

COUNCIL

Monday, 10 December 2018

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

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

Apologies Councillors T Anderson K Hodson
D Burgess-Joyce D Mitchell

61 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 Lesley Rennie	Item No. 12(5) – Notice of Motion (Minute 85 refers). Personal – by virtue of her being a board member on the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority.

Councillor Paul Hayes	Item No. 12(10) – Notice of Motion (Minute 90 refers). Personal – by virtue of his being a member of the Liverpool City Region Transport Committee.
Councillor Jeff Green	Item No. 12(10) – Notice of Motion (Minute 90 refers). Personal – by virtue of his employment.
Councillor Mary Jordan	Item No. 9 – Matter referred from Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 69 refers). Personal – by virtue of her employment, her son working for the NHS and being the company secretary for a charity at Arrowe Park Hospital.
Councillor Phil Gilchrist	Item No. 9 – Matter referred from Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 69 refers). Personal – by virtue of him being a governor of the Cheshire and Wirral NHS Partnership Trust.
Councillor Tony Norbury	Item No. 9 – Matter referred from Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 69 refers). Personal – by virtue of his daughter working for the NHS.
Councillor Sharon Jones	Item No. 9 – Matter referred from Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 69 refers). Personal – by virtue of her employment.
Councillor Joe Walsh	Item No. 9 – Matter referred from Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 69 refers). Personal – by virtue of his daughters working for the NHS.
Councillor Steve Foulkes	Item No. 12(10) – Notice of Motion (Minute 90 refers). Personal – by virtue of him by virtue of his membership of the Merseytravel Committee of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.
Councillor Chris Meaden	Item No. 12(5) – Notice of Motion (Minute 85 refers). Personal – by virtue of her being a board member on the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority.
Councillor Jerry Williams	Item No. 12(10) – Notice of Motion (Minute 90 refers). Personal – by virtue of his membership of the Merseytravel Committee of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.
Councillor Christina Muspratt	Item No. 9 – Matter referred from Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 69 refers). Personal – by virtue of her daughters working within the NHS.
Councillor Phillip Brightmore	Item No. 12(2) – Notice of Motion (Minute 82 refers). Pecuniary – by virtue of him being a member of the Communication Workers Union and having received sponsorship in the past. Would leave the Chamber whilst this matter was debated.
Councillor Chris Jones	Item No. 9 – Matter referred from Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 69 refers). Personal – by virtue of her employment.

Councillor Janette Williamson	Item No. 12(3) – Notice of Motion (Minute 83 refers). Personal –by virtue of her employment.
Councillor Stuart Whittingham	Item No. 12(10) – Notice of Motion (Minute 90 refers). Personal –by virtue of his employment.
Councillor Angela Davies	Item No. 9 – Matter referred from Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 69 refers). Personal – by virtue of her employment.
Councillor Brian Kenny	Item No. 12(5) – Notice of Motion (Minute 85 refers). Personal – by virtue of him being a board member on the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority; and Item No. 12(2) – Notice of Motion (Minute 82 refers). Personal and prejudicial – by virtue of his involvement with the Communication Workers Union.
Councillor Ron Abbey	Item No. 12(10) – Notice of Motion (Minute 90 refers). Personal – by virtue of his membership of the Merseytravel Committee of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.
Councillor Adrian Jones	Item No. 9 – Matter referred from Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 69 refers). Personal – by virtue of his wife working for the NHS.
Councillor Jean Stapleton	Item No. 12(5) – Notice of Motion (Minute 85 refers). Personal – by virtue of her being a board member on the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority.
Councillor Moira McLaughlin	Item No. 9 – Matter referred from Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 69 refers). Personal – by virtue of her daughters working within the NHS.
Councillor Mike Sullivan	Item No. 9 – Matter referred from Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Minute 69 refers). Personal – by virtue of his daughter working for the NHS.

62 CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Civic Mayor noted that apologies had been received from Councillors Tom Anderson, David Burgess-Joyce, Kathy Hodson and David Mitchell.

The Civic Mayor welcomed newly elected Councillor Jean Robinson to the Council.

The Civic Mayor commented on a further 85 engagements that he and the Mayoress had undertaken since the last meeting of Council and referred to a number of highlights including the events in commemoration of the 100 year anniversary of the 1914-18 Armistice, and the loss of Birkenhead War Poet Wilfred Owen.

The Civic Mayor then informed the Members that he had received two requests from Councillors wishing to address the Council.

The Civic Mayor then invited Councillor Moira McLaughlin to make a short personal statement. Councillor McLaughlin addressed the Council stating that it was with sadness that she had resigned the Labour Whip and thanked Members across the Chamber from all parties for their kind words of support.

The Civic Mayor then invited the Leader of Council to give his statement. Councillor Phil Davies provided Members with an update on the most recent status of workforce negotiations at the Cammell Laird Yard, Birkenhead.

63 **PROCEDURAL ITEM**

The Civic Mayor informed that as per the last meeting of Council the current Standing Order 18 referred to the ‘...normal method of voting at meetings of the Council shall be by show of hands...’ and that the Council therefore needed to determine if they wished to use the electronic voting system.

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

Resolved (unanimously) – That the electronic voting system be used for all votes at this meeting.

64 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15 October, 2018 had been circulated to Members. On a motion by the Civic Mayor, seconded by Councillor Phil Davies, it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That the minutes of the meeting be approved and adopted as a correct record.

65 **PETITIONS**

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

Councillor Leslie Rennie – on behalf of 21 residents of Upton in respect of Upton Victory Hall – to stop the demise of the building, and improve the street scene (Rake Lane).

Councillor Gerry Ellis – 476 signatories calling for an end to the condemning and felling of Wirral’s trees.

Councillor Wendy Clements – 471 signatories asking the Council not to build on greenfield sites, to concentrate on brownfield sites, and bring empty properties back into use.

Councillor Steve Foulkes – 18135 signatories re: Save Our Minor Injuries Units and Walk-In Centres.

Councillor Steve Foulkes – 188 signatories re: Cessation of the 492 and 495 bus routes in the evenings and on Sundays.

Councillor Angela Davies – 104 signatories requesting the re-instatement of the 83A bus service (Prenton / Birkenhead).

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

66 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Ms Lorraine Krimou, having given the appropriate notice in accordance with Standing Order 11, submitted a question on the subject of Charging Policies for daycare providers, notably the PVI sector.

Councillor Bernie Mooney, Cabinet Member for Children and Families, responded accordingly.

Ms Krimou asked a supplementary question in accordance with Standing Order 10, and Councillor Bernie Mooney responded accordingly.

Mr Simon Gong, having given the appropriate notice in accordance with Standing Order 11, submitted a question on the subject of street lighting outages, maintenance and repairs.

Councillor Stuart Whittingham, Cabinet Member Highways and Transport, responded accordingly.

Mr Gong asked a supplementary question in accordance with Standing Order 10, and Councillor Stuart Whittingham responded accordingly.

Ms Keren O'Rourke, having given the appropriate notice in accordance with Standing Order 11, submitted a question on the subject of UK Climate Change.

Councillor Anita Leech, Cabinet Member Environment, responded accordingly.

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

Mr Geoffrey Roberts, having given the appropriate notice in accordance with Standing Order 11, submitted a question on proposals to outsource

management of the Warren Golf Course, and sought assurances on the lease agreements for existing tenants.

Councillor Phillip Brightmore, Cabinet Member Leisure and Recreation, responded accordingly.

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

The Mayor introduced the reports from the Leader, Cabinet Members and Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs and asked for questions on any of the reports.

Councillor Phil Gilchrist asked a question of Councillor Stuart Whittingham, Cabinet Member Highways and Transport, regarding £1.465 million pounds recently provided by Government for the repair of damaged roads and work on bridges. What proposals did the Cabinet Member have for allocation of these funds, and could Members submit bids for a share of this additional funding to tackle the concerns of their residents in relation to highways matters.

Councillor Whittingham responded that that money was welcomed and a report of the 2019/20 repairs programme was to be reported in the New Year, he added that an email would be sent to Members with details nearer the time.

Councillor Mary Jordan asked a question of Councillor Janette Williamson, Cabinet Member Finance and Resources, on how investing £26 Million in the Hoylake Golf Course helped the most vulnerable.

Councillor Williamson responded stating that this was matter not covered in her report, but income generation was core to the Council's new way of working, as had been referred to in the Cabinet Member, Environment's answer to an earlier question.

Councillor Jean Stapleton asked a question of Councillor Phil Davies, Leader, regarding the Council's plans when it assumed the role of Borough of Culture.

Councillor P Davies responded that he was pleased to have attended the official handover at St Helens the previous weekend and was proud that Wirral had been selected for this role in 2019. He provided an update on a number of proposed highlight projects and informed Council that more details would be announced in due course.

Councillor Bruce Berry asked a question of Councillor Angela Davies, Cabinet Member Jobs and Growth, regarding the plans for £150 million investment in Birkenhead, and questioned why other investment had not been set aside for centres such as Liscard and New Ferry.

Councillor A Davies responded that the massive investment programme planned for Birkenhead Commercial District was well known, and a key driver for regeneration under the auspices of the Wirral Growth Company.

Councillor Alan Brame asked a question of Councillor George Davies, Cabinet Member Housing and Planning, requesting updated figures regarding empty / substandard properties being brought back into use.

Councillor G Davies responded, directing Councillor Brame to the last paragraph of his report, stating that the number had reduced to 4200 and that the 2015 target to bring empty properties into use should be achieved by 2020.

Councillor Andrew Gardner asked a question of Councillor George Davies, Cabinet Member Housing and Planning regarding Government guidance on housing numbers did not represent a mandatory target, and was simply a starting point for local authorities to work within its boundaries and other constraints such as green belt.

Councillor G Davies responded that he was aware of this, and Wirral's housing figures had been based on the Office for National Statistics figure of 488 per year.

Councillor Tony Cox asked a question of Councillor Phil Davies, Leader, regarding the plans for significant investment and questioned why these funds were not being directed towards New Ferry.

Councillor P Davies responded that the development had received support from Conservative Members, but Government cuts meant that the Council needed to raise additional income from alternate funding streams such as the development of Hoylake Golf Course.

Councillor Joe Walsh asked a question of Councillor Janette Williamson, Cabinet Member Finance and Resources, regarding New Ferry and how the Government had been dragging its feet to support the people affected by the explosion.

Councillor Williamson responded that the Government had completely ignored New Ferry and in addition to the £300,000 already spent by Wirral Council to help deal with this tragedy, it had been agreed in principal to establish a hardship fund for those victims of the blast.

Councillor Pat Cleary asked a question of Councillor Anita Leech, Cabinet Member Environment, regarding the recent reports of insulting and disrespectful behaviour of Kingdom employees (this Council's contractor) that had resulted in Liverpool Council's cancelling of their contract.

Councillor Leech responded that she was disappointed by the alleged comments and had asked Kingdom to investigate. She added that Wirral's

team was now under new management and Council officers were working with the company using robust contractual arrangements to investigate when things went wrong.

Councillor Cherry Povall asked a question of Councillor Phillip Brightmore, Cabinet Member Leisure and Recreation, as to why the Brackenwood Golf Course had been excluded from the recently announced plans for Wirral Golf Courses.

Councillor Brightmore responded that Brackenwood was part of the Green Space review and any decisions would be made once this had concluded.

Councillor Stuart Kelly asked a question of Councillor George Davies, Cabinet Member Housing and Planning, regarding the actual numbers for Wirral Waters Housing used in the local plan.

Councillor G Davies responded that he too had been bewildered by promises made by the developer, but at present 1100 units were scheduled to be delivered as part of a planning application expected for decision in the next two weeks. He added that he had written to the company and the Government Minister regarding past promises on this matter.

Councillor Chris Blakeley asked a question of Councillor Angela Davies, Cabinet Member Jobs and Growth, regarding social media comments with regards to Birkenhead's shipyards, support of skilled workers and cessation of existing partnerships.

Councillor A Davies responded that she was proud to support the shipyard's workers and pleased to say that redundancy notices had been withdrawn.

Councillor Jeff Green asked a question of Councillor Stuart Whittingham, Cabinet Member Highways and Transport, regarding why Members had not been invited to submit suggestions to the structural maintenance programme.

Councillor Whittingham responded that this had been answered in his earlier response to Councillor Gilchrist.

Councillor Brian Kenny asked a question of Councillor Angela Davies, Cabinet Member Jobs and Growth, to provide an update on progress for Birkenhead Commercial District.

Councillor A Davies responded that regeneration was central to the Council's 2020 pledges, and that the Council had entered a joint venture arrangement with the company 'Muse' and that Cabinet had recently approved public consultation to hear views on the proposed masterplan. She added that the Commercial District would provide benefits of centralisation for both Council and other workers, acting as a catalyst for business and providing job opportunities.

Councillor Wendy Clements asked a question of Councillor Chris Jones, Cabinet Member Adult Care and Health, regarding the current proposals for Walk-In Centres and Urgent Care Treatment.

Councillor C Jones responded that the Clinical Commissioning Group's consultation was ongoing and that she had submitted her views and would await the outcome.

Councillor Gerry Ellis asked a question of Councillor Phillip Brightmore, Cabinet Member Leisure and Recreation, regarding the recent felling of trees in the Borough and lack of consultation with residents and Ward Councillors.

Councillor Brightmore responded that the matter was one of public safety, surveys had been undertaken and that the Council had a duty of care with regard to public safety and he was satisfied that the work was necessary.

Councillor David Elderton asked a question of Councillor George Davies, Cabinet Member Housing and Planning, regarding bringing back empty properties into use, offsetting the requirement for new builds as part of the local plan.

Councillor G Davies responded that he hoped that as many such properties could be utilised, possibly as many as 3500.

Councillor Pat Hackett asked a question of Councillor Phil Davies, Leader, regarding the status of funding bids for the regeneration of New Ferry and Liscard.

Councillor P Davies responded that work was taking place and a bid for £1 million had been submitted to the LCR Mayor. He added that the matter was subject to due diligence but hoped that a 50/50 split between the two centres would be agreed.

Councillor Andrew Hodson asked a question of Councillor Phil Davies, Leader, regarding a Social Media comment linking Peel Holdings to the local Tories.

Councillor P Davies responded, referring to an earlier answer and added that as a developer of brownfield sites the company had a responsibility to deliver on their earlier promise of 13,500 properties.

Councillor Adam Sykes asked a question of Councillor Phillip Brightmore, Cabinet Member Leisure and Recreation, regarding his plans for the review of local Library Services.

Councillor Brightmore responded that the proposals were being drafted and would be presented to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Councillor Steve Williams asked a question of Councillor Stuart Whittingham, Cabinet Member Highways and Transport, regarding how much Government funding had been allocated for the works set out in his report.

Councillor Whittingham responded that he would provide a written response.

Councillor Ian Lewis asked a question of Councillor Phillip Brightmore, Cabinet Member Leisure and Recreation, querying that despite the Council's commitment to inclusive growth, the proposal for Hoylake Golf Course was 'exclusive'. He added that given the search for an alternative specialist provider for the Council's golf courses and that usage of golf facilities was down / in decline, why had the Council not considered a wildlife park centre instead.

Councillor Brightmore responded that despite recent dwindling numbers, golf was still enjoyed by thousands both across the Borough and Nationally. The arrangement to outsource the operation of the Council's golf courses would provide additional investment and attract new comers to the sport.

Councillor George Davies asked a question of Councillor Janette Williamson, Cabinet Member Finance and Resources, regarding savings made from restructuring senior management.

Councillor Williamson responded that this focussed on staff not in a frontline role, and included back office staffing. The exercise was undertaken in November and was taking into account views whether or not posts could be deleted, avoiding indiscriminate removal of staff as had happened in the past.

Councillor Les Rowlands asked a question of Councillor Janette Williamson, Cabinet Member Finance and Resources, regarding outstanding debt and monies owed to/by the NHS.

Councillor Williamson responded that she would provide a written response.

Councillor Lesley Rennie asked a question of Councillor Anita Leech, Cabinet Member Environment, regarding the current status of the Public Space Protection Order and whether she had had the opportunity to meet with any group representatives opposing the proposals.

Councillor Leech responded that since her appointment she had been looking into the detail of this matter and the matter would be the subject of pre-decision scrutiny by Members in January.

Councillor Chris Carubia asked a question of Councillor Chris Jones, Cabinet Member Adult Care and Health, regarding the Constitutional issues that prevented Members of the Children's Overview and Scrutiny Committee voting on recent matters of Call-In.

Councillor C Jones responded that the matter had been of concern to all Members and requested that this be addressed.

Councillor Phil Gilchrist asked a question of Councillor Janette Williamson, Cabinet Member Finance and Resources, regarding removal of revenue support grant funding from Government and that he hoped the Cabinet Member would be taking part in the fair funding review currently underway.

Councillor Williamson responded that removal of the grant was placing significant pressures on local authorities and the need for Council to generate income was vital, with many Council's in the North of England being left to sink or swim.

Councillor Chris Blakeley asked a question of Councillor Angela Davies, Cabinet Member Jobs and Growth, regarding recently reported figures for jobs at the Celtic Manor Hotel.

Councillor A Davies responded that the figures represented more than just the hotel itself, but would include construction, supply chain and other services associated with the resort.

68 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

Councillor Steve Williams asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Environment concerning the spending of Wirral Council's £6.7 million share of Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority's Waste Development Fund. Councillor Anita Leech responded accordingly.

Councillor Phil Gilchrist asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Environment in relation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Statement that promised £10 million funding (2019-20 to 2022-23) for local community street trees and urban trees. Councillor Anita Leech responded accordingly.

69 **MATTERS REFERRED FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES OR OTHER COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Councillor Phil Gilchrist moved and Councillor Chris Carubia seconded the following Motion as contained within the Council Supplement Item 9 - Matters referred from Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Call-In of the decision taken by the Joint Strategic Commissioning Board (Cabinet Committee) - Standing Order 8(r) applied:

"Council understands and endorses the views expressed by the Adult Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In so doing, Council appreciates...

- i. the need to secure open and transparent working arrangements with the commissioners of local health and related services;

- ii. the views expressed by the Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Health and Chair of the Commissioning Group;
- iii. the urgency of ensuring that services are in place during 2018/19.

As a result, Council will not cause further delay in developing arrangements to enter into the s75 agreement.

Notwithstanding these comments, Council endorses the calls made for improved and early dissemination of information to elected Members, especially the two Overview and Scrutiny Committees most closely involved.

Thus Council requests that members of the Joint Strategic Commissioning Board Cabinet Committee ensure that a meaningful dialogue is established with Councillors and that the mechanisms requested be established”.

Following a debate conducted in accordance with Standing Order 12, and Councillor Gilchrist having replied, 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 (45) R Abbey, B Berry, C Blakeley, A Brame, P Brightmore, C Carubia, W Clements, T Cox, A Davies, G Davies, P Davies, W Davies, P Doughty, D Elderton, G Ellis, S Foulkes, A Gardner, P Gilchrist, J Green, P Hayes, A Hodson, AER Jones, C Jones, S Jones, M Jordan, S Kelly, B Kenny, A Leech, I Lewis, M McLaughlin, J McManus, C Meaden, B Mooney, C Povall, L Rennie, L Rowlands, J Stapleton, P Stuart, M Sullivan, A Sykes, T Usher, S Whittingham, S Williams, J Williamson and G Wood.

Against the motion (13) J Bird, K Cannon, P Cleary, T Cottier, P Hackett, T Jones, C Muspratt, T Norbury, PA (Tony) Smith, C Spriggs, J Walsh, I Williams, and KJ Williams.

Four abstentions – Councillors S Frost, E Grey, J Robinson and Councillor G Watt (Civic Mayor).

Resolved (45:13) (four abstentions) – That the motion be approved.

70 PROCEDURAL ITEM

It was moved by Councillor Ron Abbey and seconded by Councillor Phil Davies that Standing Order 9(1) be suspended to introduce a guillotine on the business of Council at 8:30pm and Motions 1, 2 and 3 at agenda item 12 be debated with the guillotine coming into effect after that.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Gilchrist and seconded by Councillor Pat Cleary that the guillotine come into effect at 9:30pm.

Upon being put to the vote, it was -

Resolved (32:29) (no abstentions) – That Standing Order 9(1) be suspended at 9:30pm with the guillotine coming into effect after that.

71 **VACANCIES**

The Council considered a report of the Director of Governance and Assurance on the revision to committee places in light of the resignation of a member of the Labour Group to become an Independent Member.

The Council was asked to receive nominations in accordance with Standing Order 25(6) for any proposed changes to membership of Committees and outside organisations and to agree the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs where appropriate.

On motions by Councillor Phil Davies, seconded by Councillor George Davies, it was –

Resolved –

(1) (56:0) (One abstention) – That Councillor Sharon Jones be appointed Vice Chair of the Adult Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(2) (55:1) (One abstention) – That Councillor Elizabeth Grey be appointed Vice Chair of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(3) (40:17) (One abstention) – That Councillor Bernie Mooney be appointed Chair of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee.

(4) (38:19) (One abstention) – That Councillor Angela Davies be appointed Vice Chair of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee.

(5) (59:0) (One abstention) - That 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, be agreed, with the Committee places allocation as set out below:

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	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	8	5	1		1
Overview & Scrutiny: Environment	15	9	5	1		
Overview & Scrutiny: Adult Social Care	15	8	5	1		1
Overview & Scrutiny: Children and Families	15	8	5	1		1
Total	133	75	42	10	2	4

(59:0) (One abstention) - That Council agrees that names of appointees to Committees and outside bodies be provided to the Director of Governance and Assurance following the meeting.

72 MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL OR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

In accordance with Standing Order 5(2) seven matters had been submitted for approval or consideration by the Council (see minutes 73 to 79 post).

73 REVISED PENSION BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE

The first matter requiring consideration was in relation to a request to approve the recommendation of the Pensions Committee of 16 July 2018 such that the Council's Constitution be updated to include the revisions to the Pension Board's terms of reference (minute 10 refers).

On a motion by Councillor Paul Doughty, seconded by Councillor George Davies, it was –

Resolved (60:0) (One abstention) – That the recommendation contained within minute 10 of the Pensions Committee, be approved.

74 **DRAFT STATEMENT OF POLICY - GAMBLING ACT 2005**

The second matter requiring consideration was in relation to a request to approve the recommendation of the Licensing Act 2003 Committee of 17 October 2018 such that the Draft Statement of Policy – Gambling Act 2005 be recommended for approval by Council (minute 9 refers).

On a motion by Councillor Paul Stuart, seconded by Councillor Tony Norbury, it was –

Resolved (60:0) (One abstention) – That the recommendation contained within minute 9 of the Licensing Act 2003 Committee, be approved.

75 **CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The third matter requiring consideration was in relations to a request to approve the recommendation of the Audit and Risk Management Committee of 19 November 2018 such that the Council's Constitution be updated to include the revised Code of Corporate Governance and new governance framework (minute 36 refers).

On a motion by Councillor Adrian Jones, seconded by Councillor Ron Abbey, it was –

Resolved (60:0) (One abstention) – That the recommendation contained within minute 36 of the Audit and Risk Management Committee, be approved.

76 **QUARTER 2 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - REVENUE**

The fourth matter requiring consideration was in relation to a request to approve that Capital Receipts funding for the Children's Services transformation programme be brought forward from 2017/18 in the amount of £1.1 million, as recommended by the Cabinet at its meeting on 26 November, 2018 (minute 35 refers).

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

Resolved (60:0) (One abstention) – That the recommendation contained within minute 35 of Cabinet, be approved.

77 **QUARTER 2 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - CAPITAL**

The fifth matter requiring consideration was in relation to a request to approve the revised Capital Programme of £60.9 million for 2018/19, as recommended by the Cabinet at its meeting on 26 November, 2018 (minute 36 refers).

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

Resolved (60:0) (One abstention) – That the recommendation contained within minute 36 of Cabinet, be approved.

78 **COUNCIL TAX 2019/20 (TAXBASE, DISCOUNTS AND EXEMPTIONS AND COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME)**

The sixth matter requiring consideration was in relation to a request to approve the Council Tax 2019/20 (Taxbase, Discounts and Exemptions and Council Tax Support Scheme), as recommended by the Cabinet at its meeting on 26 November, 2018 (minute 39 refers).

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

Resolved (60:0) (One abstention) – That the recommendation contained within minute 39 of Cabinet, be approved.

79 **WIRRAL TOGETHER: GETTING THE BASICS RIGHT - A NEW MODEL FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The seventh matter requiring consideration was in relation to a request to approve that the provisions relating to Constituency Committees be removed from the Council's Constitution (Council's executive arrangements) as recommended by the Cabinet at its meeting on 26 November, 2018 (minute 41 refers).

Moved by Councillor Phil Davies, seconded by Councillor George Davies.

Amendment

Councillor Phil Gilchrist moved and Councillor Chris Carubia seconded the following amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(9):

“That the matter be referred back to Cabinet for further consideration of the following aspects as Council does not accept that the revised arrangements fully meet the needs of Members or their communities. Members who have faced tough questioning on Hoylake Golf Resort and other issues at the Constituency Committees should not close down this means of access for the public.

The Constituency Committees replaced a system of neighbourhood-based and area committees which were also undermined and abolished. Whilst the potential for members to work together exists across ward boundaries, it is not clear how this will be facilitated or serviced.

The ability of Members to hold cross-ward meetings on issues of common concern is not fully set out. The Leader has suggested that there is a lot of room for manoeuvre but the deletion of the Constituency Committees from the Constitution, without a clear formula for replacing local democratic arrangements, should not take place.

It should be noted that the Wirral South Committee has, across party, become an important forum for debating issues - like bus and walk in services - affecting all wards. The Constituency Committee ward representatives do not appear to have been asked for views on the new arrangements.

The prospect of funding for Members to assist their communities is welcomed. The ability of Members to engage with organisations and encourage applications for funding is undermined by the proposed financial checks and balances which contain no right of appeal. The ability of Members to use local funding for simple projects like 'dropped kerbs' is also removed and there is, as yet, no indication of how these might be secured through a dedicated local budget."

The amendment was put and lost (6:52) (Two abstentions).

The original motion was put and carried (56:4) (One abstention).

Resolved (56:4) (One abstention) – That the recommendation contained within minute 41 of Cabinet, be approved.

80 **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 81 to 90 below.

81 **MOTION - ON-GOING IMPACT OF NEW FERRY EXPLOSION**

Councillor Jo Bird moved and Councillor Joe Walsh seconded the following motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

(1) "Council notes that the impact of the gas explosion in New Ferry is not over. Some families are facing their second Christmas in temporary accommodation. Some businesses have had to shut up shop.

- (2) Council is disappointed the Government has failed to provide any direct financial support to help deal with the disruption and damage caused in the New Ferry explosion.
- (3) Council notes that 12 months have passed since Wirral Council on behalf of residents and businesses submitted a full Regeneration Plan to the Secretary of State and have not received any direct support for the rebuilding of New Ferry town centre.
- (4) Council notes that James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, has written to Alison McGovern MP more than two months after she led a delegation to Westminster to demand action.
- (5) Council is concerned that James Brokenshire's letter incorrectly claims that Wirral Council has never requested funding support.
- (6) Council notes that the Leader of the Council wrote to the minister on 7th July 2017 asking for £500,000 to help with the costs of emergency help, and the minister replied on 17th July 2017 declining support saying: "for an incident of this size and impact we would expect these costs to be covered using existing local resources."
- (7) Council further notes that following the Grenfell Tower fire, the Salisbury attack, the Belfast City Centre fire, and the shop fire in Hinckley Leicestershire, the Government quickly mobilised support for those communities and is disappointed a similar response wasn't made for the people of New Ferry.
- (8) Council requests the Leader and Cabinet to:
 - (i). Write to James Brokenshire to set the record straight and call upon the Government to support the New Ferry Regeneration Plan.
 - (ii). Continue to work with Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to access the £500,000 available through the Mayor's Town Centre Fund.
 - (iii). Encourage applications from the Local Welfare Assistance Fund from people directly affected by the blast.
 - (iv). Submit a formal application for funding under the Bellwin scheme as soon as possible.
 - (v). Work with Alison McGovern MP, local ward members, New Ferry Town Team, local residents, traders and other partners to ensure plans are delivered to support a thriving and regenerated New Ferry."

Following a debate on the matter, the motion was put and carried (59:0) (One abstention).

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

82 MOTION - POST OFFICE SERVICES

Having previously declared a pecuniary interest in the item, Councillor Phillip Brightmore vacated the Chamber and did not take part in the voting thereon, as did Councillor Brian Kenny who had declared a personal and prejudicial interest (Minute No. 61 refers).

Prior to consideration of the motion, the Civic Mayor sought Council's consent for the acceptance of a corrected amendment recently circulated to Members.

Following a challenge on procedural grounds from Councillor Chris Blakeley, acceptance of the corrected amendment was put and carried (56:0) (Two abstentions).

Councillor Paul Hayes then moved and Councillor Ian Lewis seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

“Council welcomes the government investment of more than £2 billion since 2010 and notes the Post Office now has:

- a stable network of around 11,600 branches
- modernised more than 7,500 branches with new technology
- extended opening hours on weekdays and at weekends
- become the UK's largest Sunday retailer with more than 4,400 branches open
- ensured 93% of people now live within one mile of their nearest branch.

Council however regrets that Post Office branches in Wallasey Village, New Brighton and Upton are among those currently closed, due to national 'audit' and system irregularities and requests the Chief Executive writes to the Post Office to relay these concerns and request urgent and speedy resolution to enable all Wirral residents to have access to a local Post Office, serving their communities.”

Amendment

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

Paragraph 1 and bullet points:

Delete the words:

“welcomes the government investment of more than £2 billion since 2010 and notes the Post Office now has:

- a stable network of around 11,600 branches
- modernised more than 7,500 branches with new technology
- extended opening hours on weekdays and at weekends
- become the UK’s largest Sunday retailer with more than 4,400 branches open
- ensured 93% of people now live within one mile of their nearest branch.”

Replace with:

“congratulates the Communication Workers Union on their campaign to protect the vital services provided by the Post Office in contrast to the Government owned network being decimated”

Paragraph 2:

Delete the words “however regrets”, and insert “believes”

Delete the words “due to national ‘audit’ and system irregularities”

Delete the words “and request urgent and speedy...” and insert “ and requests urgently that the Post Office ends its programme of Crown Office closures and moves to implement a speedy...”

Delete “,serving their communities.” and insert “,that not only serve our community but provides secure well paid employment that is vital to generating a thriving local economy”.

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

The amendment was put and carried (54:3) (One abstention).

The substantive motion, as amended, was put and carried (56:0) (One abstention).

Resolved (56:0) (One abstention) –

Council congratulates the Communication Workers Union on their campaign to protect the vital services provided by the Post Office in contrast to the Government owned network being decimated.

Council believes that Post Office branches in Wallasey Village, New Brighton and Upton are among those currently closed, and requests that the Chief Executive writes to the Post Office to relay our concerns and requests urgently that the Post Office ends its programme of Crown Office closures and moves to implement a speedy resolution to enable all Wirral residents to have access to a local Post Office, that not only

serves our community but provides secure well paid employment that is vital to generating a thriving local economy.

83 **MOTION - TAKING EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO REFORM UNIVERSAL CREDIT**

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

“This Council welcomes the work on the difficulties facing recipients of Universal Credit undertaken by the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Council notes that the work continued under the Chairmanship of Councillor Hackett and concluded in July and September this year.

Council notes that the introduction, roll out and operation of Universal Credit has remained an issue of considerable public concern. Council notes that Wirral’s MPs raised concerns about the operation of Universal Credit in the Commons on 17 October 2018

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2018-10-17/debates/CD3131AC-C7F0-4DB6-A4EF-05191F92642F/UniversalCredit#contribution-D8EA2220-AB8D-4499-AA45-687AED39EED6>

Opportunities to address and correct the financial injustices were taken by two Wirral Members of Parliament, the Rt Hon Frank Field and the Member for Wirral South, Alison McGovern, who supported an Amendment put forward by the Liberal Democrats. It is regrettable that the Amendment was not more widely supported.

Following the Chancellor of the Exchequer’s Budget in October, some changes are expected to be made in the financing and operation of the system. The financial effects of the system led Iain Duncan Smith, the former Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, to resign in March 2016. In his resignation letter, he stated...

“Too often my team and I will have been pressured in the immediate run-up to a budget or fiscal event to deliver yet more reductions to the working age benefit bill. There has been too much emphasis on money saving exercises and not enough awareness from the Treasury, in particular, that the government’s vision of a new welfare-to-work system could not repeatedly be salami-sliced.”

Whilst some changes have been made, the resignation of the Secretary of State, Esther McVey, has presented an opportunity for the new Secretary of State, Amber Rudd, to be pressed to take a fresh look at the changes needed to Universal Credit.

Council, therefore, wishes to work through the Local Government Association and support Wirral’s Members of Parliament in continued approaches to deal with the problems causing hardship to recipients.”

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

The motion was put and carried (58:0) (One abstention).

Resolved (58:0) (One abstention) – That the motion be approved.

84 **MOTION - CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

Councillor Pat Cleary moved and Councillor Stuart Kelly seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

“Council notes the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report ‘Global warming of 1.5°’ published on 8 October 2018, in particular:

that human activities are estimated to have already caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels;

that if we continue at the current rate, we are likely to surpass the Paris Agreement target of 1.5°C as early as 2030;

that, at the current level of commitments, the world is on course for at least 3°C of warming with irreversible and catastrophic consequences for humans and the natural world.

Council believes that:

the impacts of global temperature rise above 1.5°C, are so severe that governments at all levels must work together and make this their top priority.

as well as large-scale improvements in health and wellbeing around the world, bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities.

Therefore, Council requests that the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee establish an Overview and Scrutiny Committee working group, with a remit to

- (i). Seek advice from experts to develop a robust carbon budget and set a challenging target date for carbon neutrality in Wirral;
- (ii). Consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council’s activities;
- (iii). Make recommendations and set an ambitious timescale for reducing these impacts;

- (iv). Report to full Council with the actions the Council needs to take to address this emergency.

In addition, Council further requests that the Leader & Cabinet:

- require all report risk assessments should include Carbon Emission Appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce emissions wherever possible.
- task a director level officer with responsibility for reducing as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities.
- writes to inform the Prime Minister that Wirral has declared a climate emergency."

First Amendment

Councillor Adam Sykes moved and Councillor Andrew Gardner seconded the following amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(9) such that the Motion be approved subject to –

Delete "establish an Overview and Scrutiny Committee working group, with a remit to

- (i). Seek advice from experts to develop a robust carbon budget and set a challenging target date for carbon neutrality in Wirral;
- (ii). Consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities;
- (iii). Make recommendations and set an ambitious timescale for reducing these impacts;
- (iv). Report to full Council with the actions the Council needs to take to address this emergency."

And insert "continues to actively scrutinise the work of the Cool Wirral Partnership and the Climate Change Action Plan, taking into account the recent warnings, and look for opportunities to supplement this work, through scrutiny reviews, where applicable."

Delete: "task a director level officer with responsibility for reducing as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities.

writes to inform the Prime Minister that Wirral has declared a climate emergency."

And insert: "ensure that all avenues of additional funding are made use of, including the £4.5 million pot, made available by the government, to help local authorities to install electric car charging points.

In addition, analyse, by way of a low carbon report and audit, the Council's real estate portfolio and implement improvement opportunities via a new low carbon facilities management strategy."

Second Amendment

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

"Delete all after paragraph 5 ('Council believes that:') and replace with.

Council notes the recent Government publication 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' which intends to make 2019 a Year of Action for the environment. It notes work in the city region to promote a Liverpool City Region Year of Environment 2019.

Council notes that the present climate change strategy for Wirral runs to 2019 and that work has commenced to develop a new strategy.

Council notes that promoting sustainability appraisal tools to improve decision making is a priority identified in the latest report of the Cool Wirral Partnership (formerly Wirral Climate Change Group).

Council recognises climate change as a significant issue and believes that we need to make changes for the benefit of residents of Wirral and for future generations. Council is committed to act on climate change.

- Council is a signatory to the Local Government's Association's Climate Local initiative and has pledged its support for the UN's Paris Agreement on climate change
- Council endorsed the present climate change strategy for Wirral (Cool) in 2014 – which covers the period to 2019.
- Council supports a partnership to champion local climate action in support of the strategy in recognition that widespread action is necessary.
- Council has a corporate target to cut council emissions by 60% by 2025.
- Council produces a public greenhouse gas emissions report.
- Officers present an annual report on climate change to the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Council recognises there are links between work to cut climate emissions and work to improve local air quality.

Council notes that in support of local climate commitments many actions are being taken, including but not limited to:

- Work to educate our young people to encourage positive behaviour change
- Statements opposing fracking.
- Plans for better facilities for our own workforce in more energy efficient buildings
- Work to mark Clean Air Day
- A quarterly Air Quality meeting of senior representatives from within the Council including Planning, Strategy, Sustainability, Environmental Health, Public Health, Transportation and Licensing
- Work to bring together experts including politicians over the next 12-months to assist the Combined Authority to look at Air Quality.

Council believes:

- The creation of a new climate change strategy for Wirral presents an important opportunity to consider the latest scientific evidence and develop a suitable response locally.
- The upcoming Year of the Environment 2019 presents an opportunity to convey the scale of the challenge and to engage people with this issue
- That the emergency action required on climate change is bigger than the requirement for a Task and Finish group for an individual scrutiny committee and requires work in partnership with others.

Therefore, Council requests that:

- Representatives on the Cool Wirral Partnership be asked to ensure the new climate change strategy for Wirral include a challenging target for emissions reduction in line with the latest scientific guidance, along with ambitious recommendations to address this challenge.
- Officers are asked to make regular reports to Cabinet during the 2019 Year of the Environment on local climate action.
- Officers are asked to make recommendations to Cabinet on tools to assist the council consider the impacts of climate change as part of its decision making processes
- Officers are asked to look at new progressive innovative solutions and alternatives, such as the use of renewables, maximising the use of recycled materials, encouraging cycling and walking as the travel mode of choice, promoting and encouraging the use of ultra-low carbon vehicles.
- Officers are requested to monitor the 2020 pledges for the Environment Committee.
- Officers continue to prepare an annual report on climate change and that this report continues to be taken first to the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee to enable the work to be scrutinised prior to consideration by Cabinet
- The leader of the council be asked to write to the Prime Minister expressing our concerns around Climate Change and the desire for

political pressures to make rapid change, in a time when we need to be guided by ethics not cost.”

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

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

The second amendment was put and carried (58:1) (One abstention).

The substantive motion, as amended, was put and carried (58:1) (One abstention).

Resolved (58:1) (One abstention) –

Council notes the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report ‘Global warming of 1.5°’ published on 8 October 2018, in particular:

that human activities are estimated to have already caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels;

that if we continue at the current rate, we are likely to surpass the Paris Agreement target of 1.5°C as early as 2030;

that, at the current level of commitments, the world is on course for at least 3°C of warming with irreversible and catastrophic consequences for humans and the natural world.

Council notes the recent Government publication ‘A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment’ which intends to make 2019 a Year of Action for the environment. It notes work in the city region to promote a Liverpool City Region Year of Environment 2019.

Council notes that the present climate change strategy for Wirral runs to 2019 and that work has commenced to develop a new strategy.

Council notes that promoting sustainability appraisal tools to improve decision making is a priority identified in the latest report of the Cool Wirral Partnership (formerly Wirral Climate Change Group).

Council recognises climate change as a significant issue and believes that we need to make changes for the benefit of residents of Wirral and for future generations. Council is committed to act on climate change.

- **Council is a signatory to the Local Government’s Association’s Climate Local initiative and has pledged its support for the UN’s Paris Agreement on climate change**
- **Council endorsed the present climate change strategy for Wirral (Cool) in 2014 – which covers the period to 2019.**

- Council supports a partnership to champion local climate action in support of the strategy in recognition that widespread action is necessary.
- Council has a corporate target to cut council emissions by 60% by 2025.
- Council produces a public greenhouse gas emissions report.
- Officers present an annual report on climate change to the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Council recognises there are links between work to cut climate emissions and work to improve local air quality.

Council notes that in support of local climate commitments many actions are being taken, including but not limited to:

- Work to educate our young people to encourage positive behaviour change
- Statements opposing fracking.
- Plans for better facilities for our own workforce in more energy efficient buildings
- Work to mark Clean Air Day
- A quarterly Air Quality meeting of senior representatives from within the Council including Planning, Strategy, Sustainability, Environmental Health, Public Health, Transportation and Licensing
- Work to bring together experts including politicians over the next 12-months to assist the Combined Authority to look at Air Quality.

Council believes:

- The creation of a new climate change strategy for Wirral presents an important opportunity to consider the latest scientific evidence and develop a suitable response locally.
- The upcoming Year of the Environment 2019 presents an opportunity to convey the scale of the challenge and to engage people with this issue
- That the emergency action required on climate change is bigger than the requirement for a Task and Finish group for an individual scrutiny committee and requires work in partnership with others.

Therefore, Council requests that:

- Representatives on the Cool Wirral Partnership be asked to ensure the new climate change strategy for Wirral include a challenging target for emissions reduction in line with the latest scientific guidance, along with ambitious recommendations to address this challenge.
- Officers are asked to make regular reports to Cabinet during the 2019 Year of the Environment on local climate action.

- **Officers are asked to make recommendations to Cabinet on tools to assist the council consider the impacts of climate change as part of its decision making processes**
- **Officers are asked to look at new progressive innovative solutions and alternatives, such as the use of renewables, maximising the use of recycled materials, encouraging cycling and walking as the travel mode of choice, promoting and encouraging the use of ultra-low carbon vehicles.**
- **Officers are requested to monitor the 2020 pledges for the Environment Committee.**
- **Officers continue to prepare an annual report on climate change and that this report continues to be taken first to the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee to enable the work to be scrutinised prior to consideration by Cabinet**

The leader of the council be asked to write to the Prime Minister expressing our concerns around Climate Change and the desire for political pressures to make rapid change, in a time when we need to be guided by ethics not cost.

85 MOTION - CUTS TO MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

Councillor Brian Kenny moved and Councillor Chris Meaden seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

This Wirral Council believes that the cuts imposed by Government on Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority (MFRA) have gone too far and should be reversed to ensure public safety is protected. To this end the Council will work in collaboration with MFRA, Merseyside's constituent District Councils, Mayors Anderson and Rotherham, MP's the FBU and all trade unions to jointly lobby Government to demand assurances that, the cuts imposed on the Authority be reversed and that the case for increased funding for MFRA will be fully considered on the basis of public safety.

This Council also supports the Fire & Rescue Authority's position when demanding assurances that, as an absolute minimum, Government commit to ensuring that there will be no further grant reductions applied to MFRA and that the Authority will be fully protected in relation to any new financial burdens.

Finally, the Council demands the removal of the government imposed 'cap' on the Council Tax flexibility thereby allowing local application of Council Tax arrangements in order to fully protect the public.

Amendment

With the agreement of the Proposer and Seconder of the original motion inclusion of an amendment proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, seconded by

Stuart Kelly submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(9) was agreed, to:

Insert after paragraph 1...

Council again wishes to draw attention to the number of COMAH sites within the Borough and their proximity to long-established areas of dense housing. This is especially the case with the installations in Rock Ferry and Eastham associated with chemical storage, petroleum products and refinery installations.

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

The substantive motion as amended was put and carried (58:0) (One abstention).

Resolved (58:0) (One abstention) –

This Wirral Council believes that the cuts imposed by Government on Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority (MFRA) have gone too far and should be reversed to ensure public safety is protected. To this end the Council will work in collaboration with MFRA, Merseyside's constituent District Councils, Mayors Anderson and Rotherham, MP's the FBU and all trade unions to jointly lobby Government to demand assurances that, the cuts imposed on the Authority be reversed and that the case for increased funding for MFRA will be fully considered on the basis of public safety.

Council again wishes to draw attention to the number of COMAH sites within the Borough and their proximity to long-established areas of dense housing. This is especially the case with the installations in Rock Ferry and Eastham associated with chemical storage, petroleum products and refinery installations.

This Council also supports the Fire & Rescue Authority's position when demanding assurances that, as an absolute minimum, Government commit to ensuring that there will be no further grant reductions applied to MFRA and that the Authority will be fully protected in relation to any new financial burdens.

Finally, the Council demands the removal of the government imposed 'cap' on the Council Tax flexibility thereby allowing local application of Council Tax arrangements in order to fully protect the public.

86 **MOTION - A FREE SCHOOL FOR WIRRAL**

Councillor Jeff Green moved and Councillor Cherry Povall seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

“Council welcomes the submission of an application by the Frank Field Education Trust to open a Free School in the Borough. Council expresses its support to the Trust in its application and requests that the Leader and Cabinet and officers help support this exciting new addition to education and learning in the Borough to extend parental choice, raise aspiration and improve outcomes.”

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

The motion was put and lost (18:40) (Two abstentions).

87 **MOTION - TIME TO END THE HOYLAKE GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT**

Councillor Alan Brame moved and Councillor Pat Cleary seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

“Council notes that a recent report to Cabinet on the ‘Future Provision of Golf Courses’ included these comments:

- (1) “...with the national trend in golf usage being generally down, (not just for municipal golf courses but also for the majority of private golf clubs)...”
- (2) “Participation in municipal golf in Wirral is in decline and follows a national trend in that people tend to have less disposable leisure time to spend on playing a five or six hour round of golf. Those people that would have traditionally played golf in the past have migrated to a more ‘time determined’ sport (such as cycling, running, fitness) to fulfil their leisure time demands.”

Given this gloomy assessment of current and future demand for golf facilities, Council recognises that the proposed Celtic Manor development of Hoylake Golf Course looks increasingly unviable.

Council now concludes that the access to prudential borrowing of £26 million agreed in December 2017 poses an unacceptable risk to public funds is no longer tenable or appropriate and therefore requests that the Leader and Cabinet end all further use of Council taxpayers’ money to support this scheme.”

Amendments

Councillor Phil Davies informed Council that the Labour amendment on this item was being withdrawn.

Councillor Andrew Gardner moved and Councillor Gerry Ellis seconded the following amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(9) such that the Motion be approved subject to –

Delete from paragraph 4 'looks increasingly unviable.' and insert 'is best left to private sector financiers.'

Alter the final paragraph after 'Leader and Cabinet'

to:

(1) end all further use of Council taxpayer's money to support this scheme.

(2) investigate alternative uses for this borrowing which could be the kick-start to truly transformational regeneration in the areas of most need.

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

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

The original motion was put and lost (22:36) (One abstention).

88 **MOTION - PAID LEAVE FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIMS**

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

“Council welcomes the recent review of Wirral Council's domestic abuse policy, guaranteeing employees of Wirral Borough Council who are victims of domestic abuse and coercive control, a minimum of one week paid leave in addition to the council special leave policy.

Wirral Council also calls on its partner agencies and local businesses to adopt similar policies.

Wirral Council welcomes the government's consultation and preparation of a draft bill on domestic abuse; endorses the Home Affairs Select Committee's report and recommendations; and calls on the government to adopt them in full.

Council calls on the UK government to bring legislation into the Domestic Abuse Bill that will give victims of domestic abuse guaranteed paid leave.”

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

The motion was put and carried (58:0) (One abstention).

Resolved (58:0) (One abstention) – That the motion be approved.

89 **MOTION - POLICE CRIME COMMISSIONERS TO RETHINK POLICING PRIORITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF WIRRAL RESIDENTS**

Councillor Tony Cox moved and Councillor Andrew Gardner seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

“As the person with sole responsibility for policing priority in Merseyside, Council recognises that the position of PCC is an onerous role.

Council also recognises the fact that, nationally, there are now more police officers per capita than there were in the 1960s. In fact, in 1961 it was 807 people for every officer and now it is just 462 people for every officer.

Council believes that there is far too much focus placed on monitoring minor ‘online offences’, many which are dismissed with few prosecutions brought, and not enough on ‘real world’ crime.

With notable people such as Chief Constable Sara Thornton, head of the new National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), saying, ‘I want us to solve more burglaries and bear down on violence before we make more records of incidents that are not crimes,’ It would seem that senior police officials are finally breaking rank and calling out the current, ridiculous state of affairs.

With a noticeable upturn in crime in the West Kirby area – from criminal damage, sexual acts in public, assault and even a knife attack – Council believes that Wirral residents deserve the same level of policing focus as the rest of Merseyside.

Therefore, Council calls upon the PCC, Jane Kennedy, to review the priorities she sets her Police Force in order to deal with the crimes that really hurt people. The crimes that have people fearful in their own home and in their communities – criminal damage, burglary, theft and violent crime – and to bring some perspective and common sense back to policing.”

Amendment

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

Delete paragraphs 2,3,4,5 & 6 - all after "...onerous role." and insert...

“Council requests that a meeting should be arranged with Merseyside’s Police and Crime Commissioner so that Councillors can consider...

- i. how the progress with the Merseyside Police and Crime Plan 2017-21 meets the objectives set out in that document
- ii. how the PCC and Chief Constable interpret and implement the key priorities set out in the Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan, as
 - Prevent Crime and Anti-social Behaviour;

- Provide a Visible and Accessible Neighbourhood Policing Style;
 - Tackle Serious and Organised Crime; and
 - Support Victims, Protect Vulnerable People and Maintain Public Safety.
- iii. how the Police service responds to the issues of hate and cyber crime
 - iv. the concerns of Members about the level of policing in Wirral
 - v. the budgetary issues facing the force so that Members can discuss the level of precept the Commissioner might wish to set for the next financial year”.

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

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

The substantive motion, as amended, was put and carried (59:0) (One abstention).

Resolved (59:0) (One abstention) –

As the person with sole responsibility for policing priority in Merseyside, Council recognises that the position of PCC is an onerous role.

Council requests that a meeting should be arranged with Merseyside’s Police and Crime Commissioner so that Councillors can consider...

- i. **how the progress with the Merseyside Police and Crime Plan 2017-21 meets the objectives set out in that document**
- ii. **how the PCC and Chief Constable interpret and implement the key priorities set out in the Commissioner’s Police and Crime Plan, as**
 - **Prevent Crime and Anti-social Behaviour;**
 - **Provide a Visible and Accessible Neighbourhood Policing Style;**
 - **Tackle Serious and Organised Crime; and**
 - **Support Victims, Protect Vulnerable People and Maintain Public Safety.**
- iii. **how the Police service responds to the issues of hate and cyber crime**
- iv. **the concerns of Members about the level of policing in Wirral**

- v. **the budgetary issues facing the force so that Members can discuss the level of precept the Commissioner might wish to set for the next financial year.**

90 **MOTION - TAKING BACK CONTROL OF OUR BUSES**

Councillor Stuart Kelly moved and Councillor Alan Brame seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

“This Council notes that the decision of Avon Bus Services to cease trading at short notice on 5 October left huge gaps in Wirral’s bus service provision, including school buses.

Council places on record its thanks to members of Merseytravel’s Bus Services team for the work they have done to expedite the process for re-providing services and notes the positives that resulted from that exercise, including a reintroduced 91 bus service to Oxton Village and the introduction of replacement bus services, such as the 16/17, from South Wirral to Arrowe Park Hospital.

Council expresses its concern that there remain gaps in bus service provision, notably the loss of the 492/495 evening and Sunday service that linked Oxton / Noctorum / Beechwood to Arrowe Park Hospital.

Council further notes that bus operator decisions since the tendering exercise have resulted in further routes being withdrawn, notably...

1. The 10A service linking Oxton / Arrowe Park Hospital / Claughton Village (6th Form College) and New Brighton
2. The 83A from Birkenhead to West Kirby

Council considers that Wirral’s bus network has undergone significant detrimental change since the review of services undertaken by Merseytravel in September 2017 and welcomes the current consultation being carried out by Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram, ‘The Big Bus Debate’.

Council further considers that the proposal by the CCG to relocate Minor Injury and Walk-in health services at Arrowe Park Hospital fails to take account of the poor bus connections from many parts of Wirral.

Council considers that the privatisation of bus services has failed outside London and that the current model of bus provision on Merseyside, (the so called ‘Bus Alliance’), is failing too many parts of the Wirral.

Council therefore calls on Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram to exercise powers devolved under the Bus Services Act 2017 and move towards a fully franchised bus network for LCR and Wirral.”

Amendment

Councillor Ron Abbey 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 –

Delete all after "...London" and insert...

"Council welcomes the new devolved powers of the Buses Act 2017, however Council is frustrated by the very complex nature of the legislation that has meant these powers cannot be used as quickly as is needed. Council also condemns the Tory Government for banning local authorities from setting up new publicly owned companies as this could be a key means to improve local buses services and flies in the face of devolution".

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

The amendment was put and carried (36:21) (One abstention).

The substantive motion, as amended, was put and carried (57:0) (One abstention).

Resolved (57:0) (One abstention) –

This Council notes that the decision of Avon Bus Services to cease trading at short notice on 5 October left huge gaps in Wirral's bus service provision, including school buses.

Council places on record its thanks to members of Merseytravel's Bus Services team for the work they have done to expedite the process for reproviding services and notes the positives that resulted from that exercise, including a reintroduced 91 bus service to Oxton Village and the introduction of replacement bus services, such as the 16/17, from South Wirral to Arrowe Park Hospital.

Council expresses its concern that there remain gaps in bus service provision, notably the loss of the 492/495 evening and Sunday service that linked Oxton / Noctorum / Beechwood to Arrowe Park Hospital.

Council further notes that bus operator decisions since the tendering exercise have resulted in further routes being withdrawn, notably...

- 1. The 10A service linking Oxton / Arrowe Park Hospital / Claughton Village (6th Form College) and New Brighton**
- 2. The 83A from Birkenhead to West Kirby**

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Council further considers that the proposal by the CCG to relocate Minor Injury and Walk-in health services at Arrowe Park Hospital fails to take account of the poor bus connections from many parts of Wirral.

Council considers that the privatisation of bus services has failed outside London.

Council welcomes the new devolved powers of the Buses Act 2017, however Council is frustrated by the very complex nature of the legislation that has meant these powers cannot be used as quickly as is needed. Council also condemns the Tory Government for banning local authorities from setting up new publicly owned companies as this could be a key means to improve local buses services and flies in the face of devolution.