

## **Council – 9 July, 2018**

### **Motions**

The following motions have been submitted in accordance with the notice required by Standing Order 7(1) and are listed in accordance with Standing Order 7(2).

#### **1. TACKLING POVERTY AMONG WOMEN AND GIRLS ON LOW INCOMES** *(to be debated)*

**Proposed** by Councillor Moira McLaughlin

**Seconded** by Councillor Anita Leech

One of the hidden effects of living on a low income is the startling fact that 40% of teenage girls in that situation cannot afford to buy proper sanitary protection and have to use unsuitable and degrading alternatives.

Council recognises the excellent work being done by volunteers involved in the 'Feeding Birkenhead' project in initiating their Pink Box campaign to address this and we are pleased that it is now being rolled out to other parts of the country through Feeding Britain and that Women`s Aid and other charities are providing similar help.

However, this is only a small part of what is needed and we are looking to gather support from across all political parties and faith and community groups in Wirral and across the country that are working to tackle the impact of poverty, to ask the government to recognise the extent of this as a problem and develop the approach taken in Scotland to ensure all women and girls living on low incomes have the sanitary protection they need to maintain their self-respect and dignity.

Council agrees that the Leader of the Council should write to the Prime Minister and ask that the government supports this campaign.

## **2. KEEPING WIRRAL PARKS AND COASTAL AREAS AVAILABLE FOR THE MANY NOT THE FEW** *(to be debated)*

**Proposed** by Councillor David Elderton

**Seconded** by Councillor Gerry Ellis

Council believes the introduction of car parking charges at Wirral's coastal areas and promenades, following the introduction of charges in our country parks:

- Will bring in relatively small amounts of money
- Will have a health and happiness cost, by discouraging residents from using green spaces and the beaches
- Will disproportionately impact on poorer residents, for whom access to the country parks and beaches is a relatively cheap activity, and for whom travel on public transport with children and associated equipment will be more expensive and inconvenient

Council also notes the views of Members in the Wards affected by the proposals for coastal parking charges (Wallasey, Hoylake & Meols and West Kirby & Thurstaston) who have highlighted the potential impact on small and medium sized businesses reliant on visitor and tourist trade.

Council therefore requests the Leader of the Council, when considering the results of the consultation to coastal parking charges, including the public meeting and protest march, to reject the proposal for coastal parking charges.

### **3. BETTER ACCESS TO HOSPITAL** *(to be debated)*

**Proposed** by Councillor Dave Mitchell

**Seconded** by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

This Council recognises and appreciates the concerns expressed by the Wirral South Constituency Committee at its meeting on 21 June 2018 when the Motion, reproduced below, was proposed by Cllr Dave Mitchell, seconded jointly by Councillors Christina Muspratt and Mary Jordan, and agreed unanimously:

“This Constituency Committee is concerned at the inconvenient, lengthy and time-consuming bus journeys, affecting residents in southern Wirral when travelling to Arrowe Park Hospital and back.

The Committee recognises that, since the changes to bus services introduced in September 2017, patients and visitors have been faced not only with less frequent but also indirect services, part of a complex deal negotiated between Merseytravel and the bus companies.

We consider it totally unsatisfactory that residents face journeys that might involve changes in New Ferry or Birkenhead Bus Station, adding extra journey time, stress and the possibility of additional costs to their journeys.

Whilst some work has been started on ways to alleviate or tackle this situation, such as the meeting attended by Merseytravel, representatives of the Clinical Commissioning Group, this Council and Councillors Muspratt and Gilchrist, the issues have not yet been resolved.

In addition the Urgent Care Review also needs to take account of the need to access services.

This Committee, therefore, requests that the Leader of the Council and appropriate Cabinet members take this issue up with the LCR Transport Committee and the Mayor of the Liverpool City Region with a view to restoring a better and more direct service to Arrowe Park Hospital from those areas of southern Wirral most affected.”

Council requests that, in order to respond to the Motion, the Leader of the Council...

- takes steps to look into and raise these concerns and
- helps set up and progress meetings between Wirral South members, along with officers that serve the Liverpool City Region at a senior level

...with the aim of securing solutions to the problems experienced by people in southern Wirral and the needs of staff who require convenient and reliable services to enable them to travel to and from work.

#### **4. SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL ACTION TO TACKLE OBESITY** *(to be debated)*

**Proposed** by Councillor Christine Jones

**Seconded** by Councillor Bernie Mooney

The Council notes that obesity is a major public health concern with the majority of adults in England being overweight or obese and more than a third of our 10 to 11 years old being overweight or obese.

It is estimated that obesity is responsible for more than 30,000 deaths each year. Being overweight or obese increases the risk of a wide range of diseases including Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease and many cancers. It also negatively affects quality of life and mental wellbeing.

No one is 'immune' to obesity, but some people are more likely to become overweight or obese than others. Factors of income, social deprivation and ethnicity all have an important impact on the likelihood of person becoming obese. Data from the National Child Measurement Programme shows that obesity levels in the most deprived 10% of children is approximately double that of the least deprived 10%.

Obesity places a huge strain on health and social care as well as having a broader impact on economic development. The estimated annual cost of obesity in England is around £32.5 billion and if no action is taken these costs will increase.

Council recognises that the causes of obesity are complex. Environmental, physiological and behavioural factors all interrelate and play their part in influencing the prevalence of obesity. This is why at a local level Wirral has a wide range of activities to tackle obesity. This includes providing a 0 to 19 service working with schools and 0-5s to be health promoting, a number of services providing weight management support and having health promoting planning policies.

However, Council feels more needs to be done by national government to support the efforts of local areas and we call upon the Government to lead on three areas of action:

##### **Firstly Implement the Food Revolution actions.**

This is a campaign led by the Jamie Oliver Food Foundation and its Australian partners at the Good Foundation. It is committed to inspiring real, meaningful, positive change in the way children access, consume and understand food.

Working with medical experts and professionals Food Revolution has created a six-point plan for action which they believe governments across the world should be working towards as a priority.

Council welcomes that the UK government has implemented the first action, which is the introduction of a sugary drink tax, but strongly advocate that the government also acts upon the other 5 actions. These are;

1. The introduction of sugar reformulation targets to reduce excessive sugar in all products and have penalties for non-compliance;
2. Introduce fair marketing which would include a ban on food advertising targeted at children and cutting promotion of sugary products;
3. Making clearer labelling mandatory with clear on-pack sugar information, such as traffic light labelling and having restrictions on portion sizes for confectionary and sugary drinks;
4. Improving access to healthy food at schools for all children and prioritise food education in schools and,
5. Providing greater education including clear national guides on what nutritious daily meals look like. This would include practical resources for both parents and teachers and better consistency between the classroom and home.

## **Secondly Tackle Food Poverty**

An affordable healthy diet is vital for good health. However, we know many people, due to rising food prices, low wages and reductions in benefits, have an insufficient income to buy healthy food. This 'food poverty' trap results in families cutting back on fresh fruit and vegetables and buying cheap, sweet, fatty, salty, or processed foods that need little cooking.

This results in poorer people having worse diets, greater levels of obesity and poorer health. Across the Liverpool City region many families are living in poverty and there is high demand on food banks.

Whilst there is considerable work across the Liverpool City Region (LCR) to tackle poverty, illustrated in the commitment set out in The LCR Child Poverty and Life Chances Strategy, more needs to be done nationally. We call upon the UK government as the world's sixth largest economy to do more to end food poverty. Food banks should not become a substitute for an effective welfare system and fair work which includes earning a living wage.

## **Thirdly introduce a fairer and greater obesity focus of the use of sugar levy funding**

Council welcomes the government's sugary drinks levy with the money raised to improve PE and sport for primary-aged pupils to encourage healthy and active lifestyles.

The funding is to be allocated directly to primary schools, based on the number of pupils in years 1 to 6. There is no adjustment for deprivation. We believe to make the greatest impact the funding should be weighted to those with greatest health needs. The National Child Measurement Programme figures show it is the areas with greater deprivation which have a comparably higher proportion of children who are obese, compared to areas in the least deprived areas. If the funding was allocated direct to Local Authorities, rather than to individual schools, there would be greater potential to ensure resources were utilised to meet the needs across the local area.

Furthermore as obesity is influenced by both energy expended and energy consumed to tackle obesity we would like to see the criteria for this funding to also

include activities which will help children and families make healthier food and drink choices.

In conclusion we strongly believe that more needs to be done on a national level to address the public health issue of obesity.

This Council therefore agrees that the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Health should write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and ask him to give healthy weight a greater priority by:

- **Implementing all of the Food Revolution actions;**
- **Tackling Food Poverty and,**
- **Having a fairer and greater obesity focus of the use of sugar levy funding including allocation to Local Authorities rather than to individual schools**

## **5. CAMPAIGN FOR A PEOPLE'S VOTE** *(to be debated)*

**Proposed** by Councillor Allan Brame

**Seconded** by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Council notes that two years have passed since the EU Referendum and little concrete progress has been made in negotiating the terms of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU.

Council:

- (a) recognises the significant support it has received through EU funding over many years;
- (b) recalls that a clear majority of Wirral residents voted to remain in the EU;
- (c) notes the stark warnings from companies such as Airbus, Vauxhall Motors, Jaguar Land Rover and BMW about the impact of Brexit on British manufacturing;
- (d) recognises the mounting popular concern at the prospect of leaving the EU with either a bad deal or no deal at all;
- (e) notes the participation of over 100,000 people in the march for a People's Vote in London on 23 June;
- (f) shares the anxiety of EU citizens living in the Wirral who feel unwelcome in the land where they have made their homes, and uncertain about their future;

and accordingly supports the call for a People's Vote on the final Brexit deal with an option to remain in the EU, and urges Wirral's MPs to join the campaign for a People's Vote in the interests of the residents and businesses on Wirral.

## **6. REMEMBERING SREBRENICA** *(to be debated)*

**Proposed** by Councillor Phil Davies

**Seconded** by Councillor Stuart Whittingham

This Council:

- Notes that 2018 is the twenty-third anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which saw over 8,000 Muslim men and boys killed by Serbian nationalist forces.
- Notes that in 2009 the European Parliament passed a resolution that 11 July should be recognised as the day of commemoration of the Srebrenica genocide all over the EU; and in 2015 urged the development of educational and cultural programmes that promote an understanding of the causes of such atrocities and raise awareness about the need to nurture peace and to promote human rights and interreligious tolerance. All UK political parties have supported the work of Remembering Srebrenica in this regard.
- Applauds the work of those involved in the pursuit of justice for the victims and their surviving relatives, including the International Commission of Missing People (ICMP) and the Mothers of Srebrenica, whose courage and humility in the face of unthinkable horror is an inspiration to us all.
- Commends the work of the charity, Remembering Srebrenica, in raising awareness of this tragic and preventable genocide and working in communities across Britain to help them learn the lessons of Srebrenica.

The Council resolves to:

- Support Srebrenica memorial events in July each year throughout Wirral as part of the UK-wide Remembering Srebrenica Memorial Week.
- Support the work of Remembering Srebrenica in communities across Wirral to learn the lessons from Srebrenica to tackle hatred and intolerance to help build a better, safer and more cohesive society for everyone.
- Support the work of schools and education providers to bring the lessons of Srebrenica to young people across Wirral.

## **7. OUR NHS AT 70** *(to be debated)*

**Proposed** by Councillor Phil Gilchrist  
**Seconded** by Councillor Dave Mitchell

This Council records its grateful thanks to all those who work within and for our National Health Service as its 70th Anniversary is reached.

Council recalls the vision and contribution of those who helped to plan for this during the Second World War and in the years leading up to 1948.

Council recognises the considerable pressures that staff have faced in recent years, along with their work to tackle what used to be called the 'winter pressures' that now exist throughout the year.

Council is determined, therefore, that the Prime Minister's recent announcements should be backed by genuine increases in funding. The concerns expressed by The King's Fund and the Institute for Fiscal Studies should be considered and addressed.

Council remains anxious that the crisis facing social care funding is addressed as repeatedly called for by the Local Government Association.

<https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/nhs-funding-must-be-matched-social-care-funding-says-lga>

'The long-term funding for the NHS needs to be matched by a significant investment in adult social care and public health services otherwise it won't be as effective or as sustainable.'

Council, therefore, supports the work of that Association in making the case for the funding of local services as the Government plans for the Autumn Budget and next Comprehensive Spending Review.