

## **Amendments to Cabinet Minute – Review of Scrutiny Arrangements 6 June 2016**

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

### **Amendment (1)**

**Proposed** by Councillor Jeff Green

**Seconded** by Councillor Lesley Rennie

- (1) Council is concerned that, since the meeting of the Coordinating Committee held on 15th June 2016, information subsequently provided on how the Review of Scrutiny Arrangements was undertaken is scant, however what has been relayed to Members clearly shows the process and methodology used is seriously flawed.
- (2) Council is troubled about the lack of thought that has been given to protect the democratic process in the apparent haste to drive these proposals through and the lack of consultation or expert help that has been sought to draw up these proposals. This is a retrograde step and a feature of an inward looking Council.
- (3) Council notes that the Leader of the Council and his Cabinet have not implemented the recommendations from the LGA Peer review undertaken in November 2015 namely that: “the role of scrutiny may be enhanced in the longer term by offering opposition members a leadership role on the Policy & Performance Committees.”
- (4) Council therefore recommends a pause to this process to enable Cabinet to commission an independent, expert view from the Centre for Public Scrutiny via the Local Government Association on the ‘Review of Scrutiny Arrangements’ tabled at Cabinet at its meeting held on 6th June 2016.

### **Amendment (2)**

**Proposed** by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

**Seconded** by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Council recognises the work that has been put in to develop the Wirral Plan since Council approved its themes and adopted its outcomes on 13th July 2015.

Council recalls the narrative to Minute 22 of the Cabinet of 9 July 2015 within which it was reported that ...

‘It was essential that the Council took its residents with it on this journey and ensured that it was constantly aware of local priorities.’

Council believes that

1. scrutiny should be organised to ensure adequate study of the full range of issues that concern Wirral residents, not just on the twenty pledges and activity referred to in the Wirral Plan;
2. the devolution of additional funding and powers to the four Constituency Committees has not yet been outlined or developed;
3. it is still unclear as to how the Liverpool City Region will be scrutinised or how the widest possible range of Councillors will be engaged in its decision making.

Council also recognises that the management and organisational structure for the 'New Operating Model' considered by Cabinet at its 21 March 2016 meeting has yet to be considered.

Council, therefore, defers this matter to a future meeting of Council so as to allow Cabinet to bring forward revised proposals on the structure, scope and operation of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function, with particular regard to:

- (a) the workload of Members along with a vision of how Member involvement with our partners will be developed;
- (b) how effective scrutiny of major service areas covered by the Directors of Children's Services and Adult Social Services will be managed and undertaken;
- (c) how the effective scrutiny of financial/budgetary matters, including the implementation and achievement of savings, will be carried out and
- (d) a presumption in favour of openness and transparency.