

AMENDMENTS IN RESPECT OF ITEM 7 – MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL

7a. Cabinet minute 99 (27/11/14) – Corporate Plan 2015/16

AMENDMENT

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Council notes the sense of excitement and progress that the corporate plan intends to convey.

Council believes that this will be undermined if the controlling Labour Cabinet fails to pay due regard to the recent budget consultation.

Since the plan talks about '*ensuring that our vision, priorities and spending decisions are based on sound evidence, thorough analysis and understanding of community needs*' there are a number of areas where the Cabinet needs to match such sentiments with its actions.

Therefore these policy areas will lead to public confusion and cynicism if the Cabinet's future actions fall short of the hopes expressed.

- The plan says "*pupils should have access to a safe, healthy school environment*" but will this be the case if there are insufficient crossing patrols to achieve this.
- The plan says it will "*ensure residents have access to green and open spaces*" but will this be ensured if residents are deterred by parking charges at the country parks.
- The plan says it will "*achieve warmer and safer homes*" but will this be achieved if the Cabinet, as in recent months, cuts the Public Health budget for healthy homes.
- The plan says it will "*build on the assets already in our communities*" but the assets will be reduced in our communities if the Cabinet does not respond to public concern about library opening times and youth and play facilities.
- The plan says it is "*empowering*" local residents "*in their communities*" but the Cabinet will not have built up community resilience if reductions in the availability of grit and grit bins are brought in.
- This latest plan also states...
'It is of the utmost importance that we safeguard our vulnerable people and deliver our services with empathy at all times'. The decision on the future of the Lyndale School, currently awaited, will be a litmus test or touchstone of this statement and a test of whether '*sound evidence*' and '*thorough analysis*' is being applied in practice.

Council therefore is not in a position to endorse the plan until it is clear that the laudable sentiments of the plan are adhered to and demonstrated in practice, particularly by the Cabinet.

7e. Employment and Appointments Panel minute 3 (24/11/14) – Appointment of Chief Executive, Head of Paid Services (including Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer)

AMENDMENT

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by Councillor Chris Carubia

Council notes

- (a) the detailed comparisons made with other authorities and
- (b) the external advice provided by representatives of the Local Government Association and Penna.

Council considers, however,

- (1) that the work of the Chief Executive in Wirral is supported by a series of Strategic Directors.
- (2) comparisons made with other authorities should look at the period and the financial climate in which their Chief Executives took up their posts.
- (3) the salary of the Chief Executive should not be more than ten times that of the lowest grade employee.
- (4) increasing the salary of the Chief Executive at a time when officers are being re-organised and evaluated is inappropriate.
- (5) increasing the salary to the level proposed sends the wrong message to the workforce and taxpayers.
- (6) an in depth performance appraisal of the successful applicant will be undertaken after one year's employment with a view to determining whether the salary should be enhanced.

In the light of these considerations the proposed salary should be advertised at the present level.