

**COUNCIL
10 DECEMBER 2018**

AMENDMENT IN RESPECT OF AGENDA ITEM 11 - MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL OR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by Councillor Chris Carubia

G. Wirral Together: Getting the Basics Right - a new model for Community Engagement

That the matter be referred back to Cabinet for further consideration of the following aspects as Council does not accept that the revised arrangements fully meet the needs of Members or their communities. Members who have faced tough questioning on Hoylake Golf Resort and other issues at the Constituency Committees should not close down this means of access for the public.

The Constituency Committees replaced a system of neighbourhood-based and area committees which were also undermined and abolished. Whilst the potential for members to work together exists across ward boundaries, it is not clear how this will be facilitated or serviced.

The ability of Members to hold cross-ward meetings on issues of common concern is not fully set out. The Leader has suggested that there is a lot of room for manoeuvre but the deletion of the Constituency Committees from the Constitution, without a clear formula for replacing local democratic arrangements, should not take place.

It should be noted that the Wirral South Committee has, across party, become an important forum for debating issues - like bus and walk in services - affecting all wards. The Constituency Committee ward representatives do not appear to have been asked for views on the new arrangements.

The prospect of funding for Members to assist their communities is welcomed. The ability of Members to engage with organisations and encourage applications for funding is undermined by the proposed financial checks and balances which contain no right of appeal. The ability of Members to use local funding for simple projects like 'dropped kerbs' is also removed and there is, as yet, no indication of how these might be secured through a dedicated local budget.