

Extraordinary 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. TOWARDS A NEW APPROACH TO WASTE ENFORCEMENT

Proposed by Councillor Alan Brame

Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Council notes that a Motion for the requisitioned Council, calling for the end of the contract with Kingdom Services Ltd, was submitted by the Liberal Democrat Group in the following terms....:

Council is aware of:

- (i) the mounting public concern at the heavy-handed implementation of the environmental enforcement contract by the Cabinet and some officers of Kingdom;
- (ii) the adverse publicity attracted by the imposition of seemingly unjustified FPNs on local businesses;
- (iii) the failure of the Cabinet and Kingdom to tackle dog fouling on the Borough's pavements;
- (iv) the minimal impact on littering in many parts of Wirral after more than three years of operation of this contract.

Council believes that:

- a) the financial incentives encourage Kingdom to focus on relatively trivial offences;
- b) the decision of the Cabinet to authorise a "zero tolerance" approach has led to the imposition of unjustified penalties;
- c) the reported harassment of residents who accidentally drop items is attracting adverse publicity and causing reputational damage to the Council.

The decision of the Cabinet Member to suspend the commercial waste element of the contract indicates that there are serious flaws in the way the contract has been drawn up and implemented.

This Council, therefore, believes that Cabinet should terminate all contracts with this company as soon as possible.

Accordingly this Council meeting calls upon Cabinet to follow the example of many authorities, such as Liverpool City Council, to end the use of privatised law enforcement in Wirral.

(continued)

Councillors were subsequently made aware of a decision by the Cabinet Member on 7th March 2019, reporting on the end of the contract by 'mutual' agreement.

Council recognises that:

- A. the insistence on a "zero tolerance" approach was misjudged, leading to a loss of public confidence in the approach to the enforcement of anti-littering measures;
- B. there is a need for the establishment of a replacement, better overseen and more effective service;
- C. the contracting out of this service is likely to lead to similar problems and that such operations are better delivered under Council control;
- D. any such service needs to operate in a manner that is understood and respected and, most importantly, secures public co-operation in the fight for a cleaner borough.

Accordingly, the Cabinet Member is requested to convene a meeting with the Party spokespersons to lay the foundations for a new approach to the provision of the service that enables Wirral to move forward after recent events and criticism.

2. KINGDOM: A DRAIN ON WIRRAL'S ECONOMY

Proposed by Councillor Pat Cleary

Seconded by Councillor Chris Carubia

Council notes:

- the stated aim of the Community Wealth Building initiative as outlined in the recent budget papers to "*make sure more public money is spent in Wirral, with Wirral companies, employing Wirral people*"
- that Kingdom Securities is a private company based outside Wirral
- that since Wirral's enforcement contract began in 2015, the Council has paid Kingdom £1.25 million

Given the substantial drain of public funds from the Wirral economy, council therefore agrees that the use of Kingdom Securities by Wirral Council is incompatible with the stated aims of the Community Wealth Building initiative.