in The LCR Child Poverty and Life Chances Strategy, more needs to be done nationally. We call upon the UK government as the world’s sixth largest economy to do more to end food poverty. Food banks should not become a substitute for an effective welfare system and fair work which includes earning a living wage.

(20) Thirdly introduce a fairer and greater obesity focus of the use of sugar levy funding

- (21) Council welcomes the government’s sugary drinks levy with the money raised to improve PE and sport for primary-aged pupils to encourage healthy and active lifestyles.
- (22) The funding is to be allocated directly to primary schools, based on the number of pupils in years 1 to 6. There is no adjustment for deprivation. We believe to make the greatest impact the funding should be weighted to those with greatest health needs. The National Child Measurement Programme figures show it is the areas with greater deprivation which have a comparably higher proportion of children who are obese, compared to areas in the least deprived areas. If the funding was allocated direct to Local Authorities, rather than to individual schools, there would be greater potential to ensure resources were utilised to meet the needs across the local area.
- (23) Furthermore as obesity is influenced by both energy expended and energy consumed to tackle obesity we would like to see the criteria for this funding to also include activities which will help children and families make healthier food and drink choices.
- (24) In conclusion we strongly believe that more needs to be done on a national level to address the public health issue of obesity.

- (25) This Council therefore agrees that the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health should write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and ask him to give healthy weight a greater priority by:
- (26) Implementing all of the Food Revolution actions;**
(27) Tackling Food Poverty and,
(28) Having a fairer and greater obesity focus of the use of sugar levy funding including allocation to Local Authorities rather than to individual schools

Councillor Chris Blakeley, in the absence of Councillor Adam Sykes, moved and Councillor Wendy Clements seconded the following amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(9) such that the Motion be approved subject to -

In paragraph 7, delete the word 'Implement' and insert the word 'Review'; and insert the words "with a focus on promoting healthy choices" to the end of the paragraph;

In paragraph 10, delete the words "acts upon" and insert the words "investigates the potential benefits, keeping in mind maintaining choice for citizens, of";

In paragraph 17, delete the words "However, we know many people, due to rising food prices, low wages and reductions in benefits, have an insufficient income to buy healthy food. This 'food poverty' trap results in families cutting back on fresh fruit and vegetables and buying cheap, sweet, fatty, salty, or processed foods that need little cooking.";

in paragraph 18, delete the words "This results in" and insert the words "Evidence shows";

Insert the following words after paragraph 20 - "The cost of a £1 cheeseburger could also buy a kilo of sweet potatoes, two kilos of carrots or 10 apples, a 2017 study showed. Whilst, acknowledging the energy costs of cooking meals, healthier choices are still cheaper than their more unhealthy counterparts. Data from 78 common food products across Tesco and Asda found that healthier options are generally cheaper than healthier alternatives. In fact, it was found that subsidising healthy foods would be unlikely to change eating habits and would instead transfer money from the poor to the rich. Therefore, more must be done to understand the reasons behind this phenomenon without jumping to conclusions that fit an ideological narrative.";

In paragraph 22, delete the words "There is no adjustment for deprivation" and "The National Child Measurement Programme figures show it is the areas with higher greater deprivation which have a comparably higher proportion of

children who are obese, compared to areas in the least deprived areas. If the funding was allocated direct to Local Authorities, rather than to individual schools, there would be greater potential to ensure resources were utilised to meet the needs across the local area.”;

In paragraph 26, delete the word “Implement” and insert “Review”; and add the words “with a focus on promoting healthy choices, while respecting freedom of choice”;

In paragraph 28, delete the words “including allocation to Local Authorities rather than to individual schools”; and

Insert a final paragraph to the motion “Council also notes that, as well as healthier food options, promoting more active lifestyles including walking, running, cycling and dog walking also have a part to play and therefore Council believes that those on the lowest incomes should not be discouraged from using Wirral’s leisure and recreation facilities including through the imposition of parking charges at our country parks”.

Having applied the guillotine the Council did not debate this matter.

The amendment was put and lost (17:42) (One abstention).

The motion was put and carried (59:0) (One abstention).

Resolved (59:0) (One abstention) – That the motion be approved.

33 **MOTION - CAMPAIGN FOR A PEOPLE'S VOTE**

Having previously declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item, Councillor Phill Brightmore vacated the Council Chamber and did not take part in the voting thereon (minute 14 refers).

Councillor Allan Brame moved and Councillor Dave Mitchell seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

“Council notes that two years have passed since the EU Referendum and little concrete progress has been made in negotiating the terms of the United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the EU.

Council:

- (a) recognises the significant support it has received through EU funding over many years;
- (b) recalls that a clear majority of Wirral residents voted to remain in the EU;
- (c) notes the stark warnings from companies such as Airbus, Vauxhall Motors, Jaguar Land Rover and BMW about the impact of Brexit on British manufacturing;

- (d) recognises the mounting popular concern at the prospect of leaving the EU with either a bad deal or no deal at all;
- (e) notes the participation of over 100,000 people in the march for a People's Vote in London on 23 June;
- (f) shares the anxiety of EU citizens living in the Wirral who feel unwelcome in the land where they have made their homes, and uncertain about their future;

and accordingly supports the call for a People's Vote on the final Brexit deal with an option to remain in the EU, and urges Wirral's MPs to join the campaign for a People's Vote in the interests of the residents and businesses on Wirral".

Councillor Stuart Whittingham moved and Councillor Steve Foulkes seconded the following amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(9) such that the Motion be approved subject to the deletion of the final paragraph and its replacement with –

"Council believes that it is of grave concern that, when challenged by business over the threat to jobs and investment, a Cabinet Minister should use a four letter expletive to describe his apparent approach towards this country's business interests. The Financial Times summed this up in that: "It may have been a casual aside but it was also a revealingly contemptuous one, not least in its indifference to the fate of Airbus's [and other industrial] UK staff. This is the strategic nihilism of a spoiled child lashing out."

Council is therefore of the view that an open joint letter should be sent from the leaders of the Wirral political parties to Theresa May, stressing the importance of employers such as Airbus, Vauxhall and Jaguar Land Rover to Wirral, the wider region and the potentially devastating effect on those businesses, the wider supply chain and our local economy in the event of the UK leaving the EU with a bad deal or no deal. The letter should also set out that any deal with the EU must encompass the following:

- (a) Put the national interest first
- (b) Prioritise jobs and living standards
- (c) Protect rights at work
- (d) Protect environmental standards
- (e) Provide certainty to EU nationals living here in the UK and UK nationals who have chosen to live elsewhere in the EU
- (f) Give a meaningful role to Parliament throughout negotiations."

Having applied the guillotine the Council did not debate this matter.

The amendment was put and carried (35:24) (One abstention).

The substantive motion, as amended, was put and carried (36:23) (One abstention).

Resolved (36:23) (One abstention) –

Council notes that two years have passed since the EU Referendum and little concrete progress has been made in negotiating the terms of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU.

Council:

- (a) recognises the significant support it has received through EU funding over many years;**
- (b) recalls that a clear majority of Wirral residents voted to remain in the EU;**
- (c) notes the stark warnings from companies such as Airbus, Vauxhall Motors, Jaguar Land Rover and BMW about the impact of Brexit on British manufacturing;**
- (d) recognises the mounting popular concern at the prospect of leaving the EU with either a bad deal or no deal at all;**
- (e) notes the participation of over 100,000 people in the march for a People's Vote in London on 23 June;**
- (f) shares the anxiety of EU citizens living in the Wirral who feel unwelcome in the land where they have made their homes, and uncertain about their future;**

Council believes that it is of grave concern that, when challenged by business over the threat to jobs and investment, a Cabinet Minister should use a four letter expletive to describe his apparent approach towards this country's business interests. The Financial Times summed this up in that: "It may have been a casual aside but it was also a revealingly contemptuous one, not least in its indifference to the fate of Airbus's [and other industrial] UK staff. This is the strategic nihilism of a spoiled child lashing out."

Council is therefore of the view that an open joint letter should be sent from the leaders of the Wirral political parties to Theresa May, stressing the importance of employers such as Airbus, Vauxhall and Jaguar Land Rover to Wirral, the wider region and the potentially devastating effect on those businesses, the wider supply chain and our local economy in the event of the UK leaving the EU with a bad deal or no deal. The letter should also set out that any deal with the EU must encompass the following:

- (a) Put the national interest first**
- (b) Prioritise jobs and living standards**
- (c) Protect rights at work**
- (d) Protect environmental standards**

- (e) **Provide certainty to EU nationals living here in the UK and UK nationals who have chosen to live elsewhere in the EU**
- (f) **Give a meaningful role to Parliament throughout negotiations.**

34 **MOTION - REMEMBERING SREBRENICA**

Councillor Phil Davies moved and Councillor Stuart Whittingham seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

“This Council:

- Notes that 2018 is the twenty-third anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which saw over 8,000 Muslim men and boys killed by Serbian nationalist forces.
- Notes that in 2009 the European Parliament passed a resolution that 11 July should be recognised as the day of commemoration of the Srebrenica genocide all over the EU; and in 2015 urged the development of educational and cultural programmes that promote an understanding of the causes of such atrocities and raise awareness about the need to nurture peace and to promote human rights and interreligious tolerance. All UK political parties have supported the work of Remembering Srebrenica in this regard.
- Applauds the work of those involved in the pursuit of justice for the victims and their surviving relatives, including the International Commission of Missing People (ICMP) and the Mothers of Srebrenica, whose courage and humility in the face of unthinkable horror is an inspiration to us all.
- Commends the work of the charity, Remembering Srebrenica, in raising awareness of this tragic and preventable genocide and working in communities across Britain to help them learn the lessons of Srebrenica.

The Council resolves to:

- Support Srebrenica memorial events in July each year throughout Wirral as part of the UK-wide Remembering Srebrenica Memorial Week.
- Support the work of Remembering Srebrenica in communities across Wirral to learn the lessons from Srebrenica to tackle hatred and intolerance to help build a better, safer and more cohesive society for everyone.
- Support the work of schools and education providers to bring the lessons of Srebrenica to young people across Wirral”.

Councillor Wendy Clements moved and Councillor Paul Hayes seconded the following amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(9) such that the motion be approved subject to the insertion after the final bullet point of a further bullet point followed by the words

“Thanks Wirral’s Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education (SACRE) and their colleagues for the work to mark Holocaust Memorial Day which includes the genocide in Srebrenica”.

Having applied the guillotine the Council did not debate this matter.

The mover of the motion accepted the amendment which was then put and carried (61:0).

The Motion, as amended, was put and carried.

Resolved (61:0) –

This Council:

- **Notes that 2018 is the twenty-third anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which saw over 8,000 Muslim men and boys killed by Serbian nationalist forces.**
- **Notes that in 2009 the European Parliament passed a resolution that 11 July should be recognised as the day of commemoration of the Srebrenica genocide all over the EU; and in 2015 urged the development of educational and cultural programmes that promote an understanding of the causes of such atrocities and raise awareness about the need to nurture peace and to promote human rights and interreligious tolerance. All UK political parties have supported the work of Remembering Srebrenica in this regard.**
- **Applauds the work of those involved in the pursuit of justice for the victims and their surviving relatives, including the International Commission of Missing People (ICMP) and the Mothers of Srebrenica, whose courage and humility in the face of unthinkable horror is an inspiration to us all.**
- **Commends the work of the charity, Remembering Srebrenica, in raising awareness of this tragic and preventable genocide and working in communities across Britain to help them learn the lessons of Srebrenica.**

The Council resolves to:

- **Support Srebrenica memorial events in July each year throughout Wirral as part of the UK-wide Remembering Srebrenica Memorial Week.**
- **Support the work of Remembering Srebrenica in communities across Wirral to learn the lessons from Srebrenica to tackle hatred and intolerance to help build a better, safer and more cohesive society for everyone.**
- **Support the work of schools and education providers to bring the lessons of Srebrenica to young people across Wirral”.**
- **Thanks Wirral’s Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education (SACRE) and their colleagues for the work to mark Holocaust Memorial Day which includes the genocide in Srebrenica.**

35 **MOTION - OUR NHS AT 70**

Councillor Phil Gilchrist moved and Councillor Dave Mitchell seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 -

“This Council records its grateful thanks to all those who work within and for our National Health Service as its 70th Anniversary is reached.

Council recalls the vision and contribution of those who helped to plan for this during the Second World War and in the years leading up to 1948.

Council recognises the considerable pressures that staff have faced in recent years, along with their work to tackle what used to be called the ‘winter pressures’ that now exist throughout the year.

Council is determined, therefore, that the Prime Minister’s recent announcements should be backed by genuine increases in funding. The concerns expressed by The King’s Fund and the Institute for Fiscal Studies should be considered and addressed.

Council remains anxious that the crisis facing social care funding is addressed as repeatedly called for by the Local Government Association.

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/nhs-funding-must-be-matched-social-care-funding-says-lga>

‘The long-term funding for the NHS needs to be matched by a significant investment in adult social care and public health services otherwise it won’t be as effective or as sustainable.’

Council, therefore, supports the work of that Association in making the case for the funding of local services as the Government plans for the Autumn Budget and next Comprehensive Spending Review”.

Having applied the guillotine the Council did not debate this matter.

The Motion was put and carried (61:0).

Resolved (61:0) – That the motion be approved.

COUNCIL

Monday, 10 September 2018

Present: The Civic Mayor (Councillor Geoffrey Watt) in the Chair

Councillors	RL Abbey	A Gardner	B Mooney
	T Anderson	P Gilchrist	T Norbury
	B Berry	JE Green	M Patrick
	J Bird	EA Grey	C Povall
	C Blakeley	P Hackett	L Rennie
	A Brame	P Hayes	L Rowlands
	P Brightmore	A Hodson	C Spriggs
	D Burgess-Joyce	K Hodson	J Stapleton
	C Carubia	AER Jones	P Stuart
	P Cleary	C Jones	M Sullivan
	W Clements	T Jones	A Sykes
	T Cox	M Jordan	T Usher
	A Davies	S Kelly	J Walsh
	G Davies	B Kenny	S Whittingham
	P Davies	A Leech	I Williams
	WJ Davies	I Lewis	KJ Williams
	D Elderton	M McLaughlin	S Williams
	G Ellis	J McManus	J Williamson
	S Foulkes	C Meaden	
	S Frost	D Mitchell	

<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	K Cannon	C Muspratt
		T Cottier	T Smith
		P Doughty	G Wood
		S Jones	

Prior to the meeting formally commencing and at the invitation of the Civic Mayor, Rev David Chester led the Council in prayer.

36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Council were invited to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any matters to be determined at this meeting and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of such interest.

Name	Item No. and Nature of Declaration
Councillor Steve Foulkes	Item No. 3 – Council’s Green Belt Policy (Minute No. 38 refers). Personal and prejudicial – by virtue of him being a member

of Magenta Living Board.
Item No. 3 –Council’s Green Belt Policy (Minute No. 38 refers).
Councillor Anita Leech Personal and prejudicial – by virtue of her being a member of Magenta Living Board..

Councillor Jeff Green then sought advice from the Director of Governance and Assurance, Philip McCourt, as a Board Member of Magenta Living. Mr McCourt advised that those members who had declared on their Register of Interests their management or financial interest in companies and organisations including developers already mentioned had a financial interest in the outcome of the Local Plan process of which this was a part and on that basis he had advised those Members they had a prejudicial interest and should not take part in the debate.

Item No. 3 – Council’s Green Belt Policy (Minute No. 38 refers).
Councillor Jeff Green Personal and prejudicial – by virtue of him being a member of Magenta Living Board.

In response to a question from Councillor Chris Blakeley, Philip McCourt then advised that had the Wirral Growth Company Partnership been in existence then any Members of that body would have had to declare a prejudicial interest for the same reasons.

37 **CIVIC MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Having previously declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the main item of business on the agenda, Councillors Steve Foulkes, Jeff Green and Anita Leech vacated the Council Chamber and did not take part in the voting thereon (minute 38 refers).

The Civic Mayor noted that apologies had been received from Councillors Kate Cannon, Tony Cottier, Paul Doughty, Sharon Jones, Christina Muspratt, Tony Smith and Gill Wood.

The Civic Mayor then invited Councillor Mike Sullivan to make a short personal statement.

Councillor Mike Sullivan addressed the Council stating that it was with some sadness that he had resigned the Labour Whip and thanked Members across the Chamber from all parties for their kind words of support. Although, having voted twice for Jeremy Corbyn to be Leader of the Labour Party, it was not himself who had left the Labour Party, but the Labour Party who had left him.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Phil Davies, then sought the permission of the Council to ask a question of the Director for Economic and Housing Growth.

A number of Conservative Members rose to request a 'card vote' and the Council divided as follows:

For the procedural motion (36) - Councillors R Abbey, J Bird, A Brame, P Brightmore, C Carubia, P Cleary, A Davies, G Davies, P Davies, W Davies, S Frost, P Gilchrist, L Grey, P Hackett, AER Jones, C Jones, T Jones, S Kelly, B Kenny, M McLaughlin, J McManus, C Meaden, D Mitchell, B Mooney, T Norbury, M Patrick, C Spriggs, J Stapleton, P Stuart, M Sullivan, T Usher, J Walsh, S Whittingham, I Williams, KJ Williams and J Williamson.

Against the motion (18) – Councillors T Anderson, B Berry, C Blakeley, D Burgess-Joyce, W Clements, T Cox, D Elderton, A Gardner, P Hayes, A Hodson, K Hodson, M Jordan, I Lewis, C Povall, L Rennie, L Rowlands, A Sykes and S Williams.

One abstention - Councillor G Watt (Civic Mayor).

Resolved (36:18) (One abstention) – That the Leader of the Council ask a question of the Director for Economic and Housing Growth.

Councillor Chris Blakeley, then with the Mayor's permission, read out a letter from Richard Mawdsley, Director of Development, Peel Holdings, to the Leader of the Council in which Mr Mawdsley had criticised the Council for 'grossly misrepresenting' the figures for new homes Peel Holdings were due to deliver.

The Leader of the Council then asked a question of Brian Bailey, Director of Economic and Housing Growth regarding the figures quoted in two of the motions before the Council of 6,500 and 6,450 new homes attributed to Peel Holdings to be built at Wirral Waters. How much credence and confidence could the Council place in these being delivered putting the figures in the context of completing a Local Plan which would satisfy a Government Planning Inspector?

In advance of Mr Bailey's response the Director of Governance and Assurance responded to a question from Councillor Ian Lewis and stated that as officers were not part of the debate and were not voting they did not declare interests, however any interests officers did have were declared through employment procedures and done so in writing to ensure there were no conflicts of interest.

Mr Bailey stated that the Council had a duty to identify sufficient land to accommodate the number of houses set out by the Government's guidance in

its formula. There was new Government guidance which now also set out a test of deliverability, not just identifying numbers but also numbers of completions in the period, especially in the first five years. The Council did have sufficient evidence from Peel Holdings for 1,100 homes to be delivered but it didn't have evidence beyond that 1,100 so far although the Council was in a consultation period and open to further evidence being produced.

Responding to further questions, Mr Bailey stated the need to look at all sites within the Borough and identify sufficient land supply to deliver the number of homes required, there was no test for greenbelt sites akin to what there was for brownfield sites. The draft Local Plan would be presented for an 'Examination in Public' chaired by an independent Government Inspector and had to be deliverable otherwise it might be deemed unsound. The consultation process was asking the public, partners and developers to come forward and respond to what had been put forward and the Council would then be open to looking and listening to these submissions.

38 COUNCIL'S GREEN BELT POLICY

The Civic Mayor introduced the item on the Council's Green Belt Policy for which three motions had been submitted. He suggested that the Council debate all three motions as one and on a motion by Councillor Phil Davies, seconded by Councillor George Davies, it was –

Resolved – That in accordance with Standing Order 12(2) all three motions be debated in one debate with separate votes on each.

In standing to move a Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7, Councillor Chris Blakeley sought the agreement of the Council to the variation of the Motion. The Council gave its agreement to the variation of the Motion as required by Standing Order 12(1), such agreement being given by general consent.

Accordingly, Councillor Chris Blakeley moved and Councillor David Burgess-Joyce seconded the following varied Motion –

“Council welcomes Cabinet's decision to finally commence preparation of the Local Plan, as first required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Council further notes that Cabinet have identified potential sites for development.

Council recognises that there are currently 6,000 empty properties in Wirral and that Peel Holdings have stated that they are on target to provide up to 6,500 homes on Wirral Waters by 2035, with five planning applications submitted since March 2018.

Council welcomes and supports the Leader of the Council's resolute commitment to protect Wirral Green Belt when he stated in 2017, ***"I am not prepared to allow our green belt land to be built on. I am resolute about that commitment. It is the jewel in Wirral's crown and greatly valued by our residents."*** (Wirral Globe 16th February 2017)

Council also recognises the valuable role Green Belt provides in halting urban sprawl and protecting our local environment.

Council welcomes both the current and draft revised versions of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) that state that the Green Belt serves five purposes:

- to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
- to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
- to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
- to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
- to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

Council also notes and supports the draft revised version of the NPPF which states that local authorities should regard development of new buildings on the Green Belt as inappropriate.

Therefore; Council requests the Cabinet to work with empty home owners, Peel Holdings and other developers including the Wirral Growth Company, in order to deliver Wirral's housing needs to ensure that there is no inappropriate development on Green Belt land.

Furthermore, Council considers that there is no requirement for any release of land for development from the Green Belt and calls on Cabinet to work to that end."

Councillor Pat Cleary accepted that in light of the revised Conservative motion, his amendment was now redundant and in accordance with Standing Order 12(12), with the agreement of the seconder, Councillor Allan Brame and the Council, the amendment was withdrawn.

Councillor Stuart Kelly moved and Councillor Dave Mitchell seconded the following motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

- “1. Council notes the report to Cabinet of 23 July 2018 – Core Strategy Local Plan – Review of Development Options; in particular, the resolution of Cabinet to authorise consultation in September of sites recommended for housing use.
2. The necessity to consult on sites for housing provision arises from the Government’s ‘Objectively Assessed Need’ (OAN) for housing in Wirral of 803 houses per year.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/household-projections#live-tables>
3. Appendices 5 and 6 of that report relate to a recommendation of potential release of land from the green belt to meet a perceived gap of 4,794 houses identified in table 3 of the report. Council recognises that fundamental questions have been asked by members of the public concerned about the accuracy of the population projections, the over ambitious assumptions about economic growth and the capacity of the sites being considered for release. Taken together with actual historic growth and building rates and the detailed nature of these contributions, Council considers that a detailed review is required of the work undertaken to date in order to justify any assumptions made.
4. Table 3 of that report makes allowance for 1,100 houses to be delivered at ‘Wirral Waters’ during the period of the plan (2018-2033).
5. Since the report was published and Cabinet resolved to begin the consultation, Peel Land and Property Group has published data which indicates that it is able to deliver up to 6,450 new houses within its site during the period of the plan.
6. Council considers that in light of the new data submitted by Peel Land and Property Group, there is no requirement for any release of land for development from the green belt and calls on Cabinet to review its resolution.
7. Council further agrees with Peel that ‘Wirral Waters’ can only be delivered with true and honest collaboration and genuine partnership working. They identify the fact that this involves a ‘whole place’ approach to regeneration including the planning and delivery in the wider underpinning infrastructure.
8. Council therefore calls on Cabinet to work with, rather than against, Peel Land and Property Group to this end.”

Councillor Pat Cleary moved and Councillor Stuart Kelly seconded the following amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(9)

Paragraph 3, insert the following at the end of the second sentence, i.e. after "...considered for release."

"In addition, there is considerable scope to reduce the number of empty properties across Wirral."

Councillor George Davies moved and Councillor Phil Davies seconded the following motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

"Council recognises that it has a legal duty to prepare a Local Plan which will guide and determine land use in Wirral over the next fifteen years.

Council notes with concern that the current Conservative Government has set Wirral a target of 12,000 new homes to be built in Wirral by 2035 which will be extremely challenging.

Council recognises the importance of the Borough's Green Belt in providing a vital amenity for Wirral residents and preventing urban sprawl.

Council accepts the conclusion of officers' technical analysis presented to the special meeting of Cabinet on the 23rd July which concluded that there is insufficient brownfield land to accommodate the Government's housing target for Wirral and that there is currently no alternative to reviewing the potential of land in the Green Belt to meet the shortfall in the Borough's housing and land supply if the Council is to submit a sound and legally compliant Local Plan to the Secretary of State.

Council therefore:

1. Reaffirms that developing Green Belt sites must always be a last resort and that every effort should be made to focus development on brownfield sites;
2. Rejects comments made by Tory Cabinet Minister, Liz Truss, as reported in the Daily Mail on the 7th August 2018, that planning laws should be ripped up so that homes can be built in the countryside.
3. Agrees to make representations to the Government against the issuing of top-down housing targets which fail to take into account the housing needs of areas like Wirral;
4. Agrees to continue to make strong representations to owners of brownfield land in the Borough to develop new housing as a matter of urgency and to examine all options available, including the use of compulsory purchase orders, to accelerate development of brownfield sites;

5. Agrees to write to Wirral's MPs to request that they lobby Parliament to introduce legislation to prevent land owners from land-banking;
6. Supports the timetable for submitting a Local Plan as set out in the report to Cabinet on the 23rd July;
7. Notes the process set out for ensuring consultation on Green Belt sites and encourages local residents to take part."

During the course of the debate, Councillor David Elderton presented a petition of some 521 Wirral signatories requesting that Column Road fields and Caldly Woods green belt be saved.

Following the debate and Councillors Chris Blakeley, Stuart Kelly and George Davies having replied, the Civic Mayor then moved to the voting on each of the three motions.

Prior to the vote on the Conservative motion, a number of Members rose to request a 'card vote'. A recorded vote was then taken on the motion and the Council divided as follows:

For the motion (25) – Councillors T Anderson, B Berry, C Blakeley, A Brame, D Burgess-Joyce, C Carubia, P Cleary, W Clements, T Cox, D Elderton, G Ellis, A Gardner, P Gilchrist, P Hayes, A Hodson, K Hodson, M Jordan, S Kelly, I Lewis, D Mitchell, C Povall, L Rennie, L Rowlands, A Sykes and S Williams.

Against the motion (30) – Councillors R Abbey, J Bird, P Brightmore, A Davies, G Davies, P Davies, W Davies, S Frost, L Grey, P Hackett, AER Jones, C Jones, T Jones, B Kenny, M McLaughlin, J McManus, C Meaden, B Mooney, T Norbury, M Patrick, C Spriggs, J Stapleton, P Stuart, M Sullivan, T Usher, J Walsh, S Whittingham, I Williams, KJ Williams and J Williamson.

One abstention – Councillor G Watt (Civic Mayor).

The Conservative motion was therefore lost (25:30) (One abstention).

Prior to voting on the Liberal Democrat motion Councillor Stuart Kelly confirmed that he would be happy to accept the amendment proposed by Councillor Pat Cleary. In advance of the vote on the Liberal Democrat motion, as amended, a number of Members rose to request a 'card vote'. A recorded vote was then taken and the Council divided as follows:

For the motion (25) – Councillors T Anderson, B Berry, C Blakeley, A Brame, D Burgess-Joyce, C Carubia, P Cleary, W Clements, T Cox, D Elderton, G Ellis, A Gardner, P Gilchrist, P Hayes, A Hodson, K Hodson, M Jordan, S

Kelly, I Lewis, D Mitchell, C Povall, L Rennie, L Rowlands, A Sykes and S Williams.

Against the motion (30) – Councillors R Abbey, J Bird, P Brightmore, A Davies, G Davies, P Davies, W Davies, S Frost, L Grey, P Hackett, AER Jones, C Jones, T Jones, B Kenny, M McLaughlin, J McManus, C Meaden, B Mooney, T Norbury, M Patrick, C Spriggs, J Stapleton, P Stuart, M Sullivan, T Usher, J Walsh, S Whittingham, I Williams, KJ Williams and J Williamson.

One abstention – Councillor G Watt (Civic Mayor).

The Liberal Democrat motion was therefore lost (25:30) (One abstention).

Prior to the vote on the Labour motion, a number of Members rose to request a 'card vote'. A recorded vote was then taken on the motion and the Council divided as follows:

For the motion (28) – Councillors R Abbey, P Brightmore, A Davies, G Davies, P Davies, W Davies, S Frost, L Grey, P Hackett, AER Jones, C Jones, T Jones, B Kenny, M McLaughlin, J McManus, C Meaden, B Mooney, T Norbury, M Patrick, C Spriggs, J Stapleton, P Stuart, T Usher, J Walsh, S Whittingham, I Williams, KJ Williams and J Williamson.

Against the motion (26) – Councillors T Anderson, B Berry, C Blakeley, A Brame, D Burgess-Joyce, C Carubia, P Cleary, W Clements, T Cox, D Elderton, G Ellis, A Gardner, P Gilchrist, P Hayes, A Hodson, K Hodson, M Jordan, S Kelly, I Lewis, D Mitchell, C Povall, L Rennie, L Rowlands, M Sullivan, A Sykes and S Williams.

Two abstentions – Councillors J Bird and G Watt (Civic Mayor)

Resolved (28:26) (Two abstentions) -

Council recognises that it has a legal duty to prepare a Local Plan which will guide and determine land use in Wirral over the next fifteen years.

Council notes with concern that the current Conservative Government has set Wirral a target of 12,000 new homes to be built in Wirral by 2035 which will be extremely challenging.

Council recognises the importance of the Borough's Green Belt in providing a vital amenity for Wirral residents and preventing urban sprawl.

Council accepts the conclusion of officers' technical analysis presented to the special meeting of Cabinet on the 23rd July which concluded that there is insufficient brownfield land to accommodate the Government's

housing target for Wirral and that there is currently no alternative to reviewing the potential of land in the Green Belt to meet the shortfall in the Borough's housing and land supply if the Council is to submit a sound and legally compliant Local Plan to the Secretary of State.

Council therefore:

- 1. Reaffirms that developing Green Belt sites must always be a last resort and that every effort should be made to focus development on brownfield sites;**
- 2. Rejects comments made by Tory Cabinet Minister, Liz Truss, as reported in the Daily Mail on the 7th August 2018, that planning laws should be ripped up so that homes can be built in the countryside.**
- 3. Agrees to make representations to the Government against the issuing of top-down housing targets which fail to take into account the housing needs of areas like Wirral;**
- 4. Agrees to continue to make strong representations to owners of brownfield land in the Borough to develop new housing as a matter of urgency and to examine all options available, including the use of compulsory purchase orders, to accelerate development of brownfield sites;**
- 5. Agrees to write to Wirral's MPs to request that they lobby Parliament to introduce legislation to prevent land owners from land-banking;**
- 6. Supports the timetable for submitting a Local Plan as set out in the report to Cabinet on the 23rd July;**
- 7. Notes the process set out for ensuring consultation on Green Belt sites and encourages local residents to take part.**

39 VACANCIES

The Civic Mayor asked the Council to note the changed political balance, in light of the resignation of a Member of the Labour Group, and in respect of which conversations would take place between Officers and group Leaders before the next meeting of the Council.

In respect of outside bodies and on a motion by Councillor Phil Davies, seconded by Councillor George Davies, it was –

Resolved – That Councillor Angela Davies replace Councillor Pat Hackett on the Liverpool City Region Employment and Skills Board.

Councillor Chris Blakeley queried whether the Leader of the Council was in a position to nominate a Chair for the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Although Councillor Phil Davies confirmed that he would be formally proposing Councillor Pat Hackett as Chair and Councillor Jean Stapleton as Vice-Chair, the Director of Governance and Assurance informed the Council that as there was no report before the Council, the matter would come back to the ordinary Council meeting in October.

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Agenda Item 4b

from: Councillor Chris Blakeley

74 Grampian Way
Moreton
CH46 0PZ

09th July, 2018

The Mayor
Wirral Council
Wallasey Town Hall
Brighton Street
Wallasey
Wirral CH44 8ED

TOTAL
15,033
SIGNATURES

Dear Mr Mayor

I submit this petition on behalf of two groups, Wirral Good Dogs and Peaceful Protests – Wirral Dog Bans who have come together to oppose the Councils proposals to implement a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

The petitioners state:

"If implemented this would introduce huge on the spot fines for dog owners who violate the new rules. We believe that **the new rules are draconian and unjustified** and will shut off these shares spaces to dog owners - something that will have a detrimental impact on our sense of community.

"The vast majority of dog owners are responsible and by implementing the PSPO, **the local council will be criminalising behaviour that is not really criminal.** For example, a dog walking on an empty beach, or a dog owner running out of bags, or a dog running into the middle of an empty sports area. Criminalising behaviour that is not really criminal makes a mockery of the Criminal Justice System and is arguably ethically and morally corrupt.

"We believe that Wirral Council do not have valid grounds to introduce this measure. There has been no data provided, no survey results provided or assessment made for each individual area and there has been no attempt to work with the vast majority of responsible dog walkers to combat any issue."

The lead petitioners are:
Ms Sarah Alexandra Ashworth,
Ms Amanda Lancaster,

Yours sincerely

Councillor Chris Blakeley

Councillor for Moreton West and Saughall Massie Ward.

PETITION OPPOSING PSPO'S

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>EMAIL</u> (If you consent to us contacting you?)	<u>SIGNATURE</u>	<u>ANY COMMENTS YOU MAY WISH TO ADD</u>
1	Jordan Page				
2	Alain Levy				
3	H Thompson				
4	C. Redmond				
5	C. Lopez				

COUNCIL

15 OCTOBER 2018

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Phil Davies
CABINET PORTFOLIO	Leader of the Council
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Eric Robinson, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

1 **IMAGINE WIRRAL: A YEAR OF CULTURE, CREATIVITY AND IDEAS**

I want to use this update to Council to highlight the spectacular success of our Imagine Wirral programme. At the outset of this initiative we wanted to put Wirral on the map, to create a calendar of events which would attract thousands of visitors to our borough and give our residents the chance to make fantastic memories. I hope the Chamber will agree with me that we have delivered everything we have promised and much more.

At the time of writing, we are making the final preparations for ‘Liverpool’s Dream’ – the final outing for the Giants anywhere in the world and the first time they have crossed the River to Wirral.

We are thrilled to have been able to play host to the Giants for this historic event. Working with our colleagues in the Liverpool City Region to bring major events like the Giants to our shores is exactly the kind of thing we should be doing. These events attract thousands of visitors to our region, boosting local businesses and helping local people and families create memories which will stay with them forever.

This event will be one of the most highly anticipated weekends of the year. Bringing it to our side of the River Mersey adds an extra, exciting dimension to the event and I am so proud we have been able to make it happen. I’d like to thank our colleagues in the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Arts Council England and – of course – the creators of the Giants at Royal De Luxe for everything they have done to make this possible.

To read much more about our Giant visitors, Members can check [Wirral View](#) or click the link for the [wider media coverage](#).

The visit of the Giants comes hot on the heels of another event which saw large visitors on our shores, when tens of thousands of people descended on New Brighton and throughout the borough to see the triumphant return of the Tall Ships.

As part of the Tall Ships Regatta, a family-friendly line-up of events took place in New Brighton and Birkenhead across the whole Bank Holiday weekend. One of the highlights was Animated Square on Sunday evening which saw Birkenhead Town Hall burst into life in a dazzling display of light and sound. Hamilton Square was

transformed with circus activities, street performers and circus entertainers in the build-up to the main event. The crowd were spellbound throughout the 3D projection onto the Grade II*-listed building which told the story of the town's people, places and history.

Read the full coverage of this fantastic event by [clicking the link](#).

During the summer we were also a key partner in the 'Lost Castles' event, which captured the imagination of the entire Liverpool City Region and even made an appearance on BBC's 'The One Show'.

An army of volunteers assembled for this unique arts project in West Kirby. Over 250 volunteers came together to prepare and build an enormous Viking stave church entirely from cardboard and tape in Ashton Park and thousands of people came to see it!

Although downpours and breezy conditions eventually proved too much for the structure, it provided a dramatic backdrop for family activities. Renowned French artist Olivier Grossetête designed a monumental structure for each of the six boroughs based on medieval forts or historic buildings which were in the region at one time or inspired by each borough's history.

More on the Lost Castles can be found [here](#).

The finale of our Imagine Wirral programme this year will be the return of the River of Light in November, as confirmed recently by the [Wirral Globe](#).

River of Light: The Elements will see the return of Titanium Fireworks, who wowed crowds last year with a jaw dropping display on Sunday, November 4. Titanium Fireworks took over co-ordinating the event last year and have previously worked on national events including the Mayor of London's New Year's Eve party, Edinburgh's Hogmanay and the opening ceremony for the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Finally, I am delighted to inform Council that Wirral has been chosen as 'Borough of Culture' in the Liverpool City Region for 2019. Our ambition is to use the year to build on the success of Imagine Wirral and boost the borough's profile locally, nationally and internationally.

The programme will create a sense of possibility, wonder and adventure in Wirral with unforgettable moments in all four seasons and will have the following themes at its heart: Discovery, Exploration and the Great Outdoors.

REPORT OF	Councillor George Davies
CABINET PORTFOLIO	Housing and Planning
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Brian Bailey – Corporate Director for Housing and Economic Growth

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relating to his portfolio.

1 GOOD QUALITY HOUSING THAT MEETS RESIDENTS' NEEDS

I want to start my update to Members this month with our Local Plan, which Members are aware is incredibly important. First, I want to thank the many hundreds of residents who have attended public meetings, written to Councillors and put their ideas, suggestions and concerns forward as part of the consultation process.

Making sure our Local Plan is truly local, underpinned with local knowledge and the views of our local people, could not be more important.

I also want to thank our officers, who have worked tirelessly at the many public meetings and consultation events to make sure residents have been able to ask questions and get immediate answers on this sensitive and vital piece of legislation.

It's clear that the potential impact on our Green Belt comes from the Government housing formula and target we have been working to. We have challenged that number in the past, and we were heartened recently to see the new ONS projections potentially significantly reduce the target and therefore the need to open up Green Belt land for development.

We do not know yet how Government ministers will respond to the ONS projections. We remain absolutely committed to delivering a Local Plan which is fit for Wirral – and delivering it in the timescale we have set out – and I pledge to keep all Members full informed as we continue to consult with local people and work with MHCLG.

For more on our Local Plan, Members can read the coverage in the [Liverpool Echo](#), the [Wirral Globe](#) and our [Wirral View](#) publication.

While it is clearly important to make sure we provide enough new homes in the future to meet our residents' needs, we must never lose sight of the need to enable our residents now to live in good quality, safe homes. That is why I was so pleased earlier this month when Cabinet agreed to extend the Selective Licensing scheme to four more areas of the borough.

The [Wirral Globe](#) reported this increased crackdown on rogue landlords earlier this month, and I hope Members of all parties will join me in supporting this important initiative.

The council has made 42 prosecutions against people who have either failed to obtain licences for their properties or fallen foul of conditions originally agreed to as part of its Selective Licensing scheme. The scheme requires landlords to agree to a range of conditions around the standards of their accommodation. Cabinet agreed this last week.

We will not tolerate Wirral residents being forced to live in poor conditions by irresponsible landlords. This licensing scheme is a good way for us to tackle this issue and, where a landlord does not live up to their responsibilities to their tenants, we will not hesitate to take action against them.

Wirral residents demand – and deserve – to live in good quality, safe and attractive housing. The availability of private rented accommodation has more than doubled in Wirral in the last 10 years and while we know that many of these properties are of an excellent standard, managed by responsible landlords, there are others that aren't up to scratch.”

Finally, I think it is important Members are aware of the work we are doing to bring empty homes back into use. Since April 2015 nearly 900 properties that had been neglected or left unoccupied by their owners have been returned to the housing market, many as a result of the help and guidance offered by the council's housing team.

An Empty Property Grant, worth up to £5,000, could help with refurbishment costs of a property located within a designated Selective Licensing area which has been vacant for at least six months. Individuals can apply for a maximum of three separate Empty Property Grants per financial year.

The council also supports empty property owners find tenants or even sell their property. Properties can be advertised to thousands of potential tenants through the council's Property Pool Plus website or buyers through the council's developers list.

Read more about these efforts in [Wirral View](#).

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Phill Brightmore
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Leisure and Recreation
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	David Armstrong – Corporate Director for Delivery Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

1 LEISURE & CULTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Members will be aware that we continue with our detailed review of all leisure, culture, parks and library services. Since taking on this portfolio I have been determined that every option on the table is fully investigated. I am unequivocal in my view that we find the best, most sustainable model of delivery for these vital services.

They are all unique, they are all valued and they all play a massive part in delivering our 20 Pledges and improving the quality of life our residents enjoy. That's why I will not accept or propose any option which does not allow these services to improve, to adapt to meet more modern needs, and thrive into the future.

We continue to review the external analysis we have had completed, alongside the many excellent ideas and suggestions we have received from hundreds of local people and of course our own dedicated workforce. I hope to start bringing forward initial proposals soon, which we will then use as a basis for more conversations and consultations with everyone who has an interest in these important services.

While this work is ongoing, it is equally important we keep maintaining our services to the highest possible standard. Therefore, I am pleased we have begun recruiting staff to enable our services to improve and become more commercial. I have also been delighted to confirm a series of major investments into our services in the past few months, totalling more than £2 million.

We have seen improvements at Woodchurch Leisure Centre, allowing for more swimming classes and instruction to take place. Woodchurch is well-loved by those who use it and in a central location which makes it ideal to become the main focus of our swimming education – a key skill which is also an excellent form of exercise.

I know some people were concerned about a possible reduction in service at Woodchurch Leisure Centre and I was pleased I was able to find an opportunity to take that proposal off the table. Woodchurch Leisure Centre will be remaining open as before, but we must encourage more people to use it.

I was also delighted to be able to deliver an investment of almost £800,000 to create a new artificial grass football pitch at Leasowe Leisure Centre. This shows yet again how we are focused on finding ways to develop and improve our leisure services.

Junior football participation has grown rapidly in the last 10 years, including boys' and girls' grass root teams, and the aim is to create a centre of excellence for girls' football in the region. As well as responding to increasing demand for football pitches this will also support our efforts to encourage more people to exercise from an earlier age and stay healthy for longer.

Another major investment is happening in the well-loved West Kirby Marine Lake. This is a landmark location and it's vital that people understand this council is investing and not abandoning the assets our residents' value. The West Kirby Marine Lake is of local, regional, national and international importance when it comes to water sports.

More about the [Woodchurch](#), [Leasowe](#) and [West Kirby](#) investments can be found on the Wirral Globe website.

Our parks were once again in the spotlight recently as 26 were winners of the prestigious Green Flag award. Taking their place on the list this year are Walker Park, Prenton and Meols Parade Gardens. The 26 nationally recognised awards mean the borough once more has the most Green Flags of any local authority in the North of England. The management of Birkenhead Park in particular is now being used as a model of best practice for the UK, and I hope all Members will join me in congratulating our staff for their continued excellence.

This international award is a sign Wirral's green spaces boast the highest possible environmental standards, are beautifully maintained and have excellent visitor facilities. The beauty of the parks highlights the hard work and dedication of the staff and members of the public who volunteer their time to keep them to this award-winning standard.

Along with its green flag award, Birkenhead Park has once again retained its Green Heritage status for its work on keeping the grade I listed parks historic characteristics at such a high standard.

Once again, this outstanding result showcases Wirral as home to some of the country's best parks and open spaces. I'm immensely proud of our parks as I'm sure residents are too. The credit for this incredible achievement should be shared by our dedicated staff but also the local heroes who give up their time to keep their local park such outstanding areas of natural beauty.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Angela Davies
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Jobs & Growth
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Brian Bailey – Corporate Director for Housing and Economic Growth

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to her portfolio.

A THRIVING LOCAL ECONOMY

At the start of this month, we reached a major milestone in our efforts to kick-start development at Wirral Waters. A major new housing scheme, comprising an initial 500 apartments, was agreed at Cabinet.

This is just the start. We know this first housing scheme will trigger further developments at the site, including a major care complex and further modern residential scheme. We're also improving the local infrastructure in the area, and the Wirral Waters One development will also include new retail options and local amenities for the people living in the new homes.

These developments are vital. We have been resolute in our commitment to brownfield developments first, as we continue in our efforts to protect Wirral's Green Belt.

We have been clear with every developer and landowner in this borough who has planning permissions in place: we will support you every step of the way, but we need you to build the homes you promised.

The Wirral Waters One proposal shows just how serious we are in our determination to get brownfield sites developed. These types of schemes are always difficult for private developers to make viable. The council has stepped in and made it work, securing national funding to improve local infrastructure and devising a commercial approach which will see the financing put in place.

It will also help Wirral in the longer term by generating ongoing revenue from the homes which are built which can be used to help unlock additional brownfield sites for development.

This is an exciting proposition which will play a significant part in helping us to deliver the new housing which the area so desperately needs and will also help kick-start even more development on one of the key regeneration sites in Wirral.

Read more about the Wirral Waters One development [here](#).

Work also continues on our exciting Wirral Growth Company initiative. This programme will create thousands of new jobs, alongside new housing developments, leisure and office complexes throughout the borough in key locations.

Final preparations are being made to the business plan and development schedule and we expect to bring forward initial proposals for consideration and consulation very soon.

I am incredibly excited to confirm to the Chamber that we may soon be welcoming Eureka! Children's museum to the Wirral Waterfront, after the scheme was successful in securing £3m from the Inspiring Science fund.

The forthcoming £11m centre, set to transform Merseytravel's Spaceport in Wirral, was one of two fund recipients in the Liverpool City Region, alongside Widnes-based Catalyst.

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) cash will be instrumental in developing the Eureka! brand's second UK visitor centre. The site is set to open in 2021 and will be turned into 2,200 sq m of interactive exhibition space with workshops, a shop, café and adjoining outdoor science park.

Eureka! Mersey will build on the success of the National Children's Museum in Halifax, which has welcomed more than 7m visitors since it opened in 1992. Eureka! has been a huge success in Halifax as a very popular visitor attraction with a serious remit to instill excitement and interest in science, technology, engineering and maths.

I'm sure it will help attract visitors to Wirral as well as inspiring our next generation. We have a long-term ambition to encourage more girls to study STEM subjects in school and having Eureka! here in the city region will definitely support that aim.

Read more about Eureka! In the [Liverpool Echo](#).

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Christine Jones
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Adult Care and Health
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Graham Hodkinson – Director of Care and Health

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to her portfolio.

WIRRAL RESIDENTS LIVE HEALTHIER LIVES

To start my report to the Chamber, I am delighted to bring excellent news from Sanctuary Support Living at Tollemache Road, the new state of the art respite centre for vulnerable people in Wirral.

At its first CQC inspection, just one year since it first opened its doors, it has been rated as 'Good' by inspectors.

The centre provides short-stay care and accommodation for up to 10 adults and was commended by the CQC for its support of personal choices and commitment to safety. The report noted individuals they had spoken to at the service, including residents, family and friends, felt safe and had no worries or concerns. Residents had call bells in their rooms to gain staff attention if needed, as well as assistive technology such as sensor mats.

One relative said: "We are able to go away and know [person] is in safe hands."

Also highlighted was the fact residents were supported to make as many choices for themselves as possible, with person centred support plans including preferences for personal care and how they like to spend their social time.

I hope all Members in the Chamber will join me in congratulating the staff in the new service for such an excellent achievement and wish them every success as they continue to improve and provide excellent services to our most vulnerable residents.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to provide Members with an update on a number of new initiatives we have launched to help Wirral residents live healthier lives. These include:

- The opening of Wirral's first recovery café, offering alcohol-free fun for people of all ages. Opened earlier this year Nightingales Café, in

Birkenhead, provides customers with a substance-free alternative to the pub beer garden this summer. Read more in [Wirral View](#).

- We have also worked in partnership with the NHS to make defibrillators more accessible at popular visitor locations across Wirral, with many now available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Eight new external defibrillator boxes, supplied by the NHS, have been installed – while seven existing defibrillators have been relocated from inside buildings to outside. For more information, including the location of the defibrillators, read [Wirral View](#).
- I am also pleased that in my own constituency we have been able to make dementia training available. Working in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society, the council's Wallasey Constituency Team has lined up a series of training sessions during October, November and December. More in [Wirral View](#) on this important programme.

Finally, I would like to encourage all Members to highlight the CCG's ongoing consultation into Urgent Care to their constituents.

This is an extremely important consultation, involving services which our residents rely on every day. Urgent care covers services that treat illnesses or injuries that are not life threatening, but where an urgent clinical opinion is needed within 24 hours. It includes services such as NHS 111, Walk-in Centres and Minor Illness/Injury Units as well as urgent GP appointments.

The proposals as they currently stand include a new way to access urgent GP and nurse appointments, a new urgent care service for children, and the opening hours of an Urgent Treatment Centre for Wirral.

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is asking residents for their views on its proposals for a new model of urgent care for Wirral and we must play our part in encouraging our residents to get involved.

There are many ways for residents to take part in the consultation, and I would encourage all members to visit [the website](#) to find out more.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Bernie Mooney
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Children and Families
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Paul Boyce, Director of Children’s Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to her portfolio.

1 VULNERABLE CHILDREN REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

I want to use my report to Council to provide Members with an update on our Improvement programme within children’s services. We have been unequivocally clear – delivering excellent children’s services for every young person in our borough is hugely important, it is our number one priority.

It is for this reason that we invested £20 million into our services last year – during a time of prolonged austerity, where every penny is squeezed, we made sure we found the money to deliver the services and support our youngest and most vulnerable residents deserve.

I am delighted to say this investment, this absolute unerring focus on improving social work practice and service, is having an impact. Ofsted continue to work with us regularly and their latest feedback shows just how far we have come.

The letter which Ofsted have published shows there is a clear and decisive movement towards an improved service to ensure the safety of our most vulnerable young people. There is still much work to be done on areas such as working with partner agencies, but in a relatively short space of time we have seen a significant change for the better in Wirral Children’s Services.

Members can read the full monitoring letter [here](#).

I am proud of the work we have done, I am pleased it has been recognised by Ofsted, but I am under no illusions that there is still work to do. We will deliver, and I promise to keep all Members informed as we continue to improve.

The inspectors also recognised the work the council has done to recruit more permanent social workers and highlighted “improved stability” within the department. Their letter also said feedback gathered from parents and professionals about conferences that they had attended were “overwhelmingly positive” and that parents “felt listened to”.

During their visit on September 4 and 5 the inspectors found that areas where the department had faced criticism in the past were also improving. In the letter they said: “Children’s electronic files are up to date and well recorded. Case notes, case

summaries, descriptions of activity and analyses are generally clear and give a good picture of case progress.” They also highlighted that “files show increasingly robust management oversight”.

You can read more about these developments in [Wirral View](#) and the [Wirral Globe](#).

I was also delighted recently to be able to launch a new service aimed at supporting the most vulnerable young people in the borough. The Adolescent Edge of Care Team will help teenagers deal with specific issues they may face in what can be a difficult time of their lives.

It can be a difficult time for a young person, and their family, and we are aiming to provide help tailored to their specific needs, and wherever possible allowing them to remain with the families and communities.

The effects of physical, emotional and hormonal development combined with a growing desire for independence and peer approval, can often be confusing for them and can in some cases lead to risk taking behaviour and even family breakdown.

The new service is offered seven-days-a-week, including evenings, and provides one-to-one support, group work, family mediation, respite, and placement support. To get support call 606 2008 and ask for the Adolescent Edge of Care Team.

Read more about this new service in the [Wirral Globe](#).

We also continue to invest in our services, and I want to highlight the excellent work by our Early Help services all across the borough. Over the past year, we have seen a surge in use of our children’s centres. One recent development I was delighted to attend was the revamped garden area at Brassey Gardens, a centre loved by many hundreds of local families.

More about that in [Wirral View](#) and I would also encourage all Members to look at our Early Help activities online at facebook.com/mychildcan.

Finally, Members will be aware that we continue to do all we can to recruit families to become foster carers and adopters. I am pleased to inform Council that 12 new families have now become approved Foster Carers in just the past two months, following our extensive campaigns.

I want to thank those families for giving up their time and their homes to support a vulnerable young person, and encourage every Member in this Chamber to help us as we make sure every child in our care has the chance to live in a safe, loving, supportive home.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Matthew Patrick
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Environment
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	David Armstrong – Corporate Director for Delivery Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

1 ATTRACTIVE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

I want to formally pass on my sincere thanks to the many thousands of local residents who took part in our consultation on proposals to implement a Public Space Protection Order.

From the start I made a commitment if any of the initial plans were overwhelmingly rejected by the public, they would not be taken forward in the final plan. When the consultation closed it was already clear the majority of Wirral residents do not want proposals for dog restrictions on small sections of beaches to go forward. As a result I confirmed that beach restrictions will not go ahead.

All other comments and representations we received about the ideas are being looked at and will be used to put together a final proposal. Proposals for sports pitches will be analysed on a pitch by pitch basis to ensure any future restrictions are right for residents.

The aim of any new rules that go forward will be to ensure that Wirral's beautiful open spaces can be enjoyed by everyone, including dog owners and their pets. Over the next few weeks, all the findings will be looked at in detail before a revised proposal is put together and considered at a meeting of the Cabinet in the near future.

You can read more in [Wirral View](#).

I also want to use my update to the Chamber to highlight a fantastic project our primary schools delivered over the summer months. 72 primary schools in our borough joined forces for a series of community eco events to tackle environmental issues in their local communities.

The 'Around the Wirral in 72 Schools' project was set up to show pupils they can really make a difference if they work together to protect the environment. Each school litter picked their way to their nearest neighbouring school, starting from

Clare Mount Specialist Sports College, Moreton and finishing with Brookhurst Primary School, Birkenhead on July 3.

£50 was also awarded to each school who took part to fund an eco-project of their choosing and they were encouraged to work in partnership with their eco school neighbours and share project ideas. More about this fantastic community initiative can be found in [Wirral View](#).

We continue our zero-tolerance approach to all forms of environmental crime. Recently, we have successfully prosecuted fly-tippers. I cannot understand why some people still think it is acceptable to illegally dump waste wherever they feel like it and I am pleased the person responsible in this case has been held accountable.

Fly-tipping is irresponsible and selfish and we have shown time and again we will use all powers at our disposal to robustly enforce environmental crimes.

We have also extended our contract to tackle litter-bugs in the area. The enforcement contract, which sees people served with Fixed Penalty Notices if they are seen dropping litter anywhere in the borough, has been in place since 2015. The new contract will see it extended to include the enforcement of other environmental offences, such as those covered under the 2007 Smokefree legislation – such as smoking in work places, including vehicles.

More in Wirral View on [litter enforcement](#) and [fly-tipping](#).

Finally, I have announced publicly recently that I have accepted a new job in London. Sadly, this means I cannot remain on the Council. I would like to use this report to note the exceptional work of officers in the Environment portfolio and across the Council.

Those I have worked with do Wirral proud and should be celebrated. They go above and beyond to make things right and serve the people of our borough.

I fully support the communities, officers and Councillors as they work to make the lives of the people in Wirral better. This is our shared aim and I wish everyone in that endeavour well.

Thank you all.

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Paul Stuart
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Law & Order
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Fiona Johnstone – Corporate Director for Strategy & Partnerships

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

WIRRAL'S COMMUNITIES ARE SAFE

The Safer Wirral Hub has now been operational for over one year. In that time, I am proud to say it has made a huge impact. This unique public sector partnership has helped deliver a 13% reduction in antisocial behaviour in Wirral, including a huge 27% reduction in youth offending.

The results so far are hugely encouraging, including an initial 38% reduction in anti-social behaviour. Over the course of a year this has stabilised at a consistent 13% reduction. Youth offending has been reduced by 27% with highlights including:

- 50% reduction in Public Order offences
- 80% reduction in Motoring offences
- 14% reduction in the number of first time offenders

The Safer Wirral Hub is truly innovative. We believe it is the only such operation of its type in the UK. The team extensively researched the best model – visiting Glasgow and Staffordshire among other places – and overcame huge data sharing barriers to create a truly integrated service.

Local communities have seen huge reductions in ASB, faster processing of early help measures to help the most vulnerable members of our community and most significantly Wirral now has the lowest number of re-offenders (15%) in the Liverpool City Region.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our staff who have worked so hard in making this new service a success. We are under no illusions that we have work still to do, but I do not believe we could have wished for a more positive start.

One such issue where we know residents want more action taken is on off-road or scrambler bikes. I am delighted to inform Members that Operation Brookdale – a joint operation with all partners – is in place to focus on areas where

communities are suffering from the illegal and anti-social use of scrambler bikes, quad bikes and other off-road vehicles.

Wirral Council works in partnership with Merseyside Police and other agencies to assist in identifying those involved and to take action where appropriate – but having information to act upon is key, so partners rely on members of the public reporting problem areas to them.

More on this important initiative is available in [Wirral View](#).

I was pleased to recently support the launch of the 'RED Heart' campaign in Wirral, in partnership with Wirral Change. The RED Heart campaign is a positive new movement to promote respect, equality and diversity in all of our communities. I'm really proud that we have been able to support it and to see the difference that it has made in local communities with lots of people from different backgrounds making a pledge

You can find out more on the RED Heart campaign by reading the full story in [Wirral View](#).

Finally, I would like to use this report to ask Members to encourage their constituents to support our Restorative Justice programme. Wirral Council and Merseyside Police are looking for Volunteer Facilitators. These facilitators play a crucial role in mediating between victims and offenders and resolving issues between the two.

Restorative justice brings those harmed by low-level crime or anti-social behaviour and those responsible into communication with one another. It empowers victims by giving them a voice, offering them the chance to meet with their offender to explain the real impact of the crime.

In Wirral alone, 69 referrals have been made to ROC Restore since February 2017. ROC coordinates the restorative justice scheme and receives referrals from the police, housing providers and the Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

To find out more about how you can get involved, visit roc.uk.com/volunteer. These courses fill up fast – so make sure to sign up soon so you don't miss out!

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Stuart Whittingham
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Highways & Transport
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	David Armstrong – Corporate Director for Delivery Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE FIT FOR THE FUTURE

I am delighted that this month the management of Wirral’s vital highway improvements and maintenance came back under council control. While our funding continues to reduce, we must make the best of what we have and continue to use our resources effectively to keep our highway network safe, in good condition and of a quality which encourages business and makes getting around our borough easy.

Routine maintenance – and work to fix many of the potholes on Wirral’s 1,100km road network – is well underway and improving the quality of our highways.

Wirral has secured £2.5 million from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to carry out a structured programme of maintenance across the borough’s roads in 2018-19. A further £563,000 is being spent in Wirral to tackle potholes.

A further £1.3m of investment, over more than 90 locations around the borough, is scheduled before September 2018, employing a range of specialist resurfacing processes, including HRA.

Alongside the planned works, a programme of reactive maintenance – mainly to address potholes – is taking place. In Wirral, with a set budget in place, work has to be prioritised according to risk to public safety; a dangerous pothole is considered to be one which is 40mm or more in depth, extending over an area in any one direction of 300mm and with sharp edges.

Members can use this [interactive map](#) to find out more about planned and current road improvements.

I was delighted to be able to agree a major investment in a council service to help residents with disabilities and special educational needs get to school, college and day centres.

We have invested £250,000 to modernise our Assisted Travel Service making it easier and more efficient for those residents that use it.

As part of the funding boost, a new website called - 'My Route' will be launched providing a single point of contact to communicate any updates or travel changes between service users, parents, transport providers and schools. With the new process, users will be able to receive immediate notifications of any changes made to drivers, routes or any last minute changes due to adverse weather or other unforeseen circumstances. This will help people prepare and to plan ahead, while maintaining safety and safeguarding standards.

Read more in [Wirral View](#).

It is also important to update Members on our ongoing work to replace every street light in the borough with a more modern, energy efficient LED bulb. We are expecting to appoint a contractor to deliver this important work very soon, with work starting as soon as possible. I will make sure Members are fully informed every step of the way.

Finally, I want to update Members on a new development in council-operated car parks. The council has joined forces with JustPark to introduce this cashless payment option for all users of its car parks.

For those who download the app and sign up to use the JustPark service, it will spell the end of that frustrating search for the correct change to pay for a parking space in Wirral and should also eliminate the risk of motorists overstaying and landing themselves a parking ticket. As well as allowing people to pay without cash, the app will also send drivers a reminder of when their payment is due to expire and will give them the option to top up from their phone wherever they are.

This new solution means it couldn't be easier for people to pay for and manage their parking in our public car parks. Machines will still accept coin and card payments, but this additional option means they shouldn't have to worry any more about tendering the correct amount or getting back to their vehicle by a set time. I think this development will be roundly welcomed.

More available in [Wirral View](#).

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Janette Williamson
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Finance & Income Generation
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Shaer Halewood – Director of Finance and Investment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to her portfolio.

DELIVERING A FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE BUDGET

Work continues on our approach to delivering a fair and sustainable Medium-Term Financial Strategy. Even in the face of continued austerity, and the projected complete loss of Revenue Support Grant, we will not compromise on our ambitions for Wirral.

Our financial strategy is about investment, not cuts. It is about using the money we have left to deliver for Wirral residents. It is about investing in the things which are most important to local people, and making sure that every pound we spend goes towards delivering the 20 Pledges and improving the quality of life our residents enjoy.

This is why I am so excited about partnership with the Centre for Local Economic Studies (CLES). Over the last 10 years, CLES has worked with many local authorities and wider anchor institutions such as universities, housing associations and the NHS, to undertake wealth building activities. Spanning procurement, employment, use of assets and deepening democracy, CLES's work aims to achieve wider social and economic value from anchor activity across each of the areas.

Working alongside the Council and every public sector agency in Wirral, CLES will help us keep more public money local. They will help us maximise the Wirral Pound, following a similar approach to what has been delivered in Preston to increase the amount of local services and support which is commissioned within the borough.

Local wealth building in Wirral will focus initially on procurement to help invest more of the Council's current spend inside the local economy. It will also involve speaking to other local anchors such as the College, Housing Association and big local businesses about their appetite to work together to build local wealth and improve well-being.

Wirral already performs better than most other areas for keeping spend local, with 34p out of every £1 spent being invested with local firms. The project with CLES is designed to increase that figure significantly – providing a major boost to the local economy.

I am committed to making sure that as we continue to deliver major developments, create jobs and boost the economy that the benefits are felt most by the people who live here. Economic growth is good, but inclusive growth is great.

I am also excited at the progress of our commercial strategy. Agreed at Business Scrutiny in September, we now expect to consider it at Cabinet in November. This strategy is about us finding new ways to fund our services. In the absence of Government support, we can either reduce what we do or we can grow our income. We have chosen the latter option.

We will commercialise what we do, we will find new and innovative ways of generating revenue, and we will use that money to support the vital, every-day services which our residents rely on. It is clear our approach is innovative and catching the attention of the wider Local Government sector.

Early in October I was delighted to speak at our 'Making Commercialism Work in the Public Sector' conference, held at Birkenhead Town Hall. The event saw public sector leaders from across the UK come together to share best practice, network and develop new ideas.

I am also pleased to inform Members that many council services are now being provided to the wider business community on a traded basis. A new brochure has been developed and I will be happy to share more information about the new products with any Member who is interested.

REPORT TITLE	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS' REPORTS
REPORT OF	THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides Members of the Council with an update on the work carried out by each of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The report includes contributions from each of the Committee Chairs covering the period since the previous report presented to council on 19 March 2018. Members of Council are requested to note the contents of the report set out in section 3 below.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are requested to consider the contents of the report and whether they have any questions for the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To update Council Members on the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and to provide an opportunity for Council Members to ask questions on the activities undertaken.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 N/A

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ADULT CARE AND HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.1 It has been a busy start to the municipal year for the Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and the Committee has continued to focus on strengthening the partnership approach to scrutinising local health commissioners and providers, upholding our duty to carry out the statutory health scrutiny function, and putting an emphasis on cross-party working to ensure the best health and care outcomes for Wirral residents.
- 3.2 One of my first actions as Chair of the Committee this year was to re-instate the Health and Care Performance Panel. It is clear that there is real benefit to be gained from 'drilling down' into the wider performance of our health and care partners. At the first meeting of the Panel in October, the improvement plans of the Wirral Community Trust and Wirral University Teaching Hospital will be examined. This work will ensure that Members and officers can work together to help improve recent CQC inspection ratings.
- 3.3 A major area of scrutiny for the Committee this year has been the ongoing work around the review of Urgent Care services provided in the Borough. Members of the Committee recognise that this is much more than a review of frontline urgent care facilities; transport, technology and a shift towards greater public wellbeing all have a role in the effective provision of services. We plan to ensure that no stone is left unturned in the pursuit of the best possible results for all. I have called for a special meeting of the Adult Care and Health OSC in November, with attendance from the Children and Families OSC, to ensure that all options are considered.
- 3.4 The Committee has taken part in a number of successful Member workshops over recent months. Notably, a workshop was held in July in order for Members and Wirral Health and Care Commissioning to discuss the re-commissioning of primary mental health services in the Borough. There were a number of areas where attending Members were able to provide comments and suggestions, which ultimately helped to shape the look of the new service specification. The Committee have also been keen to develop an innovative approach to scrutiny, and in August welcomed the Clinical Senate to provide an overview of how their independent clinical advice could assist in the scrutiny of health and care partners on Wirral.
- 3.5 A robust and challenging work programme has been agreed for this municipal year, including Member visits to Arrowe Park Hospital and Seacombe Birthing Centre (both

co-ordinated by Healthwatch). I am also fully committed to 'closing the loop' on a number of previous scrutiny matters, such as the integrated musculoskeletal triage service and repeat prescription ordering service and will welcome officers to upcoming Committee meetings to ensure that these services are embedding well and providing the best facilities for our residents. Future items for consideration by the Committee this year will also include Learning Disability Commissioning, the Annual Adults Safeguarding Report for 2017/18 and budget scrutiny.

Councillor Julie McManus

BUSINESS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY VICE CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.6 As part of the committee's work programme for the year, all opportunities for undertaking pre-decision scrutiny of Council strategies and policies will be explored. In July, a dedicated scrutiny workshop was convened for Members to consider the Council's Commercial Strategy before approval by Cabinet. The workshop also helped Members to develop an understanding of the approach Wirral Council is undertaking to become more business-like and taking advantage of commercial opportunities. The workshop identified the important role Members had in this area and agreed that further commercial training could be added as part of the Member development package. Committee will also ensure that income generated from the Council's commercial approach will also be closely monitored and scrutinised to ensure the strategy is delivering.
- 3.7 A Task & Finish scrutiny review to consider issues relating to camper vans in Wirral was agreed to be undertaken following a report presented to Committee which highlighted some of the concerns from Members and residents, particularly in New Brighton and Wallasey. Members also recommended that officers explore the possibility of introducing an 'Overnight Sleeping' ban on two cul-de-sacs in Wallasey. It is pleasing that this has progressed and an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order is being proposed. Committee will ensure that the impact of this will be reviewed as part of the ongoing work programme.
- 3.8 A scrutiny workshop on the latest developments of Wirral Waters has now been scheduled for all overview & scrutiny Members and this is one of the most important work programme items identified as part of the work programme. The workshop will allow Members to receive a presentation from both Peel Holdings and key senior officers on progress made. The success of Wirral Waters is vital for Wirral, so ensuring effective scrutiny in this area will help to maximise this opportunity.
- 3.9 A scrutiny report detailing the outcomes from two scrutiny workshops on the early impact of Universal Credit, which were convened earlier in the year, was discussed at Committee in September. The report was well received as Members who attended the workshops not only heard from key council officers, but representatives from a number of third sector organisations. These included Citizen Advice Wirral and Wirral Foodbank. Committee agreed that a number of suggestions made by these organisations to help minimise the impact of Universal Credit should be considered. Further workshops are planned as part of the Committee's work programme and, as previously agreed, will be open to all Overview & Scrutiny Members.

- 3.10 The Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee is receiving regular updates on the latest developments of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority which are vital for Members because of the impact this has on Wirral. Any areas of significance at a local level can be addressed by Members as part of the ongoing work programme.

Councillor Pat Hackett

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.11 The Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee has met twice since the Scrutiny Annual Report. The committee has continued receiving the Improvement Journey as a standing item, presented by the Corporate Director for Children's Services, Paul Boyce. The committee has added to the Improvement Journey, the monthly dataset currently received by the Improvement Board. In anticipation of the Improvement Board's eventual disbandment this will form a part of each subsequent Improvement Journey Update.
- 3.12 Key Stage 2 came to committee in September and provided a summary and detailed analysis for the pupil outcomes at the age of 5 (Good level of development), the age of 7 (Key Stage 1 SATs) and at the age of 11 (Key Stage 2 SATs). Included was a detailed report which outlined the attainment and progress for pupils with SEND. Committee also received a report on Home Education on Wirral and noted that there was an increase in elective home education compared to the previous year. Members explored the reasons for this, as well as what processes were in place to monitor the progress of children in home education and support parents who made this choice.
- 3.13 The committee continues with its programme of Reality Check visits. On 30th July, a visit to Cheshire Lines Building took place. Members were given a tour of the building, a demonstration of Agile Working equipment and had the opportunity to talk to staff. A number of initial operational challenges were addressed. Members also explored the positive effects of co-location on the speed of decision making and consistency of practice. Members noted that the move was a positive step in improving Children's Social Care and also made recommendations for improvement.
- 3.14 Joint workshops for Members of both the Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee took place on 18th July 2018 to enable Members to gain an understanding of the Clinical Senate and how it may benefit future work programme items through its role as an impartial advisory body. Further joint workshops for Members took place in July and August to involve members in the proposed 'Improving Access to Psychological Therapies' (IAPT) re-tender, and the future overall mental health procurement exercise. A number of comments and recommendations were made and it was agreed that a future workshop to look at the provision of mental health service for young people on Wirral would be held.
- 3.15 Two further workshops are taking place. The first on Risk Awareness and this is open to all non-executive members. The second is for Children & Families OSC

Members and this will focus on Mental Health Provision for Children in Wirral. This is scheduled for October 2018

Councillor Tom Usher

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY CHAIR'S REPORT

- 3.16 The Committee began the municipal year focussing on a number of key issues very early on. In July, Committee convened for a Call-in of the Environmental Enforcement Contract being awarded to Kingdom. The meeting resulted in meaningful discussions around environmental enforcement issues. Although Committee agreed to uphold the Cabinet decision, Members supported the role that scrutiny has in monitoring how the Council manages the contract and the importance of scrutinising performance data. Moving forward, the Committee will now monitor performance data as a standing item at each Committee meeting. Kingdom has also been invited to a future meeting to deliver a presentation on enforcement activities and this will allow Members to ensure scrutiny on the key issues can be undertaken effectively.
- 3.17 Committee has also agreed to undertake a Task & Finish scrutiny review on recycling and this has been added to the work programme. Members benefitted from a presentation delivered at Committee which not only gave an informative background on recycling in Wirral but also an overview of Wirral's current performance and its action plans. A review panel has been established and the review will be commencing shortly.
- 3.18 In previous municipal years, the need for governance and Member oversight of flood and coastal erosion risk management activities was identified at Committee meetings. Committee has now agreed to revised terms of reference for the Wirral Flood and Water Management Partnership which now ensures there is an established formal scrutiny link in place. Three Members of the Committee will sit on the Partnership to provide that oversight. The Partnership includes representatives from key organisations, including United Utilities, Environment Agency and Merseyside Police. Council representation is through the Cabinet Member for Environment and officers from a number of council services. Any issues for scrutiny can be reported and discussed at Committee.
- 3.19 A number of items have been heard at Committee at the first two meetings. As the Council continues to develop its Local Plan, Committee remains keen to retain updates on this at each Committee meeting to ensure that Members have oversight on the developments. Committee was also presented with the draft Single Use Wirral Plastic Free Policy as part of pre-decision scrutiny and this was welcomed by all Members and endorsed by Committee for referral to Cabinet.

Councillor Tony Jones

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are none arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are none arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There are none arising from this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 N/A

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None - the report is for information only.

REPORT AUTHOR: Report compiled by:
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APPENDICES – N/A

REFERENCE MATERIAL – N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	19 March 2018
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	11 December 2017
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	16 October 2017
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	20 March 2017
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	19 December 2016
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair's Report to Council	17 October 2016
Scrutiny Annual Report to Council	11 July 2016

COUNCIL

15 OCTOBER 2018

SUBJECT:	REVISION TO THE APPOINTMENT AND CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES 2018 / 2019
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND ASSURANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise the Council on the allocation of committee places to political groups following the resignation of a Member of the Labour Group to become an Independent member and to request the Council, in accordance with the relevant statutory provisions and the terms of the Constitution, to allocate such places proportionately for the remainder of this municipal year.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Council is requested to:

- (1) agree the revised constitution and membership of committees for the remainder of the 2018/19 municipal year (including deputies), having regard to the political proportionality requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and relevant case law;
- (2) agree the appointment of chairs and, if considered appropriate, vice-chairs.
- (3) agree that the names of appointees to Committees may be given to the Director of Governance and Assurance, following this meeting, if not already done so.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To comply with proportionality requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and relevant case law.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options were considered beyond those outlined in the report.

3.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

3.1 Proportionality

- 3.1.1 Members must have regard to the requirements of section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and the relevant regulations (which deal with political balance on committees and sub-committees), and the terms of the High Court judgment in the case of R v Brent LBC ex-parte Gladbaum and Wood (which requires the relevant parent committee, rather than the Council, to appoint members of sub-committees and panels).

- 3.1.2 The political composition of the Council following the resignation of a Member of the Labour Group to become an Independent Member is as follows:

Labour	38 seats	(57.58% of the 66 seats)
Conservative	21 seats	(31.82%)
Liberal Democrat	5 seats	(7.58%)
Green	1 seat	(1.51%)
Independent	1 seat	(1.51%)

- 3.1.3 Applying the percentages in (3.1.2) above to the overall number of committee places (Members of the Cabinet are not included in those calculations) and based upon a total of **133** committee places, the three political groups, the Green Party member and the Independent member would be entitled to a **total** of committees places as shown below:

Labour	76.58 rounded up to	77
Conservative	42.32 rounded down to	42
Liberal Democrat	10.07 rounded down to	10
Green	2.01 rounded down to	2
Independent	2.01 rounded down to	2

- 3.1.4 The Labour Group will therefore lose two committee places and the Independent Member will be entitled to two committee places.

- 3.1.5 Applying the arithmetical entitlement to **individual** committees would result in the following allocations / adjustments:

Committee	Places	Lab	Con	L/Dem	Green	Ind
Audit and Risk Management	9	5	3	1		
Employment and Appointments	8	5	2	1		
Licensing Act 2003	15	10 9	4	1		1
Licensing, Health & Safety and General Purposes	9	5	3	1		
Pensions	10	6	3	0	1	
Planning	13	7	4	1	1	
Standards & Constitutional Oversight	9	5	3	1		
Overview & Scrutiny: Business	15	9 8	5	1		1
Overview & Scrutiny: Environment	15	9	5	1		
Overview & Scrutiny: Adult Social Care	15	9	5	1		
Overview & Scrutiny: Children and Families	15	9	5	1		
Total	133	77	42	10	2	2

3.1.6 For two committees an arithmetical adjustment has been made to enable the new Independent Member to have his entitlement of 2 committee places.

3.1.7 These adjustments are made with regard to the requirement for the Labour Group, as the majority group on the Council, to maintain an overall majority on each committee and for each group's entitlement to committee places to be in accordance with those figures set out in (3.1.3) above.

3.2 Appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs

3.2.1 Standing Order 5A (2) (e) provides for the Council to appoint Chairs and Vice-Chairs to individual committees.

3.1.3 Deputies

3.3.1 Standing Order 25(6) permits the Council to appoint up to a maximum of eight deputies for each political group on Committees.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There is a legal requirement for the Council to appoint its committees proportionately.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT; STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There is a requirement under the Council's Constitution that the Annual Council meeting shall appoint Members to Committees.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT / CONSULTATION

8.1 It is for political groups to decide how they wish to allocate their committee places.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

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REFERENCE MATERIAL

Previous reports on the appointment of Committees and amendments made during the year and the Council's Constitution.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Council	15 May 2018
Council	15 May 2017
Council	17 May 2016
Council	19 May 2015

MINUTE EXTRACT CABINET 16 JULY 2018

11 QUARTER 1 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - CAPITAL



Councillor Janette Williamson, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, said:

“We are making major investments in Wirral this year – improving infrastructure, the public realm and the local environment which residents are rightly proud of.

This report demonstrates this investment, it provides a helpful summary of our progress, and makes it clear that we are using the resources available to us to their best effect to help improve services for local people”.

Councillor Janette Williamson introduced a report which provided an update on the progress in delivering the Capital Programme 2018/19 at the end of June 2018. It recommended that the Cabinet agreed the 2018/19 Capital Programme of £86.4 million which took into account re-profiling identified during the 2017/18 final accounts process together with any additional grant funding notified to the Council. Expenditure to date was £5.0 million. Appended to the report was the Capital Programme and funding 2018/19.

This matter was a key decision which affected all Wards within the Borough.

The report had been provided for monitoring purposes and no other options were being considered.

Councillor Phil Davies welcomed the capital schemes that were now coming to the forefront.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the spend at Quarter 1 of £5.0 million, with 25% of the financial year having elapsed be noted;**
- (2) the additional funding for the 7 schemes set out below be approved:**
 - **Pensby Wood fit out costs (£172,000)**
 - **Beechwood Recreation Centre Additional Works (£430,000)**
 - **Frankby Cemetery Extension (£90,000)**

- Floral Pavilion Audio Mixing Desk Replacement (£35,000)
- BAMN Commercial Settlement (£305,000)
- Floral Pavilion Chiller Unit (£55,000)
- The Oval Grandstand Structural Works (£55,000)

(3) the revised Capital Programme of £86.4 million set out below be agreed and referred to the Council:

Capital Programme 2018/19 at 30 June 2018

	Capital Strategy	Revised Programme	Actual Spend June 2018
	£000	£000	£000
Adult Care & Health	7,912	8,543	143
Children & Families	19,099	20,852	2,200
Environment	225	50	0
Finance and Resources	5,213	4,287	130
Highways & Transport	13,787	20,409	1,954
Housing & Planning	7,542	7,791	375
Jobs & Growth	16,785	18,697	0
Law & Order	0	83	38
Leisure & Recreation	3,998	5,679	117
Total expenditure	74,561	86,391	4,957

and
(4) the additional grants detailed below be agreed:

Significant Variations (> £0.2m) to the 2018/19 Programme

Scheme	£000
Adult Care & Health	
Pensby Wood - re-profiling from 2017/18 £0.310m; additional requirement £0.172m.	482
Children & Families	
Primary Places - re-profiling from 2017/18	742
Healthy Pupils Fund - additional grant allocation	245
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) - additional grant allocation.	206
Improvement Plan funded by the flexible use of capital receipts - re-profiling	1,100
Environment	
Cemetery extensions and improvements - re-profiling from 2017/18	226
Finance and Resources	
Windows 10 rollout - re-profiling - £0.1m carried forward from 2017-18 and £1.0m brought forward from 2019/20	1,100

Data Centre - re-profiling from 2017/18	339
Improvement Plan - originally to be funded from capital receipts but now from revenue	(2,700)
Fund to assist land assembly - re-profiling from 2017/18	246
Highways & Transport	
Bridges - re-profiling from 2017/18 £0.707m and additional grant notification £0.150m.	857
Dock bridges – re-profiling from 2017/18 £0.610m; additional private sector contribution £0.142m	752
Sustainable Transport Enhancement Programme (STEP) schemes - re-profiling from 2017/18	702
Transport for Growth - re-profiling £2.168m and grant confirmation £1.150	3,318
Street lighting and LED replacement - re-profiling from 2017/18	349
Transport Advisory Group feasibility studies - additional grant notification	245
BAMN Commercial settlement	305
Housing & Planning	(1,899)
Aids/adaptations/disabled Facilities Grants- re-profiling into 2019-20 £5.797m; grant confirmation £3.858m	2,011
Housing Zones Marginal Viability Fund (Northbank Wirral Waters) - grant notification	
Jobs & Growth	
Business Investment Fund - re-profiling from 2017/18	551
Investment in properties - re-profiling from 2017/18	1,156
Wirral Waters Investment Fund - re-profiling from 2017/18	205
Leisure & Recreation	
Soft Play Areas Leisure Centres - re-profiling from 2017/18	410
Beechwood Recreation Centre - additional requirement	430
Total	11,378

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Council – 15 October, 2018

Motions

The following motions have been submitted in accordance with the notice required by Standing Order 7(1) and are listed in accordance with Standing Order 7(2).

1. CCG PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON URGENT CARE *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Pat Hackett

Seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes

- (1) This Council notes the public consultation on urgent care which Wirral CCG launched on 20th September.
- (2) Council is totally opposed to any outcome which would see the closure of existing walk-in facilities and minor injury and illness facilities at current urgent care locations in Wirral.
- (3) Council believes that any new model of urgent care should enhance existing facilities rather than result in closures or reductions in services.
- (4) Council supports the objectives of enhancing patient safety, improving patient outcomes, making services more accessible and relieving pressure on Accident and Emergency Departments, but not with the introduction of any private healthcare provider or any of their shell companies to provide any type of service within Wirral, including walk-in provision.
- (5) Council encourages residents to have their say on the model proposed by the CCG and welcomes the CCG's offer to attend relevant Council scrutiny committees during the consultation period to allow detailed scrutiny of their proposals by members.
- (6) Any funding bids need to be scrutinised within the scrutiny process. Council also notes that on page 75 of the case for change document that a capital funding bid has commenced for an Urgent Treatment Centre. Council rejects this approach as it undermines the consultation process and believes it would have been better to have waited until the consultation is finished and the results known.
- (7) This Council is opposed to all forms of privatisation in the NHS and totally opposes the introduction of any privateers into our local health service be they based in the UK, America or domiciled elsewhere.
- (8) This Council is opposed to NHS staff being transferred to the private sector and will work to ensure that all NHS workers are employed by the NHS with their wages and conditions negotiated through collective bargaining with their employer, the NHS, and the trade unions. No contract should be signed with the CCG that leads to private, none-NHS organisations running NHS services or leads to a reduction in services at each current location.

(9) Council believes that all health care should be free at the point of need and all services should be delivered and administered by the NHS.

2. STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor David Burgess-Joyce

Seconded by Councillor Ian Lewis

- (1) Council believes there should be no place in public life for bullying, harassment and intimidation and regrets that any elected representative is subject to such behaviour.
- (2) Council notes that, since the local elections in May, three members have resigned from the Labour Group and the Member of Parliament for Birkenhead, Rt. Hon. Frank Field MP, has resigned from the Parliamentary Labour Party.
- (3) Council awaits the outcome of the request for intervention in the local Party by the Leader of the Council to the General Secretary of the Labour Party and resolves to assist in any inquiry should it be invited to do so.

3. KEEPING THE BUILDERS' HANDS OFF OUR FARMLAND *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Seconded by Councillor Stuart Kelly

- (1) This Council requests that renewed importance should be attached to the protection afforded to agricultural land as the responses to the Local Plan are considered. Land that is currently in productive agricultural use should not be removed from the Green Belt in view of the need to safeguard future food supplies.
- (2) Council believes that the wide fluctuations in our weather, from the extreme cold of March 2018 through the recent hot dry Summer, necessitate greater attention to national food security and supply. Council considers that these conditions and the recent developments in agricultural policy highlight the need to retain good agricultural land rather than bury it under extensive areas of new housing.
- (3) Officers are requested to consider the terms of the Agriculture Bill, published on 'Back British Farming Day' on 12 September 2018. This sets out how farmers and land managers will, in future, be paid for "public goods", such as better air and water quality, improved soil health, higher animal welfare standards, public access to the countryside and measures to reduce flooding. It proposes that farmers will be supported over a seven year transition period in a system that is intended to replace the Common Agricultural Policy.
- (4) In addition to this, the Government's policy statement 'Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit' was updated on 14 September 2018. When taken together, these proposals will affect farming across our nation and impact on the future use of agricultural land in Wirral. The uncertain future facing agriculture needs to be addressed.
- (5) Council recalls that Policy CS2 - Broad Spatial Strategy (page 19), paragraph 9 states that...

"The focus within rural areas will be on strengthening and diversifying the agricultural economy; re-using existing buildings and previously developed land; providing rural services within established settlements; supporting the beneficial use of best and most versatile agricultural land; providing for local food production and food security; and outdoor sport and recreation; subject to national Green Belt controls and Policy CS3."

- (6) Council also recognises that Chapter 15 in the July 2018 version of the NPPF 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment' states that ...

"170. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);*

b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland."

(7) Accordingly, Council requests that officers and Cabinet should give these issues further attention as the need for adequate protection required for Wirral's Green Belt and farmland becomes ever more pressing and apparent. These views should be submitted as part of the current consultation and drawn to the attention of Wirral's MPs.

4. SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FOR WIRRAL WATERS *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Pat Cleary

Seconded by Councillor Allan Brame

- (1) Council notes that existing Government policy, following on from the Paris Summit held in December 2017, includes steps to tackle climate change and emissions. This has been followed by the Zero Emission Vehicle Summit held in Birmingham in September 2018 and the signing of a declaration which set out the aim of...

'Building a smart infrastructure network, planning for the cities of the future today, embedding zero emission infrastructure into the fabric of our urban and rural communities, and enabling provision where consumers need it.'

- (2) Council believes that this ought to enable and encourage the development of new settlements where these principles are embedded and designed in from the outset.

- (3) Council also notes the proposals by Peel Holdings to incorporate a Streetcar light rail system as an integral part of creating a modern, sustainable transport scheme to support the wider aims of the Wirral Waters development and its belief that ...

"the Wirral Streetcar is a unique opportunity to provide a low cost, scalable, sustainable, light rail service that could provide a 'feeder' service into the Mersey Rail network."...

and

the existing support for the Streetcar concept from central Government and numerous other agencies.

- (4) Council believes the Streetcar proposals offer many potential benefits including:

- creating a sustainable, low carbon transport infrastructure for Wirral Waters;
- minimising car dependency and associated land use thereby freeing up more land for residential development and easing pressure on our precious green belt;
- linking existing rail and ferry transport hubs, thereby creating an integrated public transport system that will support residential, commercial and tourism objectives.

- (5) Council therefore believes that progress on the Streetcar scheme is important if Wirral Waters is to achieve its full potential for the people of Wirral and that effective cooperation between all relevant parties including Peel Holdings, Wirral Council and Merseytravel is essential to its future success.

- (6) To that end, Council requests that the Leader of the Council writes to Merseytravel and Peel Holdings requesting a meeting to:
- review progress on the Streetcar scheme
 - determine how best Wirral Council can practically support the delivery of the Streetcar scheme
- and reports back to Council on the outcome of this meeting.

5. NEW ONS HOUSING PROJECTIONS *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor George Davies

Seconded by Councillor Phil Davies

- (1) Council notes the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published new data indicating that Wirral will require 7,155 new homes by 2035, and that this is a significant reduction from the original figure of 12,000 new homes derived from the Government's national formula.
- (2) Council recognises that this revised figure vindicates the view of the administration, councillors and many concerned residents that the original figure was too high and was leading to a miscalculation of housing needs which threatened Wirral's Green Belt.
- (3) Council further notes that the Leader of the Council had previously written to the minister arguing that the calculation was incorrect, and advocating that Wirral should not have to slavishly follow the Government's national housebuilding formula and Council is currently awaiting confirmation from the Secretary of State that this new target more accurately reflects the housing needs of Wirral.
- (4) In light of the new ONS figures, Council agrees that work on the Local Plan should proceed with the aim of delivering new homes on brownfield sites and avoiding development on Green Belt land.

6. UTS FOUNDATION, HOYLAKE *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Andrew Gardner

Seconded by Councillor Tony Cox

- (1) Council acknowledges the efforts of the UTS Foundation in Hoylake in its work in helping improve the lives of Wirral residents.
- (2) Council recognises that giving free personal fitness training programs to cancer patients and survivors, along with the same to disadvantaged young people, is an asset to the Borough.
- (3) Council therefore resolves to support and prosper the aims, ambitions and aspirations of the UTS Foundation wherever practicable within the legal framework and existing Council resources.

7. NEW FERRY EXPLOSION *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Jo Bird

Seconded by Councillor Joe Walsh

Given that it has taken some time to establish the scale of damage to people, business and property arising from the gas explosion in New Ferry in March 2017:

- (1) This Council resolves that the Chief Executive makes representations to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government to reconsider the judgement that the Bellwin disaster scheme does not apply.
- (2) Council requests that £500,000 from the Liverpool City Region Metro Mayor's Town Centre Fund, should in principle be allocated to New Ferry, subject to an application being completed.
- (3) Council urges central government to allocate resources to New Ferry commensurate with those allocated to Salisbury.

8. HOUSING GROWTH *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Gerry Ellis

Seconded by Councillor Chris Blakeley

- (1) Council notes that, in September 2017, the then-Department of Communities and Local Government invited local authorities and others to give their views on proposals to reform the planning system.
- (2) On the introduction of a national formula to assess housing need, the consultation stated:

The assessment is indicative, as actual figures will depend on the most recent data available at the time the need is calculated.
- (3) Council regrets that Wirral did not take part in that consultation.
- (4) Council further notes the proposed formula from the Department produced an indicative 803 dwelling units per annum in Wirral (2016-2026), a reduction on the projected need of up to 1,235 dwelling units in the earlier report commissioned by the Cabinet from Nathan Lichfield and Partners.
- (5) Council welcomes the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics which have revealed that population growth is slowing and that Wirral, in common with other authorities, will require fewer new dwellings which should avoid the need for mass destruction of the Borough's Green Belt.
- (6) In the light of the latest projections for housing growth, Council calls on the Leader to withdraw support for the Hoylake Golf Resort, which will see large scale building on the Green Belt.

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