

Council – 18 March, 2019

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. NO PLACE FOR ANTI-SEMITISM IN WIRRAL'S POLITICS *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green

Seconded by Councillor Wendy Clements

Council reaffirms its adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism IN FULL and without AMENDMENT, as agreed in October 2017.

Furthermore, Council believes that there is no place in Wirral's politics for anti-Semitism and believes that any Member, when acting in their role as a Member of the Council, found to have made anti-Semitic remarks should be referred to the Council's Standards Committee, as well as any internal processes undertaken by their respective party.

2. TIME TO INVEST IN GREEN ENERGY *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Allan Brame

Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Council welcomes the Liverpool City Region's Year of the Environment initiative and the launch of the Borough's environment plan in New Brighton last month.

Council notes that the Year of the Environment will also help raise awareness of issues and areas that demand action and attention, including the need to shift towards more sustainable use of energy and welcomes the plans for a new £10 million Green Investment Fund announced by the Metro Mayor.

Council also notes the decision by Warrington Borough Council to invest in a solar farm in Yorkshire, which will meet 100% of its energy demands, reducing its annual energy bills by up to £2m in the process, and, once fully operational, will generate enough clean power to supply more than 18,000 homes and mitigate the emission of 25,000 tonnes of carbon every year.

This initiative follows moves by other local authorities in England and Wales to build solar farms.

Council believes that development of such a supply of clean energy would be a significant contribution to the battle against global warming and calls on Cabinet to:

1. explore the possibility of building its own solar farm, either in the Borough or elsewhere.
2. undertake investigations into the viability of such a scheme, the investment costs and potential returns and to identify potential locations.

3. FUTURE PENSIONS FIT FOR PURPOSE *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Pat Cleary

Seconded by Councillor Paul Doughty

Council welcomes the success of the Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) in expanding its membership to over 137,000 and raising its fund value to £8.6 billion.

Council believes,

- the MPF has an important role to play in securing the future success and quality of life of our region by providing a reliable source of income to our ageing population and through its ability to invest funds wisely in the local economy.
- that climate change represents a systemic threat to the future value of financial assets and, as the Governor of the Bank of England has warned, a carbon budget consistent with the 2°C target laid down in the Paris Climate Accord “would render the vast majority of {fossil fuel} reserves stranded”.

Council therefore welcomes,

- the mandate from the Pensions Committee that MPF’s investment strategy be brought into line with the goals of the 2015 Paris Accord
- the recent launch on the London Stock Exchange by MPF of the All World Climate Balanced Comprehensive Factor Index with an initial funding of £400 million
- and the goals of the Index to achieve reductions in risk to future pensions via substantial cuts in exposure to companies with high fossil fuel reserves and high carbon emissions and increased exposure to companies with high exposure to “green” revenues

Council congratulates MPF officers on their efforts to protect its members from climate-related financial risk and looks forward to further, sustained work to fully align its investments with the goals of the Paris Accord.