

COUNCIL

Thursday, 19 September 2013

Present: The Mayor (Councillor Dave Mitchell) in the Chair
Deputy Mayor (Councillor Steve Foulkes)

Councillors	RL Abbey	A Hodson	D Realey
	C Blakeley	K Hodson	D Roberts
	E Boulton	M Hornby	L Rowlands
	A Brighthouse	AER Jones	J Salter
	P Brightmore	C Jones	H Smith
	W Clements	P Kearney	T Smith
	J Crabtree	S Kelly	W Smith
	G Davies	B Kenny	J Stapleton
	P Davies	A Leech	M Sullivan
	D Dodd	I Lewis	A Sykes
	P Doughty	AR McLachlan	J Walsh
	D Elderton	M McLaughlin	G Watt
	G Ellis	C Meaden	S Whittingham
	L Fraser	B Mooney	J Williamson
	P Gilchrist	S Mountney	I Williams
	JE Green	C Muspratt	KJ Williams
	R Gregson	S Niblock	P Williams
	P Hackett	T Norbury	S Williams
	P Hayes	C Povall	

<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	A Cox	T Harney
		WJ Davies	M Johnston
		P Glasman	L Rennie
		J Hale	

25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The 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 such interest.

In respect of all councillors who sat on bodies referred to in the 'Combined Authority' report, item 3A on the agenda, a general declaration was made of a non-pecuniary interest.

Councillor J Green and T Norbury declared non-pecuniary interests in the 'Combined Authority' report, by virtue of their employment.

26 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tony Cox, Bill Davies, Pat Glasman, John Hale, Tom Harney, Mark Johnston, and Lesley Rennie.

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Jim Crabtree for all his work with the Birkenhead Park Vintage Transport Rally which had taken place over the past weekend.

He referred to the Charity Ball taking place on Friday, 18 October, 2013 and hoped that as many members as possible would be able to attend.

The Mayor also announced that Councillor Mike Sullivan would shortly be running the equivalent of two marathons in one day carrying full Royal Marine military pack. He suggested that everyone in the Council could support this effort by donating £1, with all donations going to one of the Mayor's charities.

27 **MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL**

Two matters were submitted for approval by the Council.

The first related to the proposed Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and the recommendation from Cabinet which had met earlier on 19 September, 2013.

In respect of Cabinet minute 48 (19 September, 2013) – Combined Authority, it was moved by Councillor Phil Davies and seconded by Councillor Ann McLachlan that the recommendations of Cabinet be approved.

In accordance with Standing Order 12(1) and (9), it was moved as an amendment by Councillor Jeff Green and seconded by Councillor Andrew Hodson, that –

“Council is clear that cross border working across Merseyside, regardless of political or geographical boundaries, is desirable when it has the potential to deliver real economic benefit.

Council, however, believes that the formation of a Combined Authority, on a statutory basis, is a step too far and the six Labour-led City Region Authorities will use this process to begin the recreation of a Merseyside County Council type of authority.

Council is concerned that the creation of a solely Labour-led entity will ignore the views of a significant number of residents in the area and leave them with no voice and no access to the decision making process.

Council notes the geographical differences within the Region and is concerned that a situation may arise were all resources are siphoned off towards the largest authority - Liverpool, with the outlying conurbations, particularly Wirral, being left behind in terms of growth, jobs and investment.

Council wishes to highlight that Wirral has bucked the trend in terms of growth and job creation in the City Region, for example for the last 4 years Wirral is the only area that has seen a year on year increase in employment rate and employment rate in Wirral was 70.7% in March 2013 compared to 60.0% in Liverpool.

Council notes that in the Government's guidance 'Growth Deals: Initial Guidance for Local Enterprise Partnerships' which introduces freedoms, flexibilities and influences over resources from Government, there are at least 3 options offered to demonstrate 'strong governance' namely a Joint Leaders Committee, an Economic Prosperity

Board, a Combined Authority or indeed other arrangements. Council therefore notes that a Combined Authority is not a 'prescribed' option from Government and other options are available to the people of Wirral.

Council believes that, as the Combined Authority scheme was the only option consulted upon and that other options referred to in the Government guidance were not, the consultation process was fundamentally flawed.

Therefore in the light of the flawed options consultation and the wishes of Wirral's business community, who rejected a combined Chamber of Commerce in favour of a Wirral focussed organisation Council recommends that this matter be referred back to the Cabinet for them to consider withdrawing from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority process in favour of one of the alternative options provided in the guidance in order to access the Government's new Local Growth Fund."

To enable consideration of this amendment the Mayor then adjourned the meeting at 6.25pm for 10 minutes.

The meeting resumed at 6.35pm.

During the course of the debate on this matter, Councillor Blakeley declared a personal interest, when during Councillor Hackett's speech, reference was made to Esther McVey, MP, by virtue of his employment.

A number of issues were raised and discussed during the debate, including the role and functions of the proposed Combined Authority, the extent and level of consultation undertaken to date, the position advanced by Central Government and the arrangements for scrutiny.

Prior to the vote on the amendment, Councillor Green along with five Conservative Members asked that a 'card vote' be recorded.

For the amendment (19) Councillors C Blakeley, E Boulton, Mrs W Clements, D Elderton, G Ellis, L Fraser, J Green, P Hayes, A Hodson, K Hodson, M Hornby, P Kearney, I Lewis, S Mountney, C Povall, L Rowlands, A Sykes, G Watt and S Williams.

Against the amendment (38) Councillors R Abbey, A Brighthouse, P Brightmore, J Crabtree, G Davies, P Davies, D Dodd, P Doughty, S Foulkes, P Gilchrist, R Gregson, P Hackett, A Jones, C Jones, S Kelly, B Kenny, A Leech, A McLachlan, M McLaughlin, Mrs C Meaden, B Mooney, C Muspratt, S Niblock, T Norbury, D Realey, D Roberts, J Salter, H Smith, PA Smith, W Smith, J Stapleton, M Sullivan, J Walsh, S Whittingham, I Williams, K Williams, Mrs P Williams and J Williamson.

One abstention – Councillor D Mitchell

The amendment was therefore lost (19:38) (One abstention)

The recommendation of Cabinet was then put and carried (38:19) (One abstention).

Resolved (38:19) (One abstention) –

That the recommendations in minute 48 (Cabinet 9 September 2013) – Combined Authority, be approved and that this Council agrees -

- (1) the submission of the Liverpool City Region Strategic Governance Review and Scheme to the Department for Communities and Local Government for the establishment of a Liverpool City Region Combined Authority on the basis of the drafts attached at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to the Cabinet report;**
- (2) that the Council should formally become a constituent member of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, thereby sharing appropriate economic development and transport powers with other Councils within the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and the Local Transport Act 2008; and**
- (3) that approval to make any technical amendments to the Liverpool City Region Strategic Governance Review and Scheme before it is submitted to the Secretary of State on 30 September 2013 be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council.**

The second matter related to the designation of the new Section 151 Officer.

On a motion by Councillor Phil Davies, seconded by Councillor Ann McLachlan, it was -

Resolved (unanimously) – That, following the appointment of Vivienne Quayle as Director of Resources (as from 1 November, 2013) by the Employment and Appointments Committee at its meeting on 2 August, 2013, Council approves her designation as Section 151 Officer, pursuant to S113 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, with effect from 1 November, 2013.

28 **VACANCIES**

The Council was requested to deal with the following matters in respect of appointments to outside organisations.

CENTRAL AND SUPPORT SERVICES

(i). West Kirby Charities

Councillor David Elderton - re-appoint for a 4 year term until 7 September, 2017
Councillor Eddie Boulton - re-appoint for a 4 year term until 16 October, 2017

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

(ii). Cheshire and Wirral NHS Partnership Trust - Governor

Councillor Phil Gilchrist to be re-appointed as from 11 October, 2013 for a three year term, until 10 October, 2016.

(iii). Wirral University Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust - Governors

Councillors Kathy Hodson and Anita Leech appoint for a three year term until 18 September, 2016.

NEIGHBOURHOODS, HOUSING AND ENGAGEMENT

(iv). Magenta Living (formerly Wirral Partnership Homes) – Board Members

Due to a reduction in the size of the Board, reduce the number of appointees to 4 with the removal of Councillor Kathy Hodson, the membership now to be:

Councillors Steve Foulkes
 Jeff Green
 Denise Roberts
 Stuart Whittingham

Resolved – That the appointments and amendments to membership of outside bodies listed above, be approved.