

Council – 14 March, 2016

Motions

The following motions have been submitted in accordance with the notice required by Standing Order 7(4) and are listed as follows:

1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Phil Davies

Seconded by Councillor Ann McLachlan

This Council notes the continued inequity of the Government's approach to local authority funding.

It further recognises the Government's failings to give a fair deal for Wirral through the recently announced 'Transitional Fund'

Council is disappointed that despite the Secretary of State claiming the fund is "To help Councils transform from dependence on central government grants to greater financial autonomy" more than 83% of the £300million fund was sent to Conservative controlled authorities.

Is disappointed that of the 36 English Metropolitan boroughs, representing 22% of the population, only 2 received any support, and they were the only two Conservative controlled authorities of Trafford and Solihull. and while Surrey, Oxfordshire and Cheshire East received millions in support Wirral, and the rest of the Liverpool City Region, received nothing.

Council is further dismayed to learn that the Conservatives locally offered no support to help address the imbalance of funding, to lobby their Westminster colleagues or to stand up for local residents.

Therefore Council recommends that Leader of the Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer requesting an immediate review of local government funding, the deployment of the Transitional Fund and for Wirral to receive a fair assessment and settlement to help off-set the £29million cuts he has forced upon the borough in 2016/17.

2. REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH *(to be debated)*

Proposed by: Councillor Pat Hackett

Seconded by: Councillor Jean Stapleton

This Council notes the continuing opportunity for Birkenhead to play a major part in the economic growth of both Liverpool City Region and the '*northern powerhouse*'.

It further recognises the work the local business community, the chamber of commerce and council officers are doing to promote Wirral as a place for employers to invest and businesses to thrive.

Council also supports the Leader of the Council in his new role as portfolio lead Economic Development for Liverpool City Region Combined Authority as a strong advocate for continued investment and growth in Wirral.

Council applauds the news that in 2016 at least £150million of new investment projects will begin and reaffirms its 2020 pledge to attract £450million in inward investment.

3. GIRTRELL COURT *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Cllr Chris Blakeley

Seconded by Cllr Bruce Berry

Council notes that the Leader of the Council has previously stated that he wants his Administration to be open, transparent and fair with the people of Wirral. Council welcomes this approach.

Council therefore believes that the future of Girtrell Court must be decided in public and not under delegation to the portfolio holder, in conjunction with the Director of Adult Social Services.

Council further believes that the families of those using Girtrell Court, the staff, trade unions and residents and users must be given every opportunity to influence the future of Girtrell Court through a clear and transparent decision making process.

4. SUPPORT FOR OUR ARMED FORCES *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Cllr. Jeff Green

Seconded by Cllr. Lesley Rennie

On the 25th anniversary of the First Gulf War, Council pays tribute to the thousands of servicemen and women who fought in the conflict, in particular, the 47 British servicemen and women who gave their lives during the campaign, and whose names are dedicated at the Gulf War Memorial within St Paul's Cathedral.

Council welcomes the series of commemorative events hosted by the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers; the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars Association and the participation of more than 500 Staffordshire Regiment veterans and soldiers in the Mercian Regiment

Council expresses its support for the many Wirral residents who are serving in our Armed Forces, the loved ones they leave behind and the tremendous contribution they make to defeating terror; challenging aggressors and dictators and defending our national security.

Council also welcomes the active participation of many UK firms in ensuring our Armed Forces are better equipped than ever before, including manufacturers and those in the supply chain located in Wirral.

5. BACKING OUR COASTAL COMMUNITIES *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Cllr. Geoffrey Watt

Seconded by Cllr. John Hale

Council welcomes the support given by HM Government to develop more than 100 radical plans to boost growth, jobs and prosperity in the United Kingdom's coastal communities and supports the inclusion of New Brighton in this programme.

Council notes that more than 11 million people live in coastal communities, from major cities to seaside villages. The tourism industry alone accounts for the employment of 250,000 people across 150 seaside resorts, and contributes £4 billion to the UK economy.

Council believes this Government support for 'local coastal community teams' to help revive towns and, last year, the creation of 118 Coastal Community Teams

Council notes the £120 million Coastal Communities Fund, established in 2012, has money going to projects in every region and country of the United Kingdom, creating nearly 14,000 new jobs and more than 10,000 training places and, in December, support to illuminate New Brighton's iconic lighthouse.

Council welcomes the additional £1 million coastal revival funding that will be available in 2016 to 2017 for further projects.

6. SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(to be debated)

Proposed by Cllr. Lesley Rennie
Seconded by Cllr. David Burgess-Joyce

Council welcomes the cash being given to Wirral by HM Government to support more victims of domestic violence.

Council congratulates those involved in the successful bid, including Wirral Women and Children's Aid, which will enable the appointment of two new specialist support officers, to offer support on issues such as mental health and substance misuse; and six new units of safe accommodation will be made available to victims.

Council also welcomes the additional role that will include helping young people who may not recognise the symptoms of domestic abuse.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to Communities Minister, Baroness Williams of Trafford, inviting her to Wirral to meet with representatives of the organisations involved in tackling domestic violence and supporting victims,

7. TACKLING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION*(to be debated)*

Proposed by Cllr. David Burgess-Joyce
Seconded by Cllr. Jeff Green

Council condemns the barbaric practice of female genital mutilation, regardless of where it takes place and among all cultures.

Statistics published in December showed that between July and September last year there were 1,385 newly recorded cases of FGM reported by healthcare professionals across England.

An estimated 20,000 girls are also identified as being most at risk from FGM in the UK.

Council therefore welcomes action, so far, by HM Government that includes:

- From 31 October 2015, the mandatory requirement for regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales to report visually confirmed or verbally disclosed cases of FGM in girls to the police.
- new legislation to grant victims of FGM lifelong anonymity from the time an allegation is made
- the introduction of new civil orders designed to protect girls identified as being at risk of FGM
- new legislation that will mean parents can be prosecuted if they fail to prevent their daughter being cut.

Council calls on those organisations in Wirral that are working in the communities most at risk of this unacceptable and barbaric action to work with schools, police, health services and others to raise awareness of the dangers and the consequences of such action.

8. SETTING CLEAR TARGETS FOR WIRRAL WATERS

(Civic Mayor to refer to Policy and Performance Regeneration and Environment Committee)

Proposed by: Cllr Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by: Cllr Dave Mitchell

Council notes that the planning permission for Wirral Waters was granted in August 2010. At that time, the report of the Director of Technical Services advised Members that a planning permission was sought that could be implemented over 25 years and that development on the entire proposal might take 30-40 years.

Council recognises that the relevant planning agreements were concluded during 2012 and that a number of projects have been completed or planning permissions have been granted, or are in hand.

Council suggests that it would be prudent and timely to receive a presentation from Peel setting out the way in which the development is taking place, what has been achieved and what the realistic prospects and timescales are for further stages. Officers should, as part of this, set out how the plans for the cross-docks routes are linked in to this overall view.

9. SEEKING FAIRNESS IN PURCHASING

(Civic Mayor to refer to Policy and Performance Transformation and Resources Committee)

Proposed by: Cllr Pat Williams
Seconded by: Cllr Alan Brighthouse

Council notes that Wirral's Procurement Strategy was last refreshed in April 2011. At that time, this ensured environmental and sustainability considerations were included, along with a partnership approach. Council believes it is time for this Strategy to be reviewed to formally recognise the changes in legislation and practices since then with a view to enshrining ethical and social issues.

Council notes that:

- corporate tax evasion and tax avoidance are now matters of public interest and concern, not only at national level but also internationally.

- corporate tax evasion and avoidance are having a damaging impact, not just on public services in well-established economies but also on the world's poorest countries. The loss to the latter has been assessed as being higher than they receive in aid.

Council further notes:

- that the UK Government has taken steps to tackle the issue of tax avoidance and evasion by issuing Procurement Policy Note 03/14, applying to all central government contracts worth more than £5m.
- the availability of independent means of verifying tax compliance, such as the Fair Tax Mark.

Council understands that, in early 2015, new regulations required public bodies, including Councils, to ask procurement qualification questions of all companies for tenders over £173,000 for service contracts and £4m for works contracts. However, these questions are not as detailed as the Procurement Policy Note 'Measures to Promote Tax Compliance' (PPN 03/14) issued in February 2014.

Council believes that it is now reasonable to require bidders for Council contracts to self-certify that they are fully tax-compliant in line with central government practice using the standards in PPN 03/14 rather than lower standards.

Council asks officers to report to the Transformation & Resources Policy and Performance Committee and Cabinet to investigate whether and how this policy could be effectively included in the Council's Procurement Procedures, taking into account the need not to unfairly prejudice small businesses.

10. REDUCING PEDESTRIAN CASUALTIES IN WIRRAL

(Civic Mayor to refer to Policy and Performance Regeneration and Environment Committee)

Proposed by: Cllr Pat Cleary

Seconded by: Cllr Phil Gilchrist

Council notes that the Wirral Plan 'A 2020 Vision' Phase 1 states 'we will continue to invest in our highways, keeping Wirral moving and making sure our road network is safe and well maintained; always remembering our duty to residents in regard to road safety'.

And that, under Pledge 13 on page 41 further states,....

'By the end of March 2016, we will...Develop a new road Safety strategy, based on detailed insight'.

Council understands that the Wirral Pedestrians Association has recently carried out their own comprehensive audit of road injuries and casualties in Wirral. They expressed considerable concern about the relatively high rate of pedestrian casualties in Wirral which they placed in the bottom third of local authorities for pedestrian serious injuries. For child pedestrians, they placed Wirral in the bottom fifth. The report questioned the level of attention being given to pedestrian safety by Council officers and the police.

Council requests that this audit should be considered by officers and that the issues raised should be used to inform the promised insight. The issues raised include due attention to illegal parking on footways and the placing of A Boards on footways, along with better co-ordination with the police where appropriate.

As part of this process Council requests officers to consider the approaches such as these –

'A safe system approach to road safety in Bristol; A ten year Plan 2015 - 2024
'Road safety strategy; Consultation Version (July 2015) Birmingham City Council
The phased extension of 20 MPH Zones in Cheshire West and Chester.

Accordingly the Cabinet Member be requested to

- a. report on the production of the new road safety strategy
- b. explain how the concerns of the Pedestrians Association can be properly taken into account to the Regeneration and Environment Policy and Performance Committee