

Council – 16 December 2013

Motions

The following motions have been submitted in accordance with the notice required by Standing Order 7(1) and are listed in the order received.

1. WIRRAL COUNCIL IMPROVEMENT BOARD

Proposed by Councillor Ann McLachlan

Seconded by Councillor Phil Davies

- (1) Council welcomes the decision by the Improvement Board at its meeting held on 29th November, that Wirral has now reached a position where we can manage our own improvement process.
- (2) We are proud of what has been the quickest improvement of any Council in the country. However we recognise that there is still a great deal left to do and we are not complacent.
- (3) We remain committed to working with all Councillors, staff, partners and residents to continue our Improvement Journey towards becoming the outstanding Council we aspire to be.
- (4) Council would want to thank all employees of the Authority who have contributed to the enormous amount of work involved in addressing the priority areas set by the Board and who are now diligently working to continue our progress towards a transformed Authority. Further, that all elected Members will continue to be fully engaged via the Policy and Performance Committees and future Visioning events.
- (5) Council would like to record our thanks to Joyce Redfearn, Chair of the Improvement Board and other Members of the Board for the hard work, commitment and support that they have provided over the past twenty months.

2. LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECLARATION ON TOBACCO CONTROL

Proposed by Councillor Chris Meaden

Seconded by Councillor Denise Roberts

- (1) Wirral Council commits itself to signing up to the local government declaration on Tobacco Control.

This declaration commits the council to:

- Act at a local level to reduce smoking prevalence and health inequalities and to raise the profile of the harm caused by smoking to our communities;
- Develop plans with our partners and local communities to address the causes and impacts of tobacco use;

- Participate in local and regional networks for support;
- Support the government in taking action at national level to help local authorities reduce smoking prevalence and health inequalities in our communities;
- Protect our tobacco control work from the commercial and vested interests of the tobacco industry by not accepting any partnerships, payments, gifts and services, monetary or in kind or research funding offered by the tobacco industry to officials or employees;
- Monitor the progress of our plans against our commitments and publish the results; and
- Publicly declare our commitment to reducing smoking in our communities by joining the Smoke-free Action Coalition, the alliance of organisations working to reducing the harm caused by tobacco.

- (2) Council notes that this has the support of, among others, the Public Health Minister, Chief Medical Officer and Public Health England and that such declarations have already been signed by Salford City Council, Warwickshire County Council and Bath & North East Somerset Council.
- (3) Such a declaration is aimed at reducing the single biggest cause of preventable deaths in the UK – with over 80,000 dying each year - more than obesity, alcohol, road accidents and illegal drug use put together.

3. WIRRAL LABOUR'S COST OF LIVING RISES

**Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green
Seconded by Councillor Adam Sykes**

Council notes that this Labour administration has presided over a series of astronomical cost of living increases including:

1. the raising of Council Tax and the rejection of £1.3 million of Government money to freeze Council Tax;
2. a 900% increase in charges for car parking in parts of the Borough with the standardisation of hourly tariffs and the abolition of the Free after 3pm scheme;
3. the introduction of a Brown Bin Tax;
4. an inflation busting 33% increase in the charge of the ERIC service

Council further notes that in total these Labour approved, locally determined measures have resulted in a whacking 624% increase in the cost of living for Wirral residents since 2011-2012.

Council is therefore shocked that Wirral's Labour Councillors will again be rejecting Government money to freeze Council Tax in 2014 -2015.

Council calls on Labour Councillors to accept responsibility for their decisions, change direction and put the reduction of the cost of living for hard pressed Wirral residents at the centre of their plans.