

COUNCIL

Monday, 13 January 2020

Present: The Civic Mayor (Councillor Tony Smith) in the Chair
Deputy Civic Mayor (Councillor George Davies)

Councillors	T Anderson	K Greaney	C Muspratt
	B Berry	JE Green	T Norbury
	J Bird	EA Grey	C Povall
	A Brame	P Hackett	L Rennie
	D Burgess-	P Hayes	J Robinson
	Joyce	S Hayes	L Rowlands
	H Cameron	A Hodson	C Spriggs
	K Cannon	K Hodson	S Spoor
	C Carubia	J Johnson	J Stapleton
	P Cleary	AER Jones	P Stuart
	W Clements	C Jones	T Usher
	M Collins	S Jones	J Walsh
	C Cooke	T Jones	G Watt
	A Corkhill	M Jordan	S Whittingham
	T Cottier	S Kelly	I Williams
	T Cox	B Kenny	KJ Williams
	WJ Davies	A Leech	S Williams
	S Foulkes	I Lewis	J Williamson
	S Frost	J McManus	G Wood
	A Gardner	D Mitchell	A Wright
	P Gilchrist		

Apologies Councillors C Blakeley Y Nolan
M McLaughlin

111 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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.

Councillor Steve Foulkes expressed a prejudicial interest in item 3a (Wirral Local Plan) as a Non-Executive Director of Magenta Living and would leave the chamber whilst the item was debated.

Councillor Andrew Gardner expressed a prejudicial interest in item 3a (Wirral Local Plan) because of elements of his professional work and would leave the chamber whilst the item was debated.

Councillor Jeff Green expressed a prejudicial interest in item 3a (Wirral Local Plan) as a Non-Executive Director of Magenta Living and would leave the chamber whilst the item was debated.

Councillor Tony Jones expressed a prejudicial interest in item 3a (Wirral Local Plan) as a Director of the Wirral Growth Company and would leave the chamber whilst the item was debated.

Councillor Ian Lewis expressed a personal interest in item 3a (Wirral Local Plan) as a Trustee of a charity owning land in Leasowe.

Councillor Tom Usher expressed a prejudicial interest in item 3a (Wirral Local Plan) as a Director of the Wirral Growth Company and would leave the chamber whilst the item was debated.

Apologies were given for Councillors Chris Blakeley, Moira Mclaughlin and Yvonne Nolan.

112 **MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL OR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL**

In accordance with Standing Order 5(2) two matters had been submitted for approval or consideration by the Council (see minutes 113 to 114 post).

Councillor Pat Hackett proposed that item 3b (membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel) be taken first as some members would be leaving the chamber once item 3a was considered.

The was agreed by assent.

113 **MEMBERSHIP OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

The first matter requiring consideration by Council was in relation to the membership of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

On a motion by Councillor Tony Cox, seconded by Councillor Pat Hackett, it was –

Resolved (by assent) -

That the following 6 persons be appointed to the Independent Remuneration Panel for a period of 4 years:-

**Peter Bounds (Chair)
Helen Brennan
Jenny Chapman-Brown
Tony Green**

Steve Griffiths
Keryn Malthouse

114 **WIRRAL LOCAL PLAN - 2020-2035: APPROVAL OF ISSUES AND OPTIONS DOCUMENT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

The second matter requiring consideration by Council was in relation to the Wirral Local Plan - 2020-2035: Approval of Issues and Options Document for Public Consultation as recommended by Cabinet at its meeting on 13 January 2020 (minute 78 refers).

Councillor Phil Gilchrist proposed an amendment, seconded by Councillor Stuart Kelly, which was then circulated to all Members.

Councillor Pat Hackett requested a 10-minute adjournment to consider the amendment.

This was agreed by the Mayor.

The meeting adjourned at 6.15 pm and reconvened at 6.25 pm

Following the adjournment, Councillor Pat Hackett, seconder of the recommendation, informed the Council that he and Councillor Anita Leech, proposer of the motion, would be accepting the amendment.

Councillor Anita Leech then moved the recommendation, as amended, seconded by Pat Hackett. Following a debate, and Councillor Leech having replied, it was

Resolved - (56 with 1 abstention) That -

Council recognises that considerable progress has been made in developing 'Urban intensification' as the preferred approach and the possibility of a 'stepped approach' to brownfield development in Wirral.

Council endorses this approach and will continue to examine the implications of increased densities on these sites with a view to ensuring that residential amenity is retained.

Council understands the necessity for adhering to a timetable that has been set out to satisfy Government requirements. This has led to the production and circulation of a substantial body of evidence and consultation papers which Members will consider further during the consultation process.

Members may as part of the consultation process particularly wish to further study and challenge the criteria for the 'weakly performing

parcels' of Green Belt at all appropriate stages, considering the detail of sites identified in the 'Interim Green Belt Site Assessment' and its 'interim conclusions'. These need to be considered alongside the 'significant negative effects' of Options 2a and 2b as set out in AECOM 'Sustainability Appraisal: Interim Note' dated December 2019 (pages 383-398 refer).

Included in the documentation are sections which make it clear that with 'potential intensification' and 'additional urban housing allocations' (sections 4.2.13 to 4.2.18 and Table 4.2, pages 94 and 95 refer), it is possible to meet the Government targets. Council stresses the need to seek to develop these areas having regard to the outcome of the public consultation.

Council requests that during the consultation process Members are kept informed as appropriate on the issues emerging so that these can be properly assessed.

Given the legal advice available to Members and the publicity secured for the launch of the consultation, coupled with the high degree of public registration and interest, the Council needs to proceed with the available documentation.

It should be noted, that:

- (i) the study of the agricultural land and economy in Wirral has now been published;
- (ii) a number of detailed studies and supporting documents have been issued and are subject to the consultation process, including the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (Chapter 7 page 166 onwards). Following consultation Members will wish to be satisfied that development will have regard to the provision of school places and greener transportation systems;
- (iii) work with the NHS and primary care networks is ongoing (page 177 section 7.5.8 refer) and that following the consultation Members will need to be satisfied that adequate plans are being made to cope with the pattern of growth being suggested.

Given the timescales and the need for the consultation to proceed to assemble all the evidence necessary for the Regulation 19 stage of the process,

- (1) Council approves the content of the Wirral Local Plan 2020-2035 Issues and Options Report attached to this report and its accompanying technical evidence for the purposes of public consultation under Regulation 18 of the Town and

Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012; and

- (2) The Director of Regeneration and Place be given authority to make non-material amendments to the final text and presentation of the consultation documents before the consultation exercise begins.**