



Council Extraordinary Meeting

Town Hall
Wallasey
8 March 2019

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend an extraordinary meeting of the Council to be held at **5.00 p.m. on Monday, 18 March 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>

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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. ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT (Pages 1 - 2)

In accordance with Standing Order 1(4) a request to the Civic Mayor from five Members of the Council was received on 21 February 2019. The meeting is to discuss a new approach to environmental enforcement and was requisitioned by Councillors Alan Brame, Chris Carubia, Phil Gilchrist, Stuart Kelly and Dave Mitchell.

Motions attached:

- 1. TOWARDS A NEW APPROACH TO WASTE ENFORCEMENT**
- 2. KINGDOM: A DRAIN ON WIRRAL'S ECONOMY**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. J. G.', written in a cursive style.

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.

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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. TOWARDS A NEW APPROACH TO WASTE ENFORCEMENT

Proposed by Councillor Alan Brame

Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Council notes that a Motion for the requisitioned Council, calling for the end of the contract with Kingdom Services Ltd, was submitted by the Liberal Democrat Group in the following terms....:

Council is aware of:

- (i) the mounting public concern at the heavy-handed implementation of the environmental enforcement contract by the Cabinet and some officers of Kingdom;
- (ii) the adverse publicity attracted by the imposition of seemingly unjustified FPNs on local businesses;
- (iii) the failure of the Cabinet and Kingdom to tackle dog fouling on the Borough's pavements;
- (iv) the minimal impact on littering in many parts of Wirral after more than three years of operation of this contract.

Council believes that:

- a) the financial incentives encourage Kingdom to focus on relatively trivial offences;
- b) the decision of the Cabinet to authorise a "zero tolerance" approach has led to the imposition of unjustified penalties;
- c) the reported harassment of residents who accidentally drop items is attracting adverse publicity and causing reputational damage to the Council.

The decision of the Cabinet Member to suspend the commercial waste element of the contract indicates that there are serious flaws in the way the contract has been drawn up and implemented.

This Council, therefore, believes that Cabinet should terminate all contracts with this company as soon as possible.

Accordingly this Council meeting calls upon Cabinet to follow the example of many authorities, such as Liverpool City Council, to end the use of privatised law enforcement in Wirral.

(continued)

Councillors were subsequently made aware of a decision by the Cabinet Member on 7th March 2019, reporting on the end of the contract by 'mutual' agreement.

Council recognises that:

- A. the insistence on a "zero tolerance" approach was misjudged, leading to a loss of public confidence in the approach to the enforcement of anti-littering measures;
- B. there is a need for the establishment of a replacement, better overseen and more effective service;
- C. the contracting out of this service is likely to lead to similar problems and that such operations are better delivered under Council control;
- D. any such service needs to operate in a manner that is understood and respected and, most importantly, secures public co-operation in the fight for a cleaner borough.

Accordingly, the Cabinet Member is requested to convene a meeting with the Party spokespersons to lay the foundations for a new approach to the provision of the service that enables Wirral to move forward after recent events and criticism.

2. KINGDOM: A DRAIN ON WIRRAL'S ECONOMY

Proposed by Councillor Pat Cleary

Seconded by Councillor Chris Carubia

Council notes:

- the stated aim of the Community Wealth Building initiative as outlined in the recent budget papers to "*make sure more public money is spent in Wirral, with Wirral companies, employing Wirral people*"
- that Kingdom Securities is a private company based outside Wirral
- that since Wirral's enforcement contract began in 2015, the Council has paid Kingdom £1.25 million

Given the substantial drain of public funds from the Wirral economy, council therefore agrees that the use of Kingdom Securities by Wirral Council is incompatible with the stated aims of the Community Wealth Building initiative.