

Council – 06 July 2015

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 NORTHERN POWERHOUSE (*to be debated*)

Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green

Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Council will be aware of the Cities and Devolution Bill designed to provide for the devolution of powers to cities with elected metro mayors to build a Northern Powerhouse.

Council understands that the Chancellor, the key architect of the country's economic recovery, has made it clear that he wants to harness the individual successes of the north into a combined Northern Powerhouse able to challenge the South providing jobs and opportunities for individuals and economic security for their families.

Council recognises that this is a once in a generation opportunity for the hardworking families of Wirral; a Chancellor who represents a seat in North West England and one that is prepared to devolve significant powers and budgets to our region in order to improve the lives of hardworking families.

Council believes that the opportunity provided by the Government must not be squandered.

Council further believes that any devolution of power and budget to the City Region must be balanced by providing a direct opportunity to hold those with authority accountable.

Therefore Council recommends that the Leader of the Council advises the next meeting of the Combined Authority to engage enthusiastically in the development of the Northern Powerhouse; provide clarity to this Council about the details of any devolution of power and budget it is seeking from the Government and confirm its support for a directly elected Metro Mayor.

2. WIRRAL'S ECONOMIC SUCCESS (*the Civic Mayor to refer to the Policy and Performance - Regeneration and Environment Committee*)

Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green

Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Council notes that:

- (1) Latest information reports that Wirral has 7,400 total enterprises; an 11.1% improvement in the business base since 2011 and the number of total jobs in Wirral currently stands at 113,000 which is the highest figure for 8 years.

- (2) Wirral currently has 3,118 Jobseekers Allowance claimants, a reduction of nearly 3,000 since April 2014. 530 of these Jobseekers are aged 18-24, a reduction of nearly 1,300 since April 2014; this is a reduction in rate of 5.2% which is nearly triple the national average.

Council expresses its relief that the British Electorate has returned a Conservative Government and given it a mandate to continue its support to businesses and the long term economic plan.

Council wishes to congratulate all those local Wirral entrepreneurs, workers and businesses who are contributing to the economic success of Wirral and the country as a whole.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Chair of the Wirral Chamber of Commerce and invites him to share his thoughts on what the Council can do to further support our local businesses in continuing the Government's vision of more people with the security of a regular wage and the chance to get on.

3. PROPOSAL FOR A FIRE STATION ON GREEN BELT LAND IN SAUGHALL MASSIE (*the Civic Mayor to refer to the Policy and Performance - Regeneration and Environment Committee*)

Proposed by Councillor Chris Blakeley
Seconded by Councillor Bruce Berry

Council acknowledges the overwhelming public opposition to the proposal by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service for a fire station on green belt land in Saughall Massie, as demonstrated by:

- The 200 people who attended a public meeting arranged by MFRS, and a further 270 who were unable to gain admission to the venue.
- The opposition of the Saughall Massie Village Area Conservation Society and the Wirral Society.
- The 970 people who have, so far, signed a petition against the proposal.

Council impresses upon Cabinet:

- (1) To maintain protection of Wirral's Green Belt, as set by agreed policies and stop inappropriate development.
- (2) Not to gift, sell or lease the land concerned in Saughall Massie, because of the value it has for the community.
- (3) To ask officers to continue to work co-operatively with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service in identifying and facilitating a more suitable brown field site for operational purposes and to maintain the amenity of the local people.

4. MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGE (*the Civic Mayor to refer to the Policy and Performance - Families and Wellbeing Committee*)

Proposed by Councillor Tom Anderson
Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Council notes that:

- (1) mental health is becoming an increasing concern, with one in five people having a mental health condition at any one time.
- (2) only a quarter of people with a mental health condition receive any treatment for it.
- (3) mental ill-health has economic and social cost of £105bn a year, accounting for 28% of the total burden of disease but only 13% of NHS spending.
- (4) mental health provision is not just about supporting those with the most severe conditions but providing an integrated and holistic support to the community.

Furthermore, Council notes the excellent initiative of several leading mental health charities in developing the “Mental Health Challenge” and the resources they are giving to local authorities.

Council therefore resolves to take on the mental health organisations challenge by:

- (a) Appoint an elected member as ‘mental health champion’ across the Council.
- (b) Identify a lead officer for mental health to link in with colleagues across the Council.
- (c) Follow the implementation framework for the mental health strategy where it is relevant to the Council’s work and local needs.
- (d) Work to reduce inequalities in mental health in our community.
- (e) Work with the NHS to integrate health and social care support.
- (f) Promote wellbeing and initiate and support action on public mental health for example through our joint health and wellbeing strategy.
- (g) Tackle discrimination on the grounds of mental health in our community.
- (h) Encourage positive mental health in our schools, colleges and workplaces.
- (i) Proactively engage and listen to people of all ages and backgrounds about what they need for better mental health.
- (j) Sign up to the Time to Change pledge.

5. MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE FUNDING (*to be debated*)

Proposed by Councillor Phil Davies
Seconded by Councillor Matt Patrick

Council notes the Conservative Government's announcement of a Summer budget on July 8th.

Council recognises the unprecedented challenge before Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority, who due to continued cuts to their funding are faced with the closure of West Kirby and Upton Fire Stations, both of the emergency facilities in Wirral West Constituency.

Council requests Wirral MPs, as a matter of urgency, to raise this matter with the appropriate minister with a view to revisiting the grant allocation to stop these closures.

6. IMPLEMENTATION OF NOTICE OF MOTION 'BECOMING A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COUNCIL' (*to be debated*)

Proposed by Councillor Tom Anderson
Seconded by Councillor Tracey Pilgrim

Council:

- (1) notes that the Notice of Motion 'Becoming a Dementia Friendly Council' was brought to Council on 14th July 2014 and was subsequently referred to the Families and Wellbeing Policy and Performance Committee at its meeting on 9 September 2014 where it was unanimously endorsed.
- (2) expresses disappointment in the delay in bringing this back to Council, finally being resolved and endorsed at Council on 8th December 2014.
- 3) acknowledges that it's been 12 months since this Motion was first introduced and concludes that it is unacceptable that little has been done to promote and implement the sentiments contained within the original Motion.

Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to:

- (a) fully implement the will of Elected Members as set out in the original Notice of Motion 'Becoming a Dementia Friendly Council,' without delay.
- (b) conduct an investigation into why this Notice of Motion has not been driven forward by Chief Officers and report his findings to the Policy and Performance Co-ordinating Committee.