

MINUTE EXTRACT

POLICY AND PERFORMANCE REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

2 DECEMBER 2015

25 **NOTICE OF MOTION - SUPPORTING WIRRAL'S PART IN OUR NUCLEAR INDUSTRIES**

Members of the Policy and Performance Regeneration and Environment Committee considered a motion to Council (6 July 2015) as proposed by Councillor Steve Williams and seconded by Councillor Wendy Clements, that:

“Council notes many Wirral residents work in our major nuclear power and defence industries, both directly (in companies such as Urenco, Cammell Laird and CNS) and indirectly, in the supply chain.

Council believes these highly-skilled, well paid advanced engineering jobs offer opportunities for residents and welcomes the skills and apprenticeship training at Wirral Metropolitan College for young people entering the industry.

Council agrees with the Leader of the Council that Wirral has a strong track record in manufacturing for the nuclear industry and calls on the Administration to play an even greater part in providing students with the skills required to play a full part in future manufacturing and production.”

At the invitation of the Chair, Councillor Williams introduced the Motion, and informed the Committee about the opportunities arising from Wirral’s well-established nuclear power and defence industries and available apprenticeship training. He provided detail regarding the types, and levels, of employment in the industries informing of the need to support and keep ‘high value, high tech’ employment opportunities on the Wirral. Members noted that the employment figures for those employed in the nuclear and defence industries on the Wirral were in the region of 21% compared to the National average of 10%.

Members applauded the Wirral businesses success welcoming any opportunity to develop or expand the workforce in such industries. Although supporting the Motion, a Member expressed concerns regarding the problems associated with the handling of nuclear waste by-products. Other Members of the Committee compared the cleanliness of nuclear power generation methods to fossil fuel power production, and informed that the local businesses included research facilities looking to further improve safety and cleanliness of the industry.

A vote was taken:

For: 9

Against: 1

Abstained: 3

Resolved:

That the COUNCIL BE ADVISED that this Committee supports the Motion in respect of Wirral's part in providing students with the skills required to play a part in the future of our Nuclear Industries i.e.

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