

Council
16 April 2012

154 MOTION: GETTING WIRRAL TRADE CENTRE READY

Proposed by Councillor Mark Johnston

Seconded by Councillor Pat Williams

1. Council recognises that all political parties have consistently worked in true political partnership to support the Wirral Waters project. This unified approach has assisted Peel in the development of this project and helped to attract significant and further potential Chinese and other investors.
2. Council also recognises the outstanding input from key Officers to ensure that Wirral is presenting itself as a highly attractive investment partner and destination.
3. Council is encouraged to see that Peel have secured and match funded £1.3 million of Government funds to start preparing the ITC site, with land remediation works already underway, and that recent visits by delegations from China were highly successful in presenting the Trade Centre site as an attractive location for potential tenants, with a further delegation expected in April.
4. Council now calls for work to “prepare the ground” for Wirral to be Trade Centre Ready, so that Wirral and its residents and businesses are in the best possible position to embrace all the potential business opportunities that will come and that we can offer the best possible support to businesses and investors that come here, to ensure the ITC is a long term success.
5. Work needs to be undertaken to ensure Wirral is ready, particularly in the following areas:
 - (i). Trade, export, marketing and inward investment
 - (ii). Employment and skills
 - (iii). Education, including languages and training
 - (iv). Culture and development of longer terms links with China, Korea, India and other countries likely to develop significant future business links with Wirral.
6. Council therefore calls on the three Parties to agree membership for a 1:1:1 Member Working Party, reporting to the Economy and Regeneration OSC. This Working Party will scope a project leading to recommendations to ensure this Council and its partners are Trade Centre Ready and able to embrace all opportunities for development through its growing links with China and other countries and that potential barriers to businesses and investors are identified and recommendations made as to how these can be overcome.

7. Council requests that the Working Party completes this work in time to enable any recommendations to be implemented before the ITC is built and opens for business and so that recommendations have enough time to be considered for the setting of 2013/14 budget, as appropriate.
8. Council also requests that the first meeting of the Working Party receive a report updating on progress in relation to paragraph 3 of the previous Notice of Motion on this topic (*Minute 53, 17 October 2012 Council refers*).

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 7(8) the Council did not debate this matter.

Resolved (65:0) (One abstention) – That the motion be approved.