

Council – 15 October, 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. CCG PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON URGENT CARE *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Pat Hackett

Seconded by Councillor Steve Foulkes

- (1) This Council notes the public consultation on urgent care which Wirral CCG launched on 20th September.
- (2) Council is totally opposed to any outcome which would see the closure of existing walk-in facilities and minor injury and illness facilities at current urgent care locations in Wirral.
- (3) Council believes that any new model of urgent care should enhance existing facilities rather than result in closures or reductions in services.
- (4) Council supports the objectives of enhancing patient safety, improving patient outcomes, making services more accessible and relieving pressure on Accident and Emergency Departments, but not with the introduction of any private healthcare provider or any of their shell companies to provide any type of service within Wirral, including walk-in provision.
- (5) Council encourages residents to have their say on the model proposed by the CCG and welcomes the CCG's offer to attend relevant Council scrutiny committees during the consultation period to allow detailed scrutiny of their proposals by members.
- (6) Any funding bids need to be scrutinised within the scrutiny process. Council also notes that on page 75 of the case for change document that a capital funding bid has commenced for an Urgent Treatment Centre. Council rejects this approach as it undermines the consultation process and believes it would have been better to have waited until the consultation is finished and the results known.
- (7) This Council is opposed to all forms of privatisation in the NHS and totally opposes the introduction of any privateers into our local health service be they based in the UK, America or domiciled elsewhere.
- (8) This Council is opposed to NHS staff being transferred to the private sector and will work to ensure that all NHS workers are employed by the NHS with their wages and conditions negotiated through collective bargaining with their employer, the NHS, and the trade unions. No contract should be signed with the CCG that leads to private, none-NHS organisations running NHS services or leads to a reduction in services at each current location.

(9) Council believes that all health care should be free at the point of need and all services should be delivered and administered by the NHS.

2. STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor David Burgess-Joyce

Seconded by Councillor Ian Lewis

- (1) Council believes there should be no place in public life for bullying, harassment and intimidation and regrets that any elected representative is subject to such behaviour.
- (2) Council notes that, since the local elections in May, three members have resigned from the Labour Group and the Member of Parliament for Birkenhead, Rt. Hon. Frank Field MP, has resigned from the Parliamentary Labour Party.
- (3) Council awaits the outcome of the request for intervention in the local Party by the Leader of the Council to the General Secretary of the Labour Party and resolves to assist in any inquiry should it be invited to do so.

3. KEEPING THE BUILDERS' HANDS OFF OUR FARMLAND *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Seconded by Councillor Stuart Kelly

- (1) This Council requests that renewed importance should be attached to the protection afforded to agricultural land as the responses to the Local Plan are considered. Land that is currently in productive agricultural use should not be removed from the Green Belt in view of the need to safeguard future food supplies.
- (2) Council believes that the wide fluctuations in our weather, from the extreme cold of March 2018 through the recent hot dry Summer, necessitate greater attention to national food security and supply. Council considers that these conditions and the recent developments in agricultural policy highlight the need to retain good agricultural land rather than bury it under extensive areas of new housing.
- (3) Officers are requested to consider the terms of the Agriculture Bill, published on 'Back British Farming Day' on 12 September 2018. This sets out how farmers and land managers will, in future, be paid for "public goods", such as better air and water quality, improved soil health, higher animal welfare standards, public access to the countryside and measures to reduce flooding. It proposes that farmers will be supported over a seven year transition period in a system that is intended to replace the Common Agricultural Policy.
- (4) In addition to this, the Government's policy statement 'Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit' was updated on 14 September 2018. When taken together, these proposals will affect farming across our nation and impact on the future use of agricultural land in Wirral. The uncertain future facing agriculture needs to be addressed.
- (5) Council recalls that Policy CS2 - Broad Spatial Strategy (page 19), paragraph 9 states that...

"The focus within rural areas will be on strengthening and diversifying the agricultural economy; re-using existing buildings and previously developed land; providing rural services within established settlements; supporting the beneficial use of best and most versatile agricultural land; providing for local food production and food security; and outdoor sport and recreation; subject to national Green Belt controls and Policy CS3."

- (6) Council also recognises that Chapter 15 in the July 2018 version of the NPPF 'Conserving and enhancing the natural environment' states that ...

"170. Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan);*

b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland."

(7) Accordingly, Council requests that officers and Cabinet should give these issues further attention as the need for adequate protection required for Wirral's Green Belt and farmland becomes ever more pressing and apparent. These views should be submitted as part of the current consultation and drawn to the attention of Wirral's MPs.

4. SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FOR WIRRAL WATERS *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Pat Cleary

Seconded by Councillor Allan Brame

- (1) Council notes that existing Government policy, following on from the Paris Summit held in December 2017, includes steps to tackle climate change and emissions. This has been followed by the Zero Emission Vehicle Summit held in Birmingham in September 2018 and the signing of a declaration which set out the aim of...

'Building a smart infrastructure network, planning for the cities of the future today, embedding zero emission infrastructure into the fabric of our urban and rural communities, and enabling provision where consumers need it.'

- (2) Council believes that this ought to enable and encourage the development of new settlements where these principles are embedded and designed in from the outset.

- (3) Council also notes the proposals by Peel Holdings to incorporate a Streetcar light rail system as an integral part of creating a modern, sustainable transport scheme to support the wider aims of the Wirral Waters development and its belief that ...

"the Wirral Streetcar is a unique opportunity to provide a low cost, scalable, sustainable, light rail service that could provide a 'feeder' service into the Mersey Rail network."...

and

the existing support for the Streetcar concept from central Government and numerous other agencies.

- (4) Council believes the Streetcar proposals offer many potential benefits including:

- creating a sustainable, low carbon transport infrastructure for Wirral Waters;
- minimising car dependency and associated land use thereby freeing up more land for residential development and easing pressure on our precious green belt;
- linking existing rail and ferry transport hubs, thereby creating an integrated public transport system that will support residential, commercial and tourism objectives.

- (5) Council therefore believes that progress on the Streetcar scheme is important if Wirral Waters is to achieve its full potential for the people of Wirral and that effective cooperation between all relevant parties including Peel Holdings, Wirral Council and Merseytravel is essential to its future success.

- (6) To that end, Council requests that the Leader of the Council writes to Merseytravel and Peel Holdings requesting a meeting to:
- review progress on the Streetcar scheme
 - determine how best Wirral Council can practically support the delivery of the Streetcar scheme
- and reports back to Council on the outcome of this meeting.

5. NEW ONS HOUSING PROJECTIONS *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor George Davies

Seconded by Councillor Phil Davies

6. UTS FOUNDATION, HOYLAKE *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Andrew Gardner

Seconded by Councillor Tony Cox

- (1) Council acknowledges the efforts of the UTS Foundation in Hoylake in its work in helping improve the lives of Wirral residents.
- (2) Council recognises that giving free personal fitness training programs to cancer patients and survivors, along with the same to disadvantaged young people, is an asset to the Borough.
- (3) Council therefore resolves to support and prosper the aims, ambitions and aspirations of the UTS Foundation wherever practicable within the legal framework and existing Council resources.

7. NEW FERRY EXPLOSION *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Jo Bird

Seconded by Councillor Joe Walsh

Given that it has taken some time to establish the scale of damage to people, business and property arising from the gas explosion in New Ferry in March 2017:

- (1) This Council resolves that the Chief Executive makes representations to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government to reconsider the judgement that the Bellwin disaster scheme does not apply.
- (2) Council requests that £500,000 from the Liverpool City Region Metro Mayor's Town Centre Fund, should in principle be allocated to New Ferry, subject to an application being completed.
- (3) Council urges central government to allocate resources to New Ferry commensurate with those allocated to Salisbury.

8. HOUSING GROWTH *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Gerry Ellis

Seconded by Councillor Chris Blakeley

- (1) Council notes that, in September 2017, the then-Department of Communities and Local Government invited local authorities and others to give their views on proposals to reform the planning system.
- (2) On the introduction of a national formula to assess housing need, the consultation stated:

The assessment is indicative, as actual figures will depend on the most recent data available at the time the need is calculated.
- (3) Council regrets that Wirral did not take part in that consultation.
- (4) Council further notes the proposed formula from the Department produced an indicative 803 dwelling units per annum in Wirral (2016-2026), a reduction on the projected need of up to 1,235 dwelling units in the earlier report commissioned by the Cabinet from Nathan Lichfield and Partners.
- (5) Council welcomes the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics which have revealed that population growth is slowing and that Wirral, in common with other authorities, will require fewer new dwellings which should avoid the need for mass destruction of the Borough's Green Belt.
- (6) In the light of the latest projections for housing growth, Council calls on the Leader to withdraw support for the Hoylake Golf Resort, which will see large scale building on the Green Belt.