

COUNCIL

Monday, 15 October 2018

Present: The Civic Mayor (Councillor Geoffrey Watt) in the
Chair
Deputy Civic Mayor (Councillor Tony Smith)

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| Councillors | RL Abbey | S Foulkes | B Mooney |
| | T Anderson | S Frost | C Muspratt |
| | B Berry | A Gardner | T Norbury |
| | J Bird | P Gilchrist | C Povall |
| | C Blakeley | JE Green | L Rennie |
| | A Brame | EA Grey | L Rowlands |
| | P Brightmore | P Hackett | C Spriggs |
| | D Burgess-Joyce | P Hayes | J Stapleton |
| | K Cannon | A Hodson | P Stuart |
| | C Carubia | K Hodson | M Sullivan |
| | P Cleary | AER Jones | A Sykes |
| | W Clements | C Jones | T Usher |
| | T Cottier | S Jones | J Walsh |
| | T Cox | T Jones | S Whittingham |
| | A Davies | M Jordan | I Williams |
| | G Davies | S Kelly | KJ Williams |
| | P Davies | B Kenny | S Williams |
| | WJ Davies | I Lewis | J Williamson |
| | P Doughty | C Meaden | G Wood |
| | D Elderton | J McManus | |
| | G Ellis | D Mitchell | |

Apologies Councillors A Leech M McLaughlin

Prior to the meeting formally commencing and at the invitation of the Civic Mayor, Rev David Chester led the Council in prayer.

40 PROCEDURAL MOTION

It was moved by Councillor Ron Abbey and seconded by Councillor Phil Davies that –

“That Standing Order 9(1) be suspended and the guillotine come into effect at 8.30pm.”

Councillor Chris Blakeley moved and it was seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist that –

“That Standing Order 9(1) be suspended and the meeting conclude after all debates.”

Prior to the vote on the motion moved by Councillor Ron Abbey, a number of Members rose to request a ‘card vote’. A recorded vote was then taken on the motion and the Council divided as follows:

For the motion (35) – Councillors R Abbey, J Bird, P Brightmore, K Cannon, T Cottier, A Davies, G Davies, P Davies, W Davies, P Doughty, S Foulkes, S Frost, E Grey, P Hackett, AER Jones, C Jones, S Jones, T Jones, B Kenny, J McManus, C Meaden, B Mooney, C Muspratt, T Norbury, PA Smith, C Spriggs, J Stapleton, P Stuart, T Usher, J Walsh, S Whittingham, I Williams, KJ Williams, J Williamson and G Wood.

Against the motion (27) – Councillors T Anderson, B Berry, C Blakeley, A Brame, D Burgess-Joyce, C Carubia, P Cleary, W Clements, T Cox, D Elderton, G Ellis, A Gardner, P Gilchrist, J Green, P Hayes, A Hodson, K Hodson, M Jordan, S Kelly, I Lewis, D Mitchell, C Povall, L Rennie, L Rowlands, M Sullivan, A Sykes and S Williams.

One abstention – Councillor G Watt (Civic Mayor)

Resolved (35:27) (One abstention) – That Standing Order 9(1) be suspended and the guillotine come into effect at 8.30pm.

41 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Members of the Council were invited to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any matters to be determined at this meeting and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the interest.

| Name | Item No. and Nature of Declaration |
|------------------------------|--|
| Councillor Kathy Hodson | Item No. 10(1) – Notice of Motion (Minute 52 refers). Personal – by virtue of her being a board member on the Wirral University Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust. |
| Councillor Phil Gilchrist | Item No. 10(1) – Notice of Motion (Minute 52 refers). Personal – by virtue of him being a governor of the Cheshire and Wirral NHS Partnership Trust. |
| Councillor Joe Walsh | Item No. 10(1) – Notice of Motion (Minute 52 refers). Personal – by virtue of his daughters working for the NHS. |
| Councillor Tony Norbury | Item No. 10(1) – Notice of Motion (Minute 52 refers). Personal – by virtue of his daughter working for the NHS. |
| Councillor Sharon Jones | Item No. 10(1) – Notice of Motion (Minute 52 refers). Personal – by virtue of her employment. |
| Councillor Steve Foulkes | Item Nos. 10(3, 5 and 8) – Notices of Motion (Minutes 55, 57 and 60 refers). |

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| | Personal and prejudicial – by virtue of him being a member of the Magenta Living Board. |
| Councillor Christina Muspratt | Item No. 10(1) – Notice of Motion (Minute 52 refers). Personal – by virtue of her daughters working for the NHS. |
| Councillor Mike Sullivan | Item No. 10(1) – Notice of Motion (Minute 52 refers). Personal – by virtue of his daughter working for the NHS. |
| Councillor Mary Jordan | Item No. 10(1) – Notice of Motion (Minute 52 refers). Personal – by virtue of her employment, her son working for the NHS and being the company secretary for a charity at Arrowe Park Hospital. |
| Councillor Jeff Green | Item Nos. 10(3, 5 and 8) – Notices of Motion (Minutes 55, 57 and 60 refers). Personal and prejudicial – by virtue of him being a member of the Magenta Living Board. |
| Councillor Adrian Jones | Item No. 10(1) – Notice of Motion (Minute 52 refers). Personal – by virtue of his wife working for the NHS. |
| Councillor Chris Jones | Item No. 10(1) – Notice of Motion (Minute 52 refers). Personal – by virtue of her employment. |
| Councillor Angela Davies | Item No. 10(1) – Notice of Motion (Minute 52 refers). Personal – by virtue of her employment. |

42 **CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Civic Mayor noted that apologies had been received from Councillors Moira McLaughlin and Anita Leech.

The Civic Mayor commented on the 85 engagements which he and the Mayoress had undertaken since July and referred to a number of highlights including the launch of the RRS David Attenborough and the Mayor's charity ball.

The Civic Mayor then asked the Director of Governance and Assurance to inform the Council about the voting arrangements.

Philip McCourt advised the Council that the current Standing Order 18 referred to the '...normal method of voting at meetings of the Council shall be by show of hands...' and that the Council therefore needed to determine if they now wished to use the electronic voting system.

On a motion by Councillor Phil Davies, seconded by Councillor George Davies, it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That the electronic voting system be used for all votes at this meeting.

43 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 9 July (ordinary meeting) and on 10 September, 2018 (extraordinary meeting) had been circulated to Members. On a motion by the Civic Mayor, seconded by Councillor Phil Davies, it was –

Resolved (61:0) – That the minutes of each meeting be approved and adopted as a correct record.

44 **PETITIONS**

- A. In accordance with Standing Order 21, the Mayor received a petition submitted by Councillor Brian Kenny of some 3,853 residents against the proposed closures of minor injury / illness services by Wirral NHS CCG.

The Civic Mayor was advised that a consultation on the proposal was due to finish soon and with his permission, Dr A Mantgani was allowed to address the Council and speak in favour of the petition and against the proposed closures.

- B. The following petition was referred to the Council in accordance with Standing Order 34 (1), having exceeded the threshold of 3000 signatures to trigger a Council debate, in accordance with the Petition Scheme.

A petition of some 15,033 signatures, submitted by Ms Sarah Ashworth and Ms Amanda Lancaster, opposing the proposal for a dog control public space protection order.

Ms Ashworth addressed the Council on behalf of the petitioners.

During the course of the debate it was moved by Councillor Phil Davies and seconded by Councillor George Davies, that –

- “(1) The thanks of the Council be accorded to Ms Ashworth and the petition organisers.
- (2) Council notes the petition and takes account of the proposals and recommendations of Ms Ashworth.
- (3) The report to come before Cabinet next month will take account of the views expressed by the petitioners and the consultation responses.”

Councillor Phil Gilchrist moved an amendment which was seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell, that –

- “(1) Council recognises that the practical problems of introducing the scheme as proposed overcome the issues that need to be addressed.
- (2) Council believes that all offers from local groups willing to work on the reduction of dog fouling should be taken up as an alternative.”

Councillor Chris Blakeley moved an amendment which was seconded by Councillor Paul Hayes, that –

- “(1) Council recognises the massive opposition to the introduction of a Public Space protection Order (PSPO) as a method to control dogs and their owners across the Borough.
- (2) Council recognises the work carried out by ‘Wirral Good Dogs’ and ‘Peaceful Protests – Wirral Dog Bans’ pointing out that the vast majority of dog owners act in a responsible and respectful manner.
- (3) Council also recognises and applauds the previous Cabinet Member, former Councillor Matthew Patrick, for his actions in withdrawing the ban from our beaches.
- (4) And, while accepting that part of the proposals, particularly with regards to cemeteries and children’s play areas are sensible, it is clear a blanket PSPO is using a sledgehammer to crack a nut.
- (5) Therefore, Council resolves to withdraw its proposals for a blanket PSPO in Wirral, and instead, focus its efforts in targeting irresponsible dog owners through an educational programme, while continuing to issue fixed penalty notices when appropriate.”

Prior to the vote on the amendment moved by Councillor Chris Blakeley, a number of Members rose to request a ‘card’ vote.

Following a number of interventions from Members and advice from the Director of Governance and Assurance on how a ‘card’ vote would be taken in conjunction with the use of the electronic voting system, a recorded vote was taken and the Council divided as follows:

For the amendment (26) – Councillors T Anderson, B Berry, C Blakeley, A Brame, D Burgess-Joyce, C Carubia, P Cleary, W Clements, T Cox, D Elderton, G Ellis, A Gardner, P Gilchrist, J Green, P Hayes, A Hodson, K Hodson, M Jordan, S Kelly, I Lewis, D Mitchell, C Povall, L Rennie, L Rowlands, A Sykes and S Williams.

Against the amendment (36) – Councillors R Abbey, J Bird, P Brightmore, K Cannon, T Cottier, A Davies, G Davies, P Davies, W Davies, P Doughty, S Foulkes, S Frost, E Grey, P Hackett, AER Jones, C Jones, S Jones, T Jones, B Kenny, J McManus, C Meaden, B Mooney, C Muspratt, T Norbury, PA Smith, C Spriggs, J Stapleton, P Stuart, M Sullivan, T Usher, J Walsh, S Whittingham, I Williams, KJ Williams, J Williamson and G Wood.

One abstention – Councillor G Watt (Civic Mayor).

The Conservative amendment was therefore lost (26:36) (One abstention).

The amendment moved by Councillor Gilchrist was then put and lost (26:36) (One abstention).

Prior to the vote on the motion moved by Councillor Phil Davies, a number of Members rose to request a 'card' vote. A recorded vote was then taken and the Council divided as follows:

For the motion (36) – Councillors R Abbey, J Bird, P Brightmore, K Cannon, T Cottier, A Davies, G Davies, P Davies, W Davies, P Doughty, S Foulkes, S Frost, E Grey, P Hackett, AER Jones, C Jones, S Jones, T Jones, B Kenny, J McManus, C Meaden, B Mooney, C Muspratt, T Norbury, PA Smith, C Spriggs, J Stapleton, P Stuart, M Sullivan, T Usher, J Walsh, S Whittingham, I Williams, KJ Williams, J Williamson and G Wood.

Against the motion (26) – Councillors T Anderson, B Berry, C Blakeley, A Brame, D Burgess-Joyce, C Carubia, P Cleary, W Clements, T Cox, D Elderton, G Ellis, A Gardner, P Gilchrist, J Green, P Hayes, A Hodson, K Hodson, M Jordan, S Kelly, I Lewis, D Mitchell, C Povall, L Rennie, L Rowlands, A Sykes and S Williams.

One abstention – Councillor G Watt (Civic Mayor)

Resolved (36:26) (One abstention) –

(1) That the thanks of the Council be accorded to Ms Ashworth and the petition organisers.

(2) Council notes the petition and takes account of the proposals and recommendations of Ms Ashworth.

(3) That the report to come before Cabinet next month will take account of the views expressed by the petitioners and the consultation responses.

45 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions had been received.

46 LEADER'S, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' AND CHAIRS REPORTS

The Mayor introduced the summary reports from the Leader, Cabinet Members and Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs and asked for questions on any of the reports.

Councillor Chris Blakeley asked a question of Councillor Stuart Whittingham, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, whether he was aware of officers from Highways Services having written to community groups to inform them that from Christmas 2019 they would be charged for electricity used in lighting displays and would he withdraw this miserly instruction recognising the great works these community groups do in encouraging people to visit and shop in these towns. Councillor Whittingham agreed that he would supply an answer in writing.

Councillor Dave Mitchell asked a question of Councillor Stuart Whittingham, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, on when pothole repairs would be undertaken on the A41 at the junction of Eastham Rake and Stanley Lane, having written 6 times to Highways Services about the matter. Councillor Whittingham agreed that he would supply an answer in writing.

Councillor Mike Sullivan asked a question of Councillor Phil Davies, Leader of the Council, referring to the Wirral Green Spaces Alliance Group on whether it would be possible for all political groups to work together to save the green belt. Councillor Davies stated that he was very sympathetic to this proposed approach as the green belt was something which united the Council. He made the offer to work with other Parties on this issue and asked if they would join with him in trying to persuade the Government to use the lower Office of National Statistics figure for the number of new homes required each year in Wirral. He also asked if the other two party leaders would join with him to put as much influence on owners of brown field sites to build on these sites as soon as possible as he believed that brownfield sites were the only way forward. He had written to the Secretary of State twice asking the Government to allow Wirral to use the lower figure of 477 houses required per year.

Councillor Ian Lewis asked a question of Councillor Janette Williamson, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, if she could advise him in writing on how much uncollected and unrecoverable poll tax (community charge) had been written off by the Council since 1991 and did she believe that the policy

of non-payment pursued and encouraged by a previous Leader of this Council was reckless. Councillor Williamson agreed to supply a written response.

Councillor Allan Brame asked a question of Councillor Phil Davies, Leader of the Council, regarding the total cost to the Council of staging Liverpool's Dream, the 'Giants'. Councillor Davies responded by thanking all the officers who had worked on this event, an evaluation of the economic impact was currently being undertaken by the Liverpool City Region which he would be able to share with Members when it was available. An estimated 80,000 people had attended the event at New Brighton on Friday, 5 October with an overall total of 1.3m across the whole weekend. The previous visit of the 'Giants' in 2014 to Liverpool had provided economic benefits of £46m. The cost to the Council was £20,000 with the majority of funding being provided by the LCR Combined Authority, Metro Mayor's office and a grant from the Arts Council. Some capital improvements had also been made in New Brighton in advance of the event.

Councillor Jeff Green asked a question of Councillor Chris Jones, Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Health, regarding the additional £2m for Wirral University Teaching Hospital to assist with winter planning. Councillor Jones responded that the service was always grateful for more money and that work was undertaken across the health economy with health and social care working together to alleviate winter pressures and would be reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Councillor Andrew Gardner asked a question of Councillor George Davies, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning regarding the production of the Local Plan. Councillor Davies responded that it had been 14 years since the last Plan was produced, when the three Party Leaders worked together to ensure the Unitary Development Plan came into effect. He acknowledged that the Council was running behind in its production of the latest Local Plan but he would ensure that the Plan was with the Government by May, 2019.

Councillor Dave Mitchell asked a question of Councillor Angela Davies, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Growth, regarding the proposed Eureka Centre at Seacombe and funding for the Wirral Visitor Economy. Councillor Davies responded by acknowledging the substantial part that the Visitor Economy played and the number of roles, professions and employment associated with it. The Council was always looking to increase spend by visitors and to have them stay for longer. She expressed delight at the number of different events organised by the Imagine Wirral team and that they were now working hard for next year's programme of events when Wirral would be the Liverpool City Region Borough of Culture.

Councillor David Burgess-Joyce asked a question of Councillor Angela Davies, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Growth, regarding Peel Holdings and potential investment in the Borough. Councillor Davies stated that Peel

Holdings should have 'come up to the plate a lot sooner', although she was pleased with the really positive work on Wirral Waters One, where 500 new homes would be built, providing a real catalyst for the area and that the Council continued to work hard with Peel.

Councillor Mary Jordan asked a question of Councillor Phil Davies, Leader of the Council, if he would support the Wirral Festival of Music, Speech and Drama, which would be celebrating its 70th anniversary in 2019, an organisation which supported children and young people to flourish in all aspects of the arts. Councillor Davies responded that he would.

Councillor Andrew Hodson asked a question of Councillor Phil Davies, Leader of the Council, regarding the withdrawal of Storey Homes from any development associated with the proposed Hoylake Golf Resort and whether he was aware of how unpopular Redrow Homes were on Merseyside. Councillor Davies responded that the project was still at the early stages with the developer undertaking a series of feasibility studies and a detailed report would be going to Cabinet at the end of this year or beginning of the next with the results of these. The next stage would then be to look at the funding and financial package required for house building, the golf course, hotel and links academy. He believed that there would be potentially substantial benefits to jobs and investment in the borough and of the need to look at the evidence for the whole proposed package rather than jumping to any conclusions.

Councillor Tony Cox asked a question of Councillor Angela Davies, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Growth, regarding why no studies had been undertaken for alternative proposals for the proposed Hoylake Golf Resort site, such as a possible wetland resort. Councillor Davies responded that she believed that this was something being explored.

Councillor Jo Bird asked a question of Councillor Janette Williamson, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, regarding the community wealth building strategy. Councillor Williamson responded that Neil McInroy of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies was working with the Council on a community wealth building strategy which would enable more of the Wirral pound which the Council and its partners spent to be kept on Wirral to help with the regeneration of the more deprived areas.

Councillor Pat Cleary asked a question of Councillor Angela Davies, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Growth, regarding what efforts were being undertaken to ensure the new Eureka Museum at Seacombe would be at least carbon neutral if not Carbon negative. Councillor Davies expressed excitement at the proposed new museum, having visited the Halifax site and seen first-hand the amazing facilities on offer there. Science and technology were at the forefront of their work and she would ensure that this comment was fed into the project.

Councillor Les Rowlands asked a question of Councillor Angela Davies, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Growth, regarding the temporary post of Project Manager for the Wirral Growth Company. Councillor Davies responded by referring to the huge reduction in full time equivalent posts at the Council by 35% since 2011 with barely enough staff to run day to day services. It was not an effective use of public money to employ highly paid staff permanently when they could be brought in for a limited period of time. The Growth Company would be looking at new ways to bring in income for the Council which would lead to an increase in employment, apprenticeships and a hire local / buy local policy.

Councillor Gerry Ellis asked a question of Councillor Phill Brightmore, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Recreation, regarding the decline in the number of people playing golf at a time when the Council was spending money on proposed new golf provision in Hoylake. Councillor Brightmore responded that although it was in decline nationally it remained quite popular on Wirral attracting a large number of events and it was entirely right to invest in this provision but in a new and fresh way.

Councillor Stuart Kelly asked a question of Councillor George Davies, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning, regarding empty homes and a breakdown of the 42 selective licensing prosecutions. In response, Councillor Davies stated that he would provide a written response on the selective licensing prosecutions. With regard to empty properties he referred to the Empty Property Grant of up to £5,000 which was available to help with the refurbishment costs of a property located in a designated Selective Licensing area. There were currently 4 Selective Licensing areas which were in some of the most deprived areas of the Borough and a further 4 areas had been agreed recently by Cabinet.

Councillor Adam Sykes asked a question of Councillor Phil Davies, Leader of the Council, regarding the important part which libraries played with the Council's cultural services. Councillor Davies responded that he did believe that the arts and culture industry were often seen as nice to have rather than an essential part of the economy. It was his passion to ensure they did take centre stage and thanked Councillor Chris Spriggs for all the work she had undertaken in championing this sector. With regard to libraries and other leisure and cultural services there was a need to ensure they were financially sustainable and Councillor Phill Brightmore would be bringing forward detailed proposals on these reviews with recommendations in the next couple of months.

Councillor David Elderton asked a question of Councillor George Davies, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning, regarding the consultation methodology for the Local Plan review. Councillor Davies responded that consultation was still ongoing and this would be made available as soon as the figures were released by the Government, which were due on 3

December, 2018 and the consultation results would be reported back to Cabinet on 17 December, 2018.

Councillor Bruce Berry asked a question of Councillor George Davies, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning, regarding the withdrawal of Magenta Living from Property Pool Plus and would this make it harder for people on Wirral to find suitable accommodation. Councillor Davies responded that yes they had withdrawn which did cause a problem as they were the biggest Registered Social Landlord on Wirral. They were still working with the Council on a lot of other properties but the revenue which came into the Council to be a member of Property Pool Plus was no longer there.

Councillor Tony Norbury asked a question of Councillor Janette Williamson, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, regarding a forthcoming Policy Forum on 27 November, to be the first of many with grassroots members and Council tax payers, with full cabinet involvement. Councillor Williamson welcomed this as any kind of engagement with the wider community was always welcomed.

Councillor Steve Williams asked a question of Councillor Stuart Whittingham, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, regarding requests and problems referred to BAM Nuttall by the public and Members and whether those they had not been able to action before the transfer of the service had all been identified for action. Councillor Whittingham stated that the transfer had all gone smoothly on 1 October and that BAM Nuttall had handed over a number of jobs which were all in hand.

Councillor Kathy Hodson asked a question of Councillor Stuart Whittingham, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, regarding the Pothole Action Fund of £563,000 and how much had been spent as it was reported at the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September that only £33,000 of it had been so far. Councillor Whittingham responded that that figure was for the first quarter and the Council had until 31 March, 2019 to spend the funding which it would do.

Councillor Lesley Rennie asked a question of Councillor Tony Jones, Chair of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, regarding the progress in introducing a ban on overnight parking of campervans at Kings Parade and Coastal Drive in New Brighton. Councillor Jones responded that this matter came under the remit of the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee and he therefore could not update the Council.

The Civic Mayor informed the Council that the allotted time for this item had been reached and no further questions were to be taken.

47 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

In accordance with Standing Order 10(2) the Council had been advised of four questions.

With the permission of the Civic Mayor, Councillor Chris Blakeley requested that the Council agree to the suspension of Standing Order 10(2) (b) in order that he might ask a question of the Council's designated spokesperson on Merseytravel Committee of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Councillor Ron Abbey, of which he had given notice to Councillor Abbey.

The Council agreed to this request and Councillor Blakeley asked a question of Councillor Abbey on what processes Merseytravel had in place and what long term plans for bus services in Moreton, following the cessation of services by Avon Buses on 5 October, 2018. Councillor Abbey replied accordingly.

Councillor Pat Cleary asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Jobs and Growth in relation to the proposed golf resort scheme in Hoylake. Councillor Angela Davies responded accordingly.

Councillor Phil Gilchrist asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Environment in relation to the treatment of weeds on the A41 in Eastham. In the absence of Councillor Anita Leech, Councillor Phil Davies responded accordingly.

Councillor Phil Gilchrist asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport in relation to scouting for street lights which were off. Councillor Stuart Whittingham responded accordingly.

Councillor Stuart Kelly asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport in relation to the lack of consultation with Walk and Cycle Merseyside Group on Wirral's Road Safety Plan. Councillor Stuart Whittingham responded accordingly.

48 VACANCIES

The Council considered a report of the Director of Governance and Assurance on the revision to committee places in light of the resignation of a member of the Labour Group to become an Independent Member.

The Council was asked to receive nominations in accordance with Standing Order 25(6) for any proposed changes to membership of Committees and outside organisations and to agree the appointment of Chairs and Vice-Chairs where appropriate.

On motions by Councillor Phil Davies, seconded by Councillor George Davies, it was –

Resolved –

- (1) (39:18) (Three abstentions) – That Councillor Pat Hackett be appointed Chair of the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
- (2) (59:0) (Two abstentions) – That Councillor Steve Foulkes be appointed Chair of the Planning Committee.**
- (3) (58:2) (One abstention) – That Councillor Jean Stapleton be appointed Vice-Chair of the Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
- (4) (58:0) (One abstention) – That Councillor Brian Kenny be appointed Vice-Chair of the Planning Committee.**
- (5) (62:0) (One abstention) - That the revised constitution and membership of committees for the remainder of the 2018/19 municipal year (including deputies), having regard to the political proportionality requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and relevant case law, be agreed, with the Committee places allocation as set out below:**

| Committee | Places | Lab | Con | L/Dem | Green | Ind |
|--|---------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Audit and Risk Management | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | | |
| Employment and Appointments | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | | |
| Licensing Act 2003 | 15 | 9 | 4 | 1 | | 1 |
| Licensing, Health & Safety and General Purposes | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | | |
| Pensions | 10 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 1 | |
| Planning | 13 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 1 | |
| Standards & Constitutional Oversight | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | | |
| Overview & Scrutiny: Business | 15 | 8 | 5 | 1 | | 1 |
| Overview & Scrutiny: Environment | 15 | 9 | 5 | 1 | | |

| | | | | | | |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Overview & Scrutiny: Adult Social Care | 15 | 9 | 5 | 1 | | |
| Overview & Scrutiny: Children and Families | 15 | 9 | 5 | 1 | | |
| Total | 133 | 77 | 42 | 10 | 2 | 2 |

(6) (62:0) (One abstention) - That Council agrees that names of appointees to Committees and outside bodies be given to the Director of Governance and Assurance.

49 MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL OR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

In accordance with Standing Order 5(2) one matter had been submitted for approval or consideration by the Council (see minute 50 post).

50 QUARTER 1 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - CAPITAL

The matter requiring approval was in relation to the revised Capital Programme of £86.4 million as recommended by Cabinet at its meeting on 16 July, 2018 (minute 11 refers).

On a motion by Councillor Phil Davies, seconded by Councillor George Davies, it was –

Resolved (61:0) (One abstention) – That the recommendation contained within minute 11 of Cabinet, be approved.

51 NOTICES OF MOTION

Notices of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(1) were reported to Council. The Civic Mayor having considered each motion, in accordance with Standing Order 7(4) had decided that they would each be debated and they were determined as detailed in Minutes 52 to 59 below.

52 MOTION - CCG PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN URGENT CARE

Councillor Pat Hackett moved and Councillor Steve Foulkes seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

(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.

Following the moving of the motion, the Civic Mayor informed the meeting that the guillotine had now come into effect.

It was then moved by Councillor Phil Gilchrist and seconded by Councillor Phil Davies, **“That the guillotine be suspended, to allow debate on this motion”**.

The motion was put and carried (61:1) (One abstention).

Councillor Phil Gilchrist moved and Councillor Dave Mitchell seconded the following amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(9) such that the motion be approved subject to –

Insert at end of point (2) - after " ... locations in Wirral."

“Council recognises that the existing provision was developed to meet the specific needs in local communities and fill recognised and identified gaps in services. In the case of Eastham Walk-In Centre and Clinic, following the reinstatement of the opening hours, the average monthly attendance rose to 1070 visits between May and July 2018. Prior to the restoration of the hours, the average monthly attendance was 732 between January and April 2018. Council, therefore, wishes to know how any planned replacement services can genuinely meet the pattern of local usage, especially as the services assist people from Cheshire.”

Insert at end of point (3) - after " ... reductions in services."

“Council notes the geographical distribution of the GPs' weekend and extended hours services established in September 2018. Council believes that new services have to be fully accessible to residents, that public transport links are a major concern, especially as weekend and evening services may not match daytime services and calls for the locations of services to be genuinely convenient and accessible throughout the hours of provision.”

Councillor Pat Cleary moved and Councillor Mike Sullivan seconded the following amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(9) such that the motion be approved subject to –

Insert new paragraph 9

“As such, the proposals to sign a legally binding agreement between Wirral Council and the Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group on 16/10/2018 are against the public interest. They would lead to an accountable care system and then an accountable care organisation. This would set in concrete new “care models” that would only provide limited health care for people who can't afford private health insurance. The proposals therefore represent a clear route to privatisation within the NHS.”

(existing paragraph 9 will then become paragraph 10)

Following a debate conducted in accordance with Standing Order 12, and Councillor Hackett having replied and having accepted the amendment moved by Councillor Gilchrist, the amendment of Councillor Cleary was put and lost (7:54) (One abstention).

Prior to the substantive motion, as amended, being put to the vote a number of Members rose to request a 'card' vote.

A recorded vote was then taken and the Council divided as follows:

For the motion (62) – Councillors T Anderson, B Berry, J Bird, C Blakeley, A Brame, P Brightmore, D Burgess-Joyce, K Cannon, C Carubia, P Cleary, W Clements, T Cottier, T Cox, A Davies, G Davies, P Davies, W Davies, P Doughty, D Elderton, G Ellis, S Foulkes, S Frost, A Gardner, P Gilchrist, J Green, E Grey, P Hackett, P Hayes, A Hodson, K Hodson, AER Jones, C Jones, S Jones, T Jones, M Jordan, S Kelly, B Kenny, I Lewis, J McManus, C Meaden, D Mitchell, B Mooney, C Muspratt, T Norbury, C Povall, L Rennie, L Rowlands, PA Smith, C Spriggs, J Stapleton, P Stuart, M Sullivan, A Sykes, T Usher, J Walsh, G Watt, S Whittingham, I Williams, KJ Williams, S Williams, J Williamson and G Wood.

Resolved (62:0) –

- (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. Council recognises that the existing provision was developed to meet the specific needs in local communities and fill recognised and identified gaps in services. In the case of Eastham Walk-In Centre and Clinic, following the reinstatement of the opening hours, the average monthly attendance rose to 1070 visits between May and July 2018. Prior to the restoration of the hours, the average monthly attendance was 732 between January and April 2018. Council, therefore, wishes to know how any planned replacement services can genuinely meet the pattern of local usage, especially as the services assist people from Cheshire.**
- (3) Council believes that any new model of urgent care should enhance existing facilities rather than result in closures or reductions in services. Council notes the geographical distribution of the GPs' weekend and extended hours services established in September 2018. Council believes that new services have to be fully accessible to residents, that public transport links are a major concern, especially as weekend and evening services may not match daytime services and calls for the locations of services to be genuinely convenient and accessible throughout the hours of provision.**
- (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.

53 **PROCEDURAL MOTION**

Prior to moving to the next item, Councillor Chris Blakeley moved and it was seconded by Ian Lewis that, "The guillotine remain suspended."

The motion was put and lost (26:34) (One abstention).

54 **MOTION - STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**

Councillor David Burgess-Joyce moved and Councillor Ian Lewis seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

- (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.

In standing to formally second this motion, Councillor Ian Lewis, with the permission of the Civic Mayor asked a question of the Director of Governance and Assurance regarding a former Councillor, Louise Reecejones, who he understood was seeking to return to the Council, and actions she had not yet completed following a unanimous decision of the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee.

The Director of Governance and Assurance informed the Council that a requisition upon the former Councillor to undertake certain actions, should she return to the Council, did stand and it would be for the Council to seek to enforce them.

Having applied the guillotine the Council did not debate this matter.

The motion was put and lost (26:35) (One abstention).

55 **MOTION - KEEPING THE BUILDERS' HANDS OFF OUR FARMLAND**

Having previously declared personal and prejudicial interests in this item, Councillors Steve Foulkes and Jeff Green vacated the Council Chamber and did not take part in the voting thereon (minute 40 refers).

Councillor Phil Gilchrist moved and Councillor Stuart Kelly seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

- (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.

Having applied the guillotine the Council did not debate this matter.

The motion was put and carried (58:0) (Two abstentions).

Resolved (58:0) (Two abstentions) – That the motion be approved.

56 **MOTION - SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FOR WIRRAL WATERS**

Councillor Pat Cleary moved and Councillor Allan Brame seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

(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, scaleable, 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.

Councillor Stuart Whittingham moved and Councillor Phill Brightmore seconded the following amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(9) such that the Motion be approved subject to the deletion of all after paragraph (2) and the replacement with –

- (3) Council believes that transport plays a vital role in the delivery of Wirral Waters and Council is keen that a well-designed transport strategy for the area supports economic growth and regeneration, as well as playing a key part in improving the health of our Borough and reducing the negative impacts on our environment of carbon emissions.
- (4) Council notes that Wirral Waters presents numerous challenges in terms of transport infrastructure, in some parts of the site having:
- Poor walking and cycling connectivity and facilities
 - Limited public transport penetration
 - Localised congestion (in particular when the bridges are raised)
 - Severance from the Kingsway Tunnel Approach Road
 - Poor quality and low capacity highway and junctions – particularly the main junctions surrounding the site itself on Dock Road, Tower Road, Corporation Road and Wallasey Bridge Road
- (5) Council notes that, in partnership with Peel Holdings, Council has made significant progress over recent years to start to address these challenges, including a £1.7 million package of cycling and walking improvements funded via the Sustainable Transport Enhancement Programme that is currently being delivered on site, and more recently

secured £3 million investment from the Department for Transport for a Civilised Street Project on Tower Road due to be completed by March 2020. Council is also awaiting outcomes of several other funding applications which if successful will secure approximately a further £1m in improvements for active travel users in the area.

- (6) Council is keen to support people's desire for mobility, to improve connectivity and enable access to opportunities such as employment and education, whilst still ensuring that we reduce carbon emissions, promote behavioural change and take advantage of innovation. Council believes it is essential that a flexible package of transport solutions for Wirral Waters are explored.
- (7) Council also recognises the wider strategic transport context, as well as creating new communities at Wirral Waters there will be a new leisure destination at Eureka and regeneration plans for Birkenhead town centre. Through these major projects, and as more developments come on stream, there will be the opportunity to take account and advantage of social and technological changes and develop a package of transport solutions which work now and for future years to ensure that the benefits for our communities are maximised. Given the scale of development coming forward in Wirral it is essential that any solution for the area is flexible to ensure that as new destinations are created, and further developments take place over time that any transport solution can adapt and accommodate the changing patterns of travel needs.
- (8) Council is acutely aware that the travel habits of the younger generation are very different from previous generations; there is less desire for car ownership and increased use of mobile technology to support the use of flexible travel services such as Uber. Bus operators are looking at new ways to operate services with services such as Arriva Click being trialled in the City Region.
- (9) Council believes that any transport solution for the area needs to meet the ambitions of the Climate Change Strategy and advancements in technology now enable low carbon and zero emission vehicles to meet mobility demands but without having a negative impact on our local environment.

As such Council recommends that the Leader of the Council

- a) Recognises the opportunities presented through the development of Wirral Waters and the town centre and moves to look at a package of flexible transport solutions to enable and link the Council's major investment areas and provide access for residents to the wide range of opportunities available across the sites.

- b) Instructs Officers to work with the Wirral Growth Company and Peel Holdings to explore a package of options for a transport solution that works for all parties across the investment areas, whilst considering opportunities presented by advancements in technology to support the Councils ambitions. As part of these options the Streetcar concept should be considered but it needs to be underpinned by a robust business case.
- c) Instructs officers to work with partners to seek appropriate funding sources on a local and national basis, taking into account opportunities available for new technology and zero emission solutions.

Having applied the guillotine the Council did not debate this matter.

The amendment was put and carried (55:6) (One abstention).

The substantive motion, as amended, was put and carried (55:6) (One abstention).

Resolved (55:6) (One abstention) –

- (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 believes that transport plays a vital role in the delivery of Wirral Waters and Council is keen that a well-designed transport strategy for the area supports economic growth and regeneration, as well as playing a key part in improving the health of our Borough and reducing the negative impacts on our environment of carbon emissions.**
- (4) Council notes that Wirral Waters presents numerous challenges in terms of transport infrastructure, in some parts of the site having:**
 - Poor walking and cycling connectivity and facilities**

- Limited public transport penetration
 - Localised congestion (in particular when the bridges are raised)
 - Severance from the Kingsway Tunnel Approach Road
 - Poor quality and low capacity highway and junctions – particularly the main junctions surrounding the site itself on Dock Road, Tower Road, Corporation Road and Wallasey Bridge Road
- (5) Council notes that, in partnership with Peel Holdings, Council has made significant progress over recent years to start to address these challenges, including a £1.7 million package of cycling and walking improvements funded via the Sustainable Transport Enhancement Programme that is currently being delivered on site, and more recently secured £3 million investment from the Department for Transport for a Civilised Street Project on Tower Road due to be completed by March 2020. Council is also awaiting outcomes of several other funding applications which if successful will secure approximately a further £1m in improvements for active travel users in the area.
- (6) Council is keen to support people's desire for mobility, to improve connectivity and enable access to opportunities such as employment and education, whilst still ensuring that we reduce carbon emissions, promote behavioural change and take advantage of innovation. Council believes it is essential that a flexible package of transport solutions for Wirral Waters are explored.
- (7) Council also recognises the wider strategic transport context, as well as creating new communities at Wirral Waters there will be a new leisure destination at Eureka and regeneration plans for Birkenhead town centre. Through these major projects, and as more developments come on stream, there will be the opportunity to take account and advantage of social and technological changes and develop a package of transport solutions which work now and for future years to ensure that the benefits for our communities are maximised. Given the scale of development coming forward in Wirral it is essential that any solution for the area is flexible to ensure that as new destinations are created, and further developments take place over time that any transport solution can adapt and accommodate the changing patterns of travel needs.
- (8) Council is acutely aware that the travel habits of the younger generation are very different from previous generations; there is less desire for car ownership and increased use of mobile technology to support the use of flexible travel services such as Uber. Bus operators are looking at new ways to operate services with services such as Arriva Click being trialled in the City Region.

- (9) Council believes that any transport solution for the area needs to meet the ambitions of the Climate Change Strategy and advancements in technology now enable low carbon and zero emission vehicles to meet mobility demands but without having a negative impact on our local environment.**

As such Council recommends that the Leader of the Council

- (a) Recognises the opportunities presented though the development of Wirral Waters and the town centre and moves to look at a package of flexible transport solutions to enable and link the Council's major investment areas and provide access for residents to the wide range of opportunities available across the sites.**
- (b) Instructs Officers to work with the Wirral Growth Company and Peel Holdings to explore a package of options for a transport solution that works for all parties across the investment areas, whilst considering opportunities presented by advancements in technology to support the Councils ambitions. As part of these options the Streetcar concept should be considered but it needs to be underpinned by a robust business case.**
- (c) Instructs officers to work with partners to seek appropriate funding sources on a local and national basis, taking into account opportunities available for new technology and zero emission solutions.**

57 MOTION - NEW ONS HOUSING PROJECTIONS

Having previously declared personal and prejudicial interests in this item, Councillors Steve Foulkes and Jeff Green vacated the Council Chamber and did not take part in the voting thereon (minute 40 refers).

Councillor George Davies moved and Councillor Phil Davies seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

- (1) Council notes the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published new data indicating that Wirral will require 7,155 new homes by 2035, and that this is a significant reduction from the original figure of 12,000 new homes derived from the Government's national formula.**
- (2) Council recognises that this revised figure vindicates the view of the administration, councillors and many concerned residents that the original figure was too high and was leading to a miscalculation of housing needs which threatened Wirral's Green Belt.**

(3) Council further notes that the Leader of the Council had previously written to the minister arguing that the calculation was incorrect, and advocating that Wirral should not have to slavishly follow the Government's national housebuilding formula and Council is currently awaiting confirmation from the Secretary of State that this new target more accurately reflects the housing needs of Wirral.

(4) In light of the new ONS figures, Council agrees that work on the Local Plan should proceed with the aim of delivering new homes on brownfield sites and avoiding development on Green Belt land.

Councillor Phil Gilchrist moved and Councillor Stuart Kelly seconded the following amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(9) such that the Motion be approved subject to –

In point (4), delete the words 'and avoiding development on Green Belt land' and insert

“...paying full regard to the content of Chapter 13 of the July 2018 National Planning Policy Framework entitled "Protecting Green Belt Land" which includes paragraph 143 which reiterates that 'inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances'.”

Add new point (5)...

“(5) Council, therefore, requests that work on the identification and study and potential release of the Green Belt sites identified by Cabinet in July 2018 in Appendix 6 of Item 17 should be suspended. Council places on record its thanks to all those who have responded to the consultation and fully recognises the anxiety and stress caused to those who were pressed to submit objections.”

Councillor Cherry Povall moved and Councillor Mary Jordan seconded the following amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(9) such that the Motion be approved subject to –

Add:

“(5) Welcomes the unanimous resolution of the three parties represented on the Wirral South Constituency Committee (Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat) held on 4 October:

(1) That in light of the new figures obtained in regards to housing requirements in Wirral, the period of consultation be extended by a period of at least three weeks; and

(2) revised figures be published on the council's website and appropriate social media outlet

And requests Cabinet implement these recommendations.”

Having applied the guillotine, the Council did not debate this matter.

The amendment moved by Councillor Gilchrist was put and lost (6:51) (One abstention).

The amendment moved by Councillor Cherry Povall was put and lost (24:35) (One abstention).

The motion was put and carried (59:0) (One abstention).

Resolved (59:0) (One abstention) –

(1) Council notes the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published new data indicating that Wirral will require 7,155 new homes by 2035, and that this is a significant reduction from the original figure of 12,000 new homes derived from the Government's national formula.

(2) Council recognises that this revised figure vindicates the view of the administration, councillors and many concerned residents that the original figure was too high and was leading to a miscalculation of housing needs which threatened Wirral's Green Belt.

(3) Council further notes that the Leader of the Council had previously written to the minister arguing that the calculation was incorrect, and advocating that Wirral should not have to slavishly follow the Government's national housebuilding formula and Council is currently awaiting confirmation from the Secretary of State that this new target more accurately reflects the housing needs of Wirral.

(4) In light of the new ONS figures, Council agrees that work on the Local Plan should proceed with the aim of delivering new homes on brownfield sites and avoiding development on Green Belt land.

58 **MOTION - UTS FOUNDATION, HOYLAKE**

Councillor Andrew Gardner moved and Councillor Tony Cox seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

(1) Council acknowledges the efforts of the UTS Foundation in Hoylake in its work in helping to 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.

Having applied the guillotine, the Council did not debate this matter.

The motion was put and carried (61:0) (One abstention).

Resolved (61:0) (One abstention) – That the motion be approved.

59 **MOTION - NEW FERRY EXPLOSION**

Councillor Jo Bird moved and Councillor Joe Walsh seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

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.

Having applied the guillotine the Council did not debate this matter.

The motion was put and carried (61:0) (One abstention).

Resolved (61:0) (One abstention) – That the motion be approved.

60 **MOTION - HOUSING GROWTH**

Having previously declared personal and prejudicial interests in this item, Councillors Steve Foulkes and Jeff Green vacated the Council Chamber and did not take part in the voting thereon (minute 40 refers).

Councillor Gerry Ellis moved and Councillor Chris Blakeley seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

- (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.

Having applied the guillotine the Council did not debate this matter.

The motion was put and lost (25:34) (One abstention).