



# Council Extraordinary Meeting

Town Hall  
Wallasey

15 February 2019

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held at **6.00 p.m. on Monday, 25 February 2019** in the Council Chamber, within the Town Hall, Wallasey, to take into consideration and determine upon the following subject : -

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

**Contact Officer:** Patrick Sebastian  
**Tel:** 0151 691 8424  
**e-mail:** patricksebastian@wirral.gov.uk  
**Website:** <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

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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. CELTIC MANOR RESORT

- |                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| A. Requisition Notice | (Pages 1 - 2) |
| B. Motions            | (Pages 3 - 6) |

**4. REVISION TO THE APPOINTMENTS AND CONSTITUTION OF  
COMMITTEES 2018/19**

(Pages 7 - 10)

Director: Governance and Assurance

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Wirral Council  
Town Hall  
Brighton Street  
Wallasey  
Wirral CH44 8ED

0151 691 8652

By email

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Mr Mayor

**REQUEST TO REQUISITION AN EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

Please find below signatures from 20 Members of the Conservative Group requisitioning an extraordinary meeting of the Council to discuss the Celtic Manor Resort.

The signatories to this requisition note:

- a. Cabinet has stated that golf in Wirral is 'in decline'
- b. a further £26 million of Council support has been identified for this development to be viable
- c. the project is dependent on 160 luxury homes and 40 apartments being built within Wirral's precious Green Belt
- d. the widespread concern at this proposal, including the opposition voiced recently by Local Campaign Forum of the Labour Party

We believe that given the uncertainty, the massive public opposition, the financial risks to the taxpayer, and the harm that would be caused to Wirral's Green Belt now is the time to withdraw from this scheme in its entirety.

Yours sincerely

Tom Anderson  
Bruce Berry  
Chris Blakeley  
David Burgess-Joyce  
Wendy Clements  
Tony Cox  
David Elderton  
Gerry Ellis  
Andrew Gardner  
Jeff Green

Paul Hayes  
Andrew Hodson  
Kathy Hodson  
Mary Jordan  
Ian Lewis  
Cherry Povall  
Lesley Rennie  
Les Rowlands  
Adam Sykes  
Steve Williams

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## Extraordinary Council – 25 February, 2019

### Motions – Celtic Manor Resort

#### 1. CELTIC MANOR RESORT

**Proposed** by Councillor Chris Blakeley  
**Seconded** by Councillor Gerry Ellis

Council notes that in excess of £1 million of Council taxpayers' money has, so far, been utilised to support this project, as well as Council Officers' and consultants' time, while Cabinet itself has stated that golf in Wirral is in decline.

Council also notes that the Celtic Manor Resort, formerly known as the Hoylake Golf Resort, is dependent on 160 higher-band houses and 40 apartments being built on a location within Wirral's precious Green Belt with further Council support suggested at up to £26 million.

Council recognises the widespread concern at this proposal, including the opposition voiced recently by Local Campaign Forum of the Labour Party.

Council is advised by the Director of Governance and Assurance that, under the Leader and Cabinet system (as operated by Labour in Wirral), it does not have the power to demand or force the Cabinet to drop this unwanted scheme in its entirety.

However, given the uncertainty, the massive public opposition, the financial risks to the taxpayer and the harm that would be caused to Wirral's Green Belt, Council strongly recommends that Cabinet listen to the people of Wirral and withdraws from this scheme in its entirety and notify all stakeholders of its intention not to proceed.

#### 2. PUTTING WIRRAL'S NEEDS FIRST INSTEAD OF PIPE DREAMS

**Proposed** by Councillor Phil Gilchrist  
**Seconded** by Councillor Allan Brame

Council remains concerned that this speculative development is still being put forward based on assumptions that no longer appear relevant at a time of economic uncertainty, growing concern about development in the Green Belt and greater recognition of the importance of ensuring future food supply in a period of climate change.

In this context, the National Planning Policy Framework states...  
*'Green Belt boundaries should only be altered where exceptional circumstances are fully evidenced and justified (para 136)'*, albeit offering potential exceptions (para 145b) on a case by case basis.

Without prejudging these issues, Council recognises that the planning considerations covering the special circumstances of this case would take considerable time and

effort to justify and resolve. Council observes that the Hulton Park project in Bolton was called in by the Secretary of State after a lengthy period of preparation.

Council believes that it is no longer reasonable to put stretched managerial and officer capacity into this Golf Resort project. Wirral's key priority should be to bring together a Local Plan that protects agricultural land, makes a strong case against intrusions into the Green Belt and creates the conditions for urban regeneration and re-use of brownfield sites.

In this context, Council notes that the National Planning Policy Framework includes this guidance:

*'Strategic policies should set out a clear strategy for accommodating objectively assessed needs, in a way that makes as much use as possible of previously-developed or 'brownfield' land.'* (para 117)

*'Planning policies and decisions should ... give substantial weight to the value of using suitable brownfield land within settlements for homes and other identified needs, and support appropriate opportunities to remediate despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated or unstable land;'* (para 118c)

Council notes that Cabinet, on 18 December 2017 (Minutes 72 and 76 refer), agreed to the use of prudential borrowing up to a maximum of £26 million subject to conditions, based on the contents of a study that has been exempted from publication.

Council now wishes to advise Cabinet that:

- i. it believes that the use of prudential borrowing would be better directed to dealing with the housing market failure identified in deprived parts of Wirral as part of a considered plan;
- ii. a programme of regeneration should be brought forward that would assist in the assembly and development of brownfield sites;
- iii. this programme should involve working with housing associations to provide key elements of affordable and social housing to meet Wirral's assessed needs.

### **3. CELTIC MANOR RESORT**

**Proposed** by Councillor Phil Davies

**Seconded** by Councillor Angela Davies

Council notes the concerns which have been expressed about the proposed Celtic Manor Resort in Hoylake.

Council also notes the potential financial and economic benefits of the proposed scheme: including 300 jobs, apprenticeship opportunities, up to £40 million in one-off payments and £1 million to the Council in increased revenue every year to be invested in public services.

Council notes the wider potential benefits of the scheme, including revitalising the Hoylake high-street and providing a huge boost to the visitor economy throughout the borough.

Council further notes the support which local businesses have expressed for the scheme.

Council believes it would be inappropriate to make a decision on this scheme before we have the full facts. We have only recently – within days – received the funding proposal from the developer, which is now under review.

Council further believes it is important to review the details of the various feasibility studies which will assess the environmental and economic impact of the scheme and believes residents should be consulted on these details as part of a robust planning application.

Council therefore agrees to ask for the relevant Scrutiny Committee to hold a special meeting to consider all aspects of the scheme once negotiations have reached a point where a clear proposition can be placed before Members.

The Scrutiny Committee will then be able to make informed representations to the Cabinet.

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# Agenda Item 4

## COUNCIL

25 FEBRUARY 2019

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

## 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 that Councillor Chris Meaden be appointed to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Licensing Act 2003 Committee as an Independent Member.
- (3) agree that the names of appointees to Statutory and Advisory Committees and Outside Bodies be provided to the Director of Governance and Assurance following the meeting.

## 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	36 seats	(54.55% of the 66 seats)
Conservative	21 seats	(31.82%)
Liberal Democrat	5 seats	(7.58%)
Green	1 seat	(1.51%)
Independent	3 seats	(4.55%)

- 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 new Independent member would be entitled to a **total** of committee places as shown below:

Labour	72.55 rounded up to	73
Conservative	42.32 rounded down to	42
Liberal Democrat	10.07 rounded down to	10
Green	2.01 rounded down to	2
Independent	6.05 rounded down to	6

- 3.1.4 The Labour Group will therefore lose two committee places and the new 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:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Places</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Con</b>	<b>L/Dem</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Ind</b>
Audit and Risk Management	9	5	3	1		
Employment and Appointments	8	5	2	1		
<b>Licensing Act 2003</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9 8 (-1)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>2 (+1)</b>
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
<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny: Environment</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9 8 (-1)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>(+1)</b>
Overview & Scrutiny: Adult Care and Health	15	8	5	1		1
Overview & Scrutiny: Children and Families	15	8	5	1		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>

- 3.1.6 For two committees an arithmetical adjustment has been made to enable the new Independent Member to have her 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.
- 3.1.8 Councillor Mike Sullivan has previously been appointed to the Licensing Act 2003 and the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Moira McLaughlin, to the Adult Care and Health and Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committees, as Independent Members.

### **3.2 Deputies**

- 3.2.1 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)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Council	10 December 2018
Council	15 October 2018
Council	15 May 2018
Council	15 May 2017
Council	17 May 2016