

# Council – 15 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. EXTENDING WIRRAL'S COASTAL PATHS

**Proposed** by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

**Seconded** by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Council welcomes the latest issue of Wirral Matters, Winter 2014-15, issued by the Wirral Society and circulated to all Members.

Council notes the article 'Paths where there are none' which highlights the potential for cross Wirral and coastal paths. The publication refers to the longstanding desire to open up the coastline between the Port Sunlight River Park and Eastham Country Park in these terms....

'The last section of the route here, turning southwards towards Eastham Country Park, is at present one of Wirral's all but forgotten special places, where crinkly little oaks stand along a sometimes quite narrow strip of restorable common land. An unofficial path takes the walker along low cliffs and past a small cove where the sand is as red as Thor's stone.'

Council, mindful of the visitor economy, the popularity of Eastham Country Park and the recently opened Port Sunlight River Park, believes that it is timely for further work to be done on the potential of this route.

Council believes that the greener aspect of the Wirral and Merseyside economy would be boosted by such a project.

Council requests officers to:

- a) pull together the relevant information from work undertaken in the past
- b) assess the ownership and planning issues involved
- c) promote this with the Combined Authority and funding agencies
- d) explore how this area can be safeguarded from inappropriate development in the present and future planning policies.

with a view to opening up this forgotten coastline to the benefit of Wirral's residents and visitors.

## **2. The Right Choice for Wirral's Economy**

**Proposed** by Councillor Jeff Green

**Seconded** by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Council notes that this year's election is the most important in a generation for Wirral Council, its services and Wirral people. The choice facing Britain couldn't be clearer. We can stick with the competence of a strong Conservative Government that is working to a long-term economic plan to secure a better future for hardworking taxpayers or we can put it all at risk with Ed Miliband and Ed Balls – who's only plan appears to be more spending, more borrowing and higher taxes which would be devastating for the country and Wirral's economy.

Council further notes that Labour left Britain's economy in a mess. Since 2010, Conservatives have been working to a long-term economic plan to turn Britain around.

As a result of the Government's long-term economic plan, we have seen:

- 1200 new jobs created per day since the Conservatives have been in power
- The deficit cut by a half as a share of national income
- Income tax cut for 26 million people
- Benefits capped to reward work
- 1.85 million more people in employment
- The state pension increased by £800

Council understands that, despite the protestations of the Labour Leader and his acolytes, we are now seeing these policies working for Wirral.

At the last meeting of the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee Members were informed that a recent report had indicated that Wirral had increased its Gross Value Added (GVA) by 7%, a higher level than anywhere else in the country.

In addition the number of new business start-ups in Wirral exceeded the national average by 7% and almost one in three of these new businesses work in the professional, scientific and technical sectors, a figure which is only exceeded by Aberdeen.

Council believes that a successful local economy with private sector job creation and employment is the true and proven route out of welfare dependency.

Council therefore urges all Wirral's residents to vote in the forthcoming General Election and to consider voting for which of the parties in this election have their long term interests at heart and will represent them most effectively locally and in Government.

### **3. WORKFARE**

**Proposed** by Councillor Tony Norbury

**Seconded** by Councillor Christine Spriggs

This Council:

- i) Believes that work should pay and therefore opposes the introduction of schemes which force job seekers into unpaid work or face losing their benefits – schemes known popularly as workfare.
- ii) Is concerned that there is no evidence that workfare assists job seekers in finding work and in fact working a 30-hour week makes that more difficult; that workfare is replacing paid work; and that workfare stigmatises benefits claimants and locks them further into poverty.
- iii) Pledges not to use any workfare placements and will also encourage contractors not to use these schemes.

### **4. WIRRAL WATERS**

**Proposed** by Councillor Phil Davies

**Seconded** by Councillor Pat Hackett

This Council:

- i) Welcomes the recent commencement of two developments on the Wirral Waters site, i.e. a new campus for Wirral Metropolitan College which will house a new Centre of Excellence for Enterprise and the Built Environment; and a new landmark office development at Tower Wharf which will provide 800 new jobs.
- ii) Congratulates all Council officers which have helped bring these projects to fruition and the excellent partnership with other key agencies; and hopes that these will be the first of many projects which generate new jobs and investment on Wirral Waters.
- iii) Agrees that investing in new physical infrastructure, new landmark buildings and sites and premises creating high quality jobs and economic growth is the best way to improve the quality of life of all Wirral residents.
- iv) Asks the four Wirral MPs to lobby ministers to support future developments on Wirral Waters which contribute to economic growth.