



# Regulatory and General Purposes Committee

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Tuesday, 19 January 2021</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>6.00 p.m.</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	Microsoft Teams

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

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## AGENDA

### 1. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests, in connection with any item on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

### 2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2020.

### 3. REFERRAL FROM COUNCIL - MOTION - WIRRAL COUNCIL ASKED TO BACK THE RSPCA'S FIREWORKS CAMPAIGN (Pages 5 - 6)

The Council, at its meeting on 7 December, 2020, agreed unanimously to the motion, 'Wirral Council Asked to Back the RSPCA's Fireworks Campaign', which included as part of its resolution to, 'ask the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee to investigate how the Council can work with our licensed venues to encourage the safe, responsible and neighbourly use of fireworks within their grounds'.

The minute is attached.

4. **WIRRAL AWARD 2020 (Pages 7 - 12)**
5. **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The following items contain exempt information.

RECOMMENDATION: That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by the relevant paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

6. **WIRRAL AWARD 2020 - EXEMPT APPENDIX - RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WIRRAL AWARD WORKING PARTY (Pages 13 - 80)**

## REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 18 November 2020

Present: Councillor A Hodson (Chair)

Councillors AER Jones T Norbury  
M Collins L Rowlands  
C Cooke J Stapleton  
G Davies I Williams  
K Greaney KJ Williams  
C Jones S Williams  
D Mitchell

### 5 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests, in connection with any item on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

### 6 MINUTES

**Resolved** – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee held on 14 October 2020 be approved.

### 7 MINUTES OF THE LICENSING PANEL

**Resolved** – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Panel held on 24 September 2020 be approved.

### 8 CONFERMENT OF THE TITLE OF HONORARY ALDERMAN

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report requesting that Members of the Committee give consideration to whether to recommend to the Council that the title of Honorary Alderman be posthumously conferred on former Councillor Bill Davies.

Members of the Committee were advised that this matter had originally been scheduled for a meeting of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee on 14 October 2020 but due to the serious nature of his illness and former

Councillor Bill Davies having sadly passed away on 2 October 2020 the matter had been deferred.

The Legal Advisor to the Committee reported that former Councillor Bill Davies had been a Member of the Council from May 1986 and had represented Rock Ferry Ward as a Labour Party Member until March 2019 after which he had continued to serve Rock Ferry as an Independent Member until tendering his resignation as an Elected Member of the Council on Friday 4 September 2020. Former Councillor Bill Davies had sadly passed away on 2 October 2020 during the lead up to a meeting of this Committee where a recommendation to confer the title of Honorary Alderman had been scheduled for consideration.

Members were informed that Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the title of Honorary Alderman may be conferred by the Council on persons who have, in its opinion, rendered eminent service to the Council as past Members of this Council (or a predecessor Council) but who are no longer Councillors. The title is to be conferred by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting on it at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose. It was proposed that the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council would be convened at 6.00 pm on Wednesday 9 December 2020 to consider this matter.

It was reported that previously, the Council determined that former Members who have served twenty years on the Council or a predecessor Council had been eligible for nomination to this Award and that successful nominees had been awarded a suitable badge at a special ceremony. Until consideration of this matter, no prior considerations of the title of Honorary Alderman had been awarded posthumously.

Members were advised that former Councillor Bill Davies had been the only person eligible to be appointed as an Honorary Alderman at the time of preparing the original report scheduled to be considered by this Committee in October 2020 and in light of the fact that the process to confer the status of Honorary Alderman had already commenced prior to his passing it was considered that in these exceptional circumstances the conferment of the status of Honorary Alderman posthumously should continue out of respect for former Councillor Bill Davies.

Members were further informed that the intention would be to present former Councillor Bill Davies' family with a badge of office, the total cost of which would be approximately £600 and there would also be the small cost of inscribing his name on the Roll of Honour board which could be met from existing budgets.

The Chair advised that he had made representations to the Director of Law and Governance that the process to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on

former Councillor Bill Davies should be continued as he believed that former Councillor Bill Davies should receive this Award. Councillor Hodson expressed his great respect for former Councillor Bill Davies on behalf of himself and fellow Councillors.

Councillor George Davies confirmed that he fully supported that this matter had been pursued. He declared that he had been friends with the former Councillor since he himself became a Councillor in 1988 and that former Councillor Bill Davies had been an excellent Councillor for Rock Ferry. He believed that the Award was thoroughly deserved.

Councillor Dave Mitchell reiterated that former Councillor Bill Davies had been very well respected by Members for his hard work within his Ward and also believed that this Award was well deserved.

Councillor Jerry Williams referred to former Councillor Bill Davies as a wonderful person who had been totally dedicated to his work and fully supported the Award be conferred on him.

Councillor Tony Norbury confirmed that former Councillor Bill Davies had been a fantastic Councillor and also trade union representative and endorsed his respect for former Councillor Bill Davies.

Councillor Jean Stapleton stated that former Councillor Bill Davies was a wonderfully kind man and had been a good friend.

**On a motion by the Chair and seconded by Councillor D Mitchell, it was –**

**Resolved – That the posthumous conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor Bill Davies be recommended to Council in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 at its meeting on 9 December 2020.**

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## MINUTE EXTRACT

### COUNCIL – 7 DECEMBER 2020

#### 45 MOTION - WIRRAL COUNCIL ASKED TO BACK THE RSPCA'S FIREWORKS CAMPAIGN

Councillor Lesley Rennie moved and Councillor Ian Lewis seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Following a debate conducted in accordance with Standing Order 15, and Councillor Rennie having replied, it was –

#### **Resolved (unanimously) – That**

**Council is keen to ensure that all Wirral residents' concerns regarding the correct and safe use of fireworks in the Borough are taken seriously.**

**Council thanks Wirral residents who have shared concerns over the use, and misuse, of fireworks in the Borough, following the national campaign by the RSPCA and others, in 2019 and this year.**

**While they can bring much enjoyment to some people, fireworks also cause significant problems and fear for others.**

**They are a source of fear and distress for many animals, including pets, farm livestock and wildlife. Animals affected not only suffer psychological distress but can also cause themselves injuries – sometimes very serious ones – as they attempt to run away or hide from the noise.**

**Council also notes that fireworks, when misused, are dangerous and can be used to cause a public nuisance.**

**Council notes the work undertaken by the Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, through Operation Banger, to reduce anti-social behaviour and sporadic events, linked to fireworks and bonfires and thanks all Fire Officers for their work on this.**

**Council therefore resolves to:**

- **continue to support a number of organised, local displays with residents encouraged to attend, including the River of Light Festival (a large scale organised public display which the Council plans responsibly for) and when safe to do so**
- **continue with its practice of working with Parks, Communications and other Council Teams and partners to promote safety messages and advertise events well in advance of the planned dates, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people**
- **continue to actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks**

- **ask the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee to investigate how the Council can work with our licensed venues to encourage the safe, responsible and neighbourly use of fireworks within their grounds**
- **request all Group Leaders write to the Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays and to consider options that could limit the private sales of fireworks to individuals**
- **support visits by Trading standards and the Fire Service to local suppliers of fireworks, including 'pop up' fireworks suppliers, to ensure compliance with existing legislation and to encourage fireworks that are appropriate for public display.**



## REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 19 January 2021

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>WIRRAL AWARD 2020</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE</b>

### REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to request agreement from the Committee that the Wirral Award be conferred on the nominees as recommended by the Wirral Award Working Party.

The Wirral Award is intended to confer civic recognition upon individuals or organisations resident or located in Wirral, for an outstanding achievement (within the previous 12 months) or distinguished service to the Borough (over a period of 20 years or more, unless there are exceptional circumstances).

As a general rule the Council would prefer to consider individuals rather than organisations unless the circumstances are exceptional.

All nominations are considered annually by a working party of senior Councillors, and the working party's recommendations with regard to possible recipients of the Wirral Award are submitted to the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee for approval.

A formal award certificate will then be awarded to the successful nominees at a special ceremony to be held in the Town Hall or if this is not possible due to the current pandemic certificates will be distributed to the successful nominees.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

This is not a key decision.

The appendix attached to the report is exempt under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information. Consideration has been given to the Public Interest Test.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee be recommended to:

- (1)** agree to confer the Wirral Award upon those recipients recommended by the Wirral Award Working Party; and
- (2)** make appropriate arrangements for the presentation ceremony to take place (if possible due to the current pandemic) as set out in paragraph 3.0 of this report or to hold a virtual ceremony.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 The Wirral Award is intended to confer civic recognition upon individuals or organisations resident or located in Wirral for an outstanding achievement within the previous twelve months, or for distinguished service to the Borough over a period of twenty years or more.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 Another option would be to hold a virtual ceremony should it not be possible for a ceremony to take place (as outlined in paragraph 3.3) due to the current pandemic.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

#### **3.1 Nominations sought**

Eleven nominations were received and considered by the Wirral Award Working Party.

#### **3.2 Wirral Award Working Party**

The Wirral Award Working Party, comprising the Mayor, the Leader (in this case the Deputy Leader) and representatives of the political groups by way of the Chair and spokespersons of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee, met on 10 December 2020 to consider the nominations submitted. Their recommendations are attached as an exempt appendix to this report for consideration.

#### **3.3 Presentation Ceremony**

Once nominations are agreed, a presentation ceremony will usually be arranged to be attended by:

- (i) The Mayor of Wirral
- (ii) Leader of the Council
- (iii) Group Leaders
- (iv) Chair of the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee
- (v) Chief Executive
- (vi) Nominees and one guest each

Should this not be possible due to the current pandemic, certificates will be distributed to the successful nominees.

### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 As in previous years, the costs associated with the Wirral Award would be accommodated within the existing approved Mayoral budget.

## **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising directly out of this report.

## **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS**

6.1 There are no resource implications arising out of this report.

## **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

7.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

## **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

8.1 Nominations are sought and accepted from all areas of the local community.

## **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. This report has no impact on equalities.

## **10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no impact on emissions of Greenhouse Gases.

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Nominations for consideration (Exempt)

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Wirral Award application form.

## **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee – Wirral Award 2017</b>	<b>1 February 2018</b>
<b>Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee – Wirral Award 2018</b>	<b>23 January 2019</b>
<b>Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes</b>	<b>22 January 2020</b>

<b>Committee – Wirral Award 2019</b>	
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By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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