

Council – 8 December 2014

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. THE CORPORATE PLAN'S IDEALS IN PRACTICE

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

In the light of the Council considering and approving the updated Corporate Plan, it should recall the pledges and assurances made in the previous one. In so doing, it should ensure that the ideals of the Plan accord with what occurs in practice.

It should take stock of whether it fulfilled its obligations in key areas of direct impact on the children attending The Lyndale School, their parents and their carers.

The Corporate Plan 2014-2016 assured our citizens that...

'Wirral will be a place where the vulnerable are safe and protected.'

This latest Plan restates this as...

'It is of the utmost importance that we safeguard our vulnerable people and deliver our services with empathy at all times.'

The previous Plan stated...

'We must be recognised as a receptive Council that listens, responds and engages...' (page 8)

Council notes that the proposed refresh of the Corporate Plan states that...

'our vision, priorities and spending decisions are based on sound evidence, thorough analysis and understanding of community needs.'

Council recalls that the SEN Improvement Test, when set out in full without editing, states...

'Decision makers should make clear how they are satisfied that this SEN improvement test has been met, including how they have taken account of parental and independent representations which question the proposer's assessment'

Council, therefore, calls on the Cabinet to:

- (i). look at these pledges and commitments;
- (ii). question whether these were carefully and properly applied at all times during the consideration of the needs of the children at the Lyndale School;
- (iii). report to Council on how the SEN Improvement Test was properly applied.

2. NO FIRE STATION IN THE CENTRE OF GREASBY

Proposed by Councillor Tom Anderson

Seconded by Councillor Wendy Clements

Council acknowledges the overwhelming public opposition to a fire station on the site of Greasby Library.

Council notes that this concern relates to the specific site, not to the policy of merging of fire stations.

Council impresses upon Cabinet:

- (1) not to gift, sell, lease the land concerned at the centre of Greasby, because of the value it has for the community; and
- (2) to ask officers to work co-operatively with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service in identifying and facilitating a more suitable site for operational purposes and to maintain the amenity of the local people.

3. GOVERNMENT'S FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE CUTS

Proposed by Councillor Phil Davies

Seconded by Councillor Adrian Jones

Council welcomes the announcement by the Leader of the Council to withdraw the Council-owned land in the centre of Greasby from consideration for a new fire station.

Given the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority's obligation to maximise the protection of lives, and of property, it is inevitable that the location of Fire Stations may, from time to time, conflict with local preferences particularly where such structures may detract from the established scenic value of the MFRA's preferred locations.

The Government's devastating and unfair cuts to MFRA's budget have resulted in the unavoidable need to cut the number of Fire Stations in Wirral. The Fire and Rescue Authority's preferred location of a single Fire Station on a site in the centre of Greasby was based on its assessment of life saving response times. However, this would result in the loss of a much loved local green space.

The Council is asked to continue to work with the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority to identify an alternative site in the greater Greasby area.

4. SELECTIVE LICENSING SCHEME

Proposed by Councillor George Davies
Seconded by Councillor Bernie Mooney

Council welcomes the introduction of Selective Licensing of private landlords in four designated areas of the Borough. The four areas are known as Super Output Areas as identified by Government data.

The anticipated success of this scheme will enable us to move into other areas, where there is a similar shortage of good quality affordable homes.

Council therefore seeks the support of all parties in ensuring that Selective Licensing is endorsed and championed to raise the standard of private rented accommodation for all Wirral residents.