

The Council is requested to consider the following amendments, submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12 (1) and (9).

1. Notice of Motion – STORM DAMAGE

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by Councillor Alan Brighthouse

Add after paragraph 3

Council, whilst not objecting to a letter being sent, believes it should be more constructive.

Council believes that the terms of the proposed letter should recognise that the Government is reviewing and re-evaluating the scheme of emergency financial assistance introduced in 1983.

Generally known as the 'Bellwin' Scheme, it has always helped local authorities claim and meet exceptional and unexpected costs.

It should be acknowledged that the Scheme has been changed this year to include:

- paying Bellwin Grant at 100% above threshold instead of the normal default 85%
- allowing upper tier authorities with responsibility for fire to claim on a comparable basis to standalone fire authorities
- reducing the Bellwin thresholds for all county councils and unitary authorities
- extending the eligible spending period until the end of March 2014

These changes were followed by an announcement of an offer of a £5,000 "repair and renew" grant for homeowners and businesses, to support repairs which improve a property's ability to withstand future flooding.

The letter should stress that both Government and local authorities now need to plan for the greater frequency of such events due to climate change and thus:

- (a) outline the steps Wirral has been taking to encourage its tourism potential and coastal economy.
- (b) recognise that the wind direction, storm surges and low pressure affected many parts of the western coasts but, fortunately, did not have as serious an impact here.
- (c) fairly represent Wirral's budgetary problems.
- (d) offer to join a dialogue on the investment needed to make services more resilient for the future.

2. Notice of Motion – THE EUROPEAN UNION – #Whylamin

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Phil Davies

Seconded by Councillor Pat Hackett

Add the following:

'Council recognises that one of the key benefits of EU membership for regions such as Merseyside has been access to European structural funding which has contributed to a number of important regeneration projects in Wirral and Merseyside over several years.

Council believes that the Government's decision to propose a cut of 65% in Merseyside's EU funding allocation for the new programme (2014-20) to be unfair and unjustifiable given the level of economic and social need in this region.

Council notes that the Judicial Review brought by the Local Enterprise Partnerships representing South Yorkshire and Merseyside resulted in the High Court deciding on the 7th February 2014 that the Government's allocations of funding within the UK (particularly with reference to Merseyside and South Yorkshire) were unlawful. Council further notes that the Court therefore decided to quash the Government's original decisions on the allocation of EU funds to England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and LEPs within England and refer them back to the Secretary of State for reconsideration.

The High Court judgement requires the Government to take a fresh decision on EU funding allocations within the UK, having regard to the public sector equality duty. Council therefore urges the Government to use this opportunity to reverse the massive and clearly unjustified cut in its proposed allocation of EU funding to Merseyside for the new programme and thereby enable us to continue to tackle our economic challenges.'