

Amendments to Notices of Motion

The Council is requested to consider the following amendments, submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(1) and (9)

(1) Notice of Motion No. 1 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Add new paragraph after paragraph 6...

Council notes that in the announcement of the Settlement 8 February 2016, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government set out 'indicative figures'.

Council understands that the idea was and is that councils should apply for a four year budget, extending to the end of the Parliament. Further, it appears that councils have until 14 October 2016 to respond to this. As part of this process, councils were either asked or expected to translate the 'certainty' of a four year settlement into 'efficiency savings'.

Council, therefore, requests officers to establish through the Local Government Association and SIGOMA what this means and what process is being followed.

The Secretary of State also stated that *"Many councils felt that too much time has passed since the last substantial revision of the formula which assesses a council's needs, and the costs it can be expected to incur in delivering services."*

He went on to say that *"On the needs formula itself, it is nearly 10 years since the current formula was last looked at thoroughly. There is good reason to believe that the demographic pressures affecting particular areas – such as the growth in the elderly population – have affected different areas in different ways, as has the cost of providing services. So I can announce that we will conduct a review of what the needs assessment formula should be in a world in which all local government spending is funded by local resources not central grant, and use it to determine the transition to 100% business rates retention."*

Council requests that...

- a) urgent work is undertaken to find out what is meant by the 'review of the needs assessment formula' referred to;
- b) compilation of the information necessary to submit a case for a fair assessment of Wirral's needs is undertaken. This shall, amongst other issues, address the difficulties in achieving the growth in the 'New Homes Bonus' and 'Business Rates' in the timescales being specified;

c) officers submit a formal request for a meeting with the Secretary of State, requesting that he meet with a Wirral delegation to discuss the realistic appraisal of Wirral's needs.

(2) Notice of Motion No. 2 – REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Steve Williams

Seconded by Councillor Andrew Hodson

Insert new paragraph 3:

Council also recognises the significant contribution Government has made to Wirral and the wider City Region to support the Region's ongoing recovery. This support has taken a variety of forms, a snapshot includes:

- Mersey Waters Enterprise Zone Designation
- Devolution
- £232 million for the City Region's Growth Deal
- £400 million for the Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund
- £50 million to support Transport for the North
- £150 million to support the delivery of smart and integrated ticketing across local transport and rail services in the North

(3) Notice of Motion No. 2 – REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Pat Cleary

Seconded by Councillor Alan Brighthouse

Insert new paragraph after paragraph 1...

Council believes that the prospects for the regeneration of Birkenhead will be strengthened if proposals are developed through an open and meaningful consultation with local residents, if the Constituency Committee is consulted at the earliest stages of any projects and that effective, timely and widespread consultation is undertaken about future investment plans. Officers are requested to develop mechanisms to establish this for consideration.

Retain original paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 as new paragraphs 3, 4 and 5.

(4) Notice of Motion No. 3 – GIRTRELL COURT

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Phil Davies

Seconded by Councillor Chris Jones

Insert new paragraph at start of motion:

‘Council believes that it is important to offer service users and their families a choice of respite care provision. People want the ability to choose the type of care and support which is right for them. At present they are unable to do this. This is not about a building or provider, it’s about the person.’

Delete paragraph 2 and replace with the following:

‘Council notes that a detailed debate on Girtrell Court took place at Budget Council on the 3rd March and a clear way forward was agreed. This involves statutory consultation with service users and their families followed by a clear new service offer and events for carers and cared for people to meet potential new providers. Services will be commissioned to meet all of the identified needs at that stage. Authority will be delegated to the Director, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member, to make decisions in order to avoid undue delays which would prolong uncertainty. We are not imposing deadlines on when this process will be complete and, in the meantime, Girtrell Court will remain open.’

(5) Notice of Motion No. 3 – GIRTRELL COURT

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Seconded by Councillor Alan Brighthouse

Add new paragraphs after paragraph 3...

Notwithstanding the decision of Council of 3rd March, Council believes that the rights of Members to scrutinise the decision remain available for their exercise under Part 3, Schedule 4A and 4B of the Constitution.

In view of the concerns of the families and users of Girtrell Court, any ‘decision’ of the Council Officer/Cabinet Member shall be set out, together with all background and supporting material and published for such examination and scrutiny.

(6) Notice of Motion No. 5 – BACKING OUR COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Bernie Mooney

Seconded by Councillor Pat Hackett

Delete paragraphs 1, 3, 4 and 5 and add the following:

Council welcomes any support given to develop and boost growth, jobs and prosperity in our local coastal communities. Council recognises that during the floods of December 2013 the authority had to find emergency funds to assist New Brighton with repairs and recovery of £250K from its own budget. The Government offered initial support through a grant system and also the Bellwin Scheme, but later said that the nature of the assets damaged meant that the Council could not utilise these grant schemes.

Government (DCLG) did eventually allocate a Repair and Renewal Grant of £88K for New Brighton but this left a significant short fall for the Council of £162K. Also at the end of August 2015, 100 homes in Wirral were flooded, with some of them being part of coastal communities, but once again the Government refused to allow any of these households to apply retrospectively to the £50m Flood Relief Grant made available to households in Cumbria, saying that the Wirral floods did not justify widening the scope of the Flood Relief Fund.

This shows that once again this Conservative Government says one thing and does the complete opposite.

Council believes that we should support our coastal communities, but the Government has failed to give the coastal communities of Wirral a fair and equal opportunity.

(7) Notice of Motion No. 6 – SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Janette Williamson

Seconded by Councillor George Davies

Delete last paragraph and replace with:

Council recognises the hard work of our officers and the staff of Wirral Women's and Children's Aid in successfully securing funding from central Government for helping victims of domestic abuse, and Council fully supports Wirral's pledge of zero tolerance to domestic abuse and its recent Lover not Fighter campaign which is aimed at raising awareness around domestic abuse and its effect on children. Council welcomes the recent government defeat in the Court of Appeal over their attempts to restrict access to Legal Aid to victims of domestic abuse. However, Council notes with grave concern the continued and sustained reduction in Local

Government funding by the Conservative government together with cuts to the police and the third sector, and draconian Welfare Reforms, are having a deeply damaging effect on both victims of domestic abuse and the funding and delivery of services designed to help victims find support and independence. Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to Communities Minister, Baroness Williams of Trafford asking her to lobby her own government against subjecting Wirral Council to further cuts, and ask for further funding be given to develop and protect our vital domestic abuse services.

(8) Notice of Motion No. 7 – TACKLING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Janette Williamson

Seconded by Councillor Treena Johnson

Add:

Council condemns all violence towards women and girls and acknowledges that 1,700 victims have been referred to specialist services since 2013.

Council notes that simply legislating against a cultural practice without acknowledging cultural sensitivities risks driving that practice underground.

Council supports working with the communities involved in FGM, through highly trained and professional practitioners and asks that funding be made available to Wirral to work collaboratively with the government in keeping our girls and women safe from FGM.

(9) Notice of Motion No. 8 – SETTING CLEAR TARGETS FOR WIRRAL WATERS

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Chris Blakeley

Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Insert the following at the end of the original Notice of Motion:

Council notes that Peel Holdings have been willing to engage with Members, often on an ad-hoc basis, most recently with Councillor Chris Blakeley and former councillor Ian Lewis, but believes they must now engage with all relevant parties, and the wider Wirral Community (including residents, employers, business organisations, trade unions and potential suppliers).

Council would welcome and support a programme of public information and engagement.