

Amendments to Notices of Motion

The Council is requested to consider the following amendments, submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(1) and (9)

(1) Notice of Motion No. 1 – NO PLACE FOR ANTI-SEMITISM IN WIRRAL’S POLITICS

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by Councillor Allan Brame

Insert after para 2...

Council is aware that the January 2019 report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life entitled ‘Local Government Ethical Standards’ was placed before the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee on 26 February. The report

http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50055485/Local_Government_Ethical_Standards_Web_.pdf

provides advice on the current interpretation of the circumstances within which any member acts in their capacity as a Councillor and makes a recommendation that Section 27 (2) of the Localism Act 2011 should be amended to permit local authorities to presume councillors to be acting in an official capacity in their public conduct, including statements on publicly-accessible social media, when deciding upon code of conduct breaches.

Council is also aware that the Standards and Constitutional Oversight Committee only recently adopted a revised procedure for dealing with complaints against Members set out in the document ‘Protocol – Arrangements for investigating and making decisions in relation to allegations made under the Members’ Code of Conduct’ and believes that any complaints made to the Monitoring Officer about Members conduct should be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 and the protocol.

(2) Notice of Motion No. 2 – TIME TO INVEST IN GREEN ENERGY

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Anita Leech
Seconded by Councillor Stuart Whittingham

Add the following:

Council reaffirms its commitment to Green Energy which is supported in our Climate Change Strategy and the authority’s history of investing in green energy.

Council notes the work which is being undertaken through the 'Cool Wirral' partnership.

Council also notes that the authority has installed solar panels on Council buildings under a spend to save initiative and that there are currently 25 Council buildings that have the panels installed. An example can be seen at Guinea Gap leisure centre.

Council further notes that:

- Local schools have been engaged in looking at solar opportunities and at least three schools have signed up to the 'Solar for Schools' initiative which, if their applications are successful, will see the installation of solar panels on their buildings. A number of other schools are also considering taking up this opportunity.
- Discussions have commenced with regard to replacing the authority's current energy supply with solar energy.
- Cabinet is also tackling fuel poverty, an issue that affects a large number of Wirral residents, by considering an energy supply service which will enable residents to obtain cheaper gas and electricity.
- Work is ongoing on a range of other green energy initiatives which will be brought to members during the next municipal year.

(3) Notice of Motion No. 3 – FUTURE PENSIONS FIT FOR PURPOSE

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by Councillor Stuart Kelly

Insert after final para....

Council observes that this initiative, along with the Liverpool City Region Year of the Environment, presents opportunities for this Council to refresh and update its policies. It should also provide the trigger for actions which have not been taken for some time or are now due for updating. These need reviewing in the light of the current environmental crisis affecting many species.

Council notes that the last Carbon Budget report was presented to Cabinet by Councillor Mooney on 10 February 2015:

<http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50023323/Carbon%20Budget%20Report%202014-15.pdf>

The Agenda for Budget Cabinet on 22 February 2016 stated that the Carbon Budget was to be presented at the Council Meeting in July 2016. It did not appear and, since then, that reporting appears to have ceased.

Wirral's Climate Change Strategy was developed for the period 2014-19 and is due for updating and renewal:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/climate%20change/Wirral%20Climate%20Change%20Strategy%202014-2019.pdf>

and that the most recent progress report was the 4th Annual Progress Report of 'Cool Wirral', published in July 2018:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/climate%20change/Cool%20Steps%20Wirral%20Climate%20Change%20Strategy%204th%20Annual%20Progress%20Report%20July%202018.pdf>

In this context, Members need to review this and the next report to ensure that Wirral Council can rise to the challenges.

Furthermore, the Wirral Biodiversity Action Plan adopted in 2013 could usefully be re-examined and updated

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/planning%20and%20building/Local%20plans%20and%20planning%20policy/Local%20Planning%20Evidence%20Base%20and%20Research/Wirral%20Documents/Wirral%20BAP%20FINAL%20February%202003%20for%20Web%20site.pdf>

Council asks that these issues are taken on board by the current Cabinet Member and any successors to ensure they are followed up.