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COUNCIL

Monday, 15 July 2019

Present: The Civic Mayor (Councillor Tony Smith) in the Chair
Deputy Civic Mayor (Councillor George Davies)

Councillors	T Anderson	K Greaney	D Mitchell
	B Berry	JE Green	C Muspratt
	J Bird	EA Grey	Y Nolan
	C Blakeley	P Hackett	T Norbury
	A Brame	P Hayes	J Robinson
	D Burgess-Joyce	S Hayes	L Rowlands
	H Cameron	A Hodson	C Spriggs
	K Cannon	K Hodson	S Spoor
	C Carubia	J Johnson	P Stuart
	P Cleary	AER Jones	M Sullivan
	W Clements	C Jones	T Usher
	M Collins	S Jones	J Walsh
	C Cooke	T Jones	G Watt
	A Corkhill	M Jordan	S Whittingham
	T Cox	S Kelly	I Williams
	WJ Davies	B Kenny	KJ Williams
	S Foulkes	A Leech	S Williams
	S Frost	I Lewis	J Williamson
	A Gardner	M McLaughlin	G Wood
	P Gilchrist	J McManus	A Wright

26 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 such interest.

The following declarations were made:

Councillor Steve Foulkes	Item No. 11 – Motion - The Tories’ national housing shortage, poverty incomes, unemployment and private-sector overcrowding (Minute No. 50 refers). Personal and prejudicial – By virtue of him being a member of Magenta Living Board.
Councillor Jeff Green	Item No. 11 – Motion - The Tories’ national housing shortage, poverty incomes, unemployment and private-sector overcrowding (Minute No. 50 refers). Personal and prejudicial – By virtue of him being a member of Magenta Living Board.

Councillor Elizabeth Grey	Item 11 – Motion – Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education. Personal – By virtue of her employment as a teacher.
Councillor Moira McLaughlin	Item 10(a) – Recommendations of Independent Panel on Members Remuneration. Personal – By virtue of having made representations to the Panel.
Councillor Pat Cleary	Item 10(a) – Recommendations of Independent Panel on Members Remuneration. Personal – By virtue of having made representations to the Panel.
Councillor Brian Kenny	Item No. 11 – Motion – Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS) (Minute No. 56 refers). Personal – By virtue of his membership of the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority.
Councillor Bruce Berry	Item No. 11 – Motion – Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS) (Minute No. 56 refers). Personal – By virtue of his membership of the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority.

27 CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Civic Mayor noted that apologies had been received from Councillors Tony Cottier, Cherry Povall, Lesley Rennie and Jean Stapleton.

28 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 13 and 14 May 2019 (Annual Council), and 24 June 2019 (extraordinary meeting) had been circulated to Members. On a motion by the Civic Mayor, seconded by Councillor Pat Hackett, it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That the minutes of the meetings held on 13 and 14 May 2019 (Annual Council), and 24 June 2019 (extraordinary meeting) be approved and adopted as a correct record.

29 PETITIONS

In accordance with Standing Order 21, the Mayor received four petitions submitted by –

Councillor Chris Blakeley on behalf of 246 residents of Moreton and Saughall Massie calling on the Council to tackle the sky high costs of directors and consultants.

Councillor Mary Jordan on behalf of 444 residents of Spital calling on the Council to provide a Children's Play Area in Spital.

Councillor Ian Lewis on behalf of 64 residents of Mosslands Drive and adjacent roads calling on the Council to resurface Mosslands Drive.

Councillor Paul Stuart on behalf of 458 residents (hardcopy) and 120 online signatures calling on Merseytravel (a consortium of Merseyside local authorities) to reinstate the 403 service from Seacombe Ferry to Arrowe Park Hospital.

Resolved – That the petitions be noted and referred to the appropriate Chief Officers in accordance with Standing Order 34.

30 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Mr Christopher Power, having given the appropriate notice in accordance with Standing Order 10, submitted a question to the Leader of the Council on the subject of why Strategic Gold Command did not meet to co-ordinate better response and recovery away from emergency operations at the scene of the New Ferry Explosion.

Councillor Pat Hackett, Leader of the Council, responded accordingly.

Ms Chloe Stenhouse, Chairperson, Friends of Poulton Lancelyn, having given the appropriate notice in accordance with Standing Order 10, submitted a question to the Leader of the Council asking what assistance could the Council give The Friends of Poulton Lancelyn to set up a children's play area in Spital, a facility that some residents had been asking for, for the past 30 years.

Councillor Pat Hackett, Leader of the Council, responded accordingly.

Ms Chloe Stenhouse asked a supplementary question in accordance with Standing Order 10, on whether the Council had progressed a bid to access £9.7 million of new Government funding announced earlier in the year for day-to-day maintenance costs, essential playground repairs and creation of new green spaces, to enable local leaders and communities resources to better maintain, protect and increase their recreational spaces. Councillor Hackett responded accordingly.

31 CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT

Having been moved by Councillor Pat Hackett, Leader and seconded by Councillor Anita Leech, Deputy Leader, the Civic Mayor introduced the Cabinet Portfolio Summary Annual Report (Agenda Item 6A).

An amendment was moved in respect of the Cabinet Portfolio Summary Annual Report as follows:

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by Councillor Chris Carubia

“Council notes that the Annual Report again refers to the 'honest appraisals' of Wirral's progress.

The report states ...

'We made a commitment when we first agreed this Plan to report back to Wirral residents – to keep residents informed, and give open, honest appraisals of our progress so we can be held to account on the promises we made.' (Foreword)

Last year's report stated, "We're also continuing to get the basics right'. That theme is not reflected in the new report. Council believes that Cabinet members must not overlook the everyday experiences of Wirral residents.

The Annual Report for 2016/17 (page 25) promised that in 2017/18...

"...we will redouble our efforts to improve the public realm..."

The Annual Report for 2017/18 again stated...

"we will redouble our efforts to improve the public realm..." (page 35)

It is regrettable that there is no emphasis on the 'public realm' in the Report, though it does say that ... 'Living in a safe, clean, well looked after community leads to a better quality of life' (page 15).

With regard to this, Council has to point out that residents still do remain concerned about the unkempt state of the Borough, where unsightly weeds remain, streetlights await repair for long periods and where the roads continue to suffer from potholes.

Council, in this era of where the climate emergency is now being recognised, does welcome the statement that...

'This year, we will redouble our efforts to tackle climate change, through investing in green energies and introducing measures designed to reduce our energy consumption, such as sustainable transport policies and electric car charging points.' (page 12) and looks forward to seeing significant and measurable progress with these issues during the next year.'

Council welcomes the commitment to change the nature and style of Portfolio Holders' reports in response to the concerns of Members."

Following a speech by Councillor Gilchrist, the amendment and original motion having been formally seconded, and Councillor Pat Hackett having replied, the amendment was put and carried (32:29) (One abstention).

The substantive motion (Cabinet Portfolio Summary Annual Report as amended) was put and carried (61:0) (One abstention).

32 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

The Mayor introduced the Overview and Scrutiny Annual report (Agenda Item 6B).

The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report was then considered by the Council and it was moved by former Scrutiny Chair Councillor Julie McManus, seconded by Councillor Tom Usher and –

Resolved (61:0) (One abstention) – That the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report be noted.

33 **MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

In addition to pre-notified questions to the Executive or Committee Chairs in accordance with Standing Orders 10 (2)(b) and 11, the Civic Mayor also invited questions to Cabinet Members with regard to the content of Cabinet Portfolio Summary Annual Report (Agenda Item 6A).

Questions on the content of the Portfolio Summary Annual Report

Councillor Steve Hayes asked a question of Councillor Tony Jones, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth, on the public consultation regarding Birkenhead, when will the results be known, and will councillors be given access to the public consultation.

Councillor Jones responded that the consultation on Birkenhead was launched on an online portal on the 29th of the May and closed on the 30th of June, a resale unit on St Johns pavement was opened on four separate occasions; morning, noon, evenings and weekends. Many people had taken up the offer to go in and make their views known, and the information from this consultation was being collated and would be made available and distributed when this had been completed.

Councillor Chris Blakeley asked a question of Councillor Elizabeth Grey, Cabinet Member Environment and Climate Change stating that the annual report made no reference to the problem of dog fouling and no mention of the proposals for the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), why was that?

Councillor Grey responded that she was surprised to be asked this question as Councillor Blakeley had been involved in the discussions regarding the creation of the new PSPO which was currently under review and being developed right now.

Councillor Steve Foulkes asked a question of Councillor Christine Spriggs, Cabinet Member Culture and Tourism. He congratulated the Cabinet Member on the first six months of the Wirral Borough of Culture and asked if she agreed that all Members should join together tonight to celebrate the fantastic work done so far?

Councillor Spriggs thanked Councillor Foulkes for his question. She informed that throughout the year the Council's programme was celebrating the themes of exploration and discovery and some of Wirral's amazing spaces and outdoor locations. She added that she wanted to put on record her thanks to every member of staff for the tremendous effort and work they had put in to make it the undoubted success it was today. The Borough of Culture programme had now reached its midway point and had attracted around 100,000 visitors to the Wirral. There were still major events of scale to come and it was envisioned that up to 1 million visitors would be attracted by the end of the year. Some events to highlight were; The Future Yard Indie Festival coming to Hamilton square on August 23rd to 24th. The Wirral Food

and Drinks Festival coming in September to Birkenhead Park. The Liverpool Philharmonic would be performing on the Saturday night and the conductor of the Liverpool Philharmonic was very excited about this. The current economic impact of the events has not been determined. However, every pound that the council invests in culture was bringing forward £25 into the local economy, it was important to make sure that every pound of that £25 stayed in the economy. Councillor Spriggs informed that there had been great satisfaction levels on all the events so far, 90% of visitors rating their experience as good or very good. The programme also had the support of over 100 volunteers giving what equated to 300 volunteering hours, and the social value and pride this brought about in the Borough was fantastic. A press release came out today which revealed new figures for the Wirral Visitor Economy, and that it had grown for the 6th consecutive year, with tourism in the borough now estimated at £460 million pounds. That survey had been undertaken by the Visitor Economy Team at Liverpool City Region.

Councillor Les Rowlands asked a question of Councillor Anita Leech, Cabinet Member for The Local Plan (Deputy Leader) remarking that the continued failure to have a local plan was one of the most pressing issues facing the Council and was putting much of Wirral's Green Belt at risk. Why was there no update or reference to the local plan in the annual report?

Councillor Leech responded that obviously there wasn't a cabinet position for the Local Plan last year. As a result of this, and with this being such an important matter, a separate cabinet portfolio role had been established for the Local Plan.

Councillor Ian Lewis asked a question of Councillor Pat Hackett, Leader of the Council that in his report 4000 jobs had been created in Wirral this year, and that it boasted that Wirral now had its highest ever record of employment, a situation which was being mirrored across most of the rest of the country. Yet on a motion later this evening, two of his colleagues stated that many of these new jobs were low paid part time posts. If this was true, why didn't he mention it in his report?

Councillor Hackett responded that the Council wanted to create more jobs to bring prosperity and investment to this borough. The Council was nearing its original target, set in 2015 at 5000 jobs. It was important that there were well paid jobs in this borough regardless of the type of job. With Members from all political groups help, the Council was looking to generate even more jobs.

Councillor Tony Norbury asked a question of Councillor Elizabeth Grey, Cabinet Member Environment and Climate Change on how was Council going to get its message across regarding the climate changes that were needed?

Councillor Grey responded that a number of methods were being used to get this message across e.g. a fantastic eco schools team, one of the most successful in the country, which had been very successful in encouraging behaviour changes. She added that it was vital to get this message across as its urgency should be understood. People needed to know what the Council was doing about it i.e. utilising social media and Wirral View, both the online version and the paper version to get this vital message across.

Councillor Moira McLaughlin asked a question of Councillor Julie McManus, Cabinet Member Community Services stating that in March the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation was asked a number of questions about street lighting in the borough and in particularly Rock Ferry. This included a question on how many street lights were awaiting repair and how many of these were in Rock Ferry, what was the average time it took for a repair to be carried out, and when would the current CRM system actual show progress on repairs so constituents could check. A written response was received to part of the question but not the whole question, and she was still awaiting an answer to the CRM question and the length of time people had to wait.

Councillor McManus responded that she was not the Cabinet Member portfolio holder in March but appreciated that was some time to wait. Councillor McManus stated that she would endeavour to get all of those answers in writing. She added that on average around 340 reports were received each month and around 85% of these streetlights were fixed first time. Council was on target for phase two of the LED streetlights to begin on the 1st of September, but Council must improve how it communicated with residents. Work was being undertaken on the CRM to improve that.

Councillor Paul Stuart asked a question of Councillor Tom Usher, Cabinet Member Children, Families and Education on the subject of foster care recruitment, key to Council's looked after children, and the authority was crying out for foster carers. Could an update be provided on how the campaign to recruit more foster carers was progressing?

Councillor Usher responded that he had spoken to some foster carers because ultimately they were the best people to tell us what they needed in terms of support. What he had gathered from these foster carers and reports in the national press was that the foster carers wanted to be valued more. Council was about to launch a new training and support package for the foster carers of Wirral, and he had asked the Corporate Parenting Board on how the Council could value foster carers more to be included as an item on the agenda for this year. Last year Council approved 18 new foster families, and this year had approved over 30.

Councillor Michael Collins asked a question of Councillor Elizabeth Grey, Cabinet Member Environment and Climate Change whether the Cabinet Member could confirm that Wirral Council had applied for a share of the government's £10million fund to plant 130,000 urban trees? And did the council contribute to consultation on proposed measures to give greater protection to the trees?

Councillor Grey responded that Council had bid for that money, and was also looking for others ways to fund its environmental measures and the planting of trees for its new tree strategy.

Councillor Bruce Berry asked a question of Councillor Christine Jones, Cabinet Member Adult Care Health and Wellbeing indicating that the annual report stated that more public resources were being spent on the frontline

since the Council had combined resources with the NHS. He asked if the Cabinet Member supported that decision, and could she inform Council how much extra cash had been 'released'.

Councillor Jones thanked Councillor Berry for his question and informed that a written response to his question would be supplied.

Councillor Tom Anderson asked a question of Councillor Julie McManus, Cabinet Member Community Services that in the annual report it was stated that high standards of street cleanliness had been maintained, did she seriously believe that this had been the case?

Councillor McManus responded that Members were aware that funding had been cut, and that did have an impact on street cleansing. Council had embarked on a new project called Neat Streets, this looked at more deprived communities where fly tipping was common, and this had been really successful. One street in particular which had problematic weeds had now worked with the department for some time and was now entering North West in Bloom as a result of taking ownership of their own street. The department planned to continue with such projects to encourage people to take pride and 'love where they live'.

Councillor Gill Wood asked a question of Councillor Elizabeth Grey, Cabinet Member Environment and Climate Change seeking assurance on the number of trees being planted.

Councillor Grey responded that the Council was developing a tree strategy right now, and officers were looking into the funding for planting of many more trees. Her ambition was to eventually double the tree cover. She added that her department took the matter of trees seriously and always sought a second opinion before any tree felling - for the safety of residents and visitors.

Councillor Jeff Green asked a question of Councillor Julie McManus, Cabinet Member Community Services stating that three years ago Constituency Committees were allocated schemes for money and for growth. Funding had still not been implemented, including items such as drop curb safety barriers. Could the Cabinet Member please look into this and advise all Members where each of the approved schemes were up to and hopefully when they would be completed?

Councillor McManus responded that she did not have that information at hand but once she had reviewed the budgets and where the money was being spent (or not spent) she would arrange a report to all Members.

Councillor Stuart Kelly asked a question of Councillor Pat Hackett, Leader of the Council that in his covering report the Leader stated that the nature and the style of portfolio holders reports was being changed. Did this mean an end to the 'click here and read all about it in the Wirral Globe' style of report? And did it also mean a potential end to rosey eyed reports based on departmental defence, with a move to a more warts and all style of report? Was the nature and style of the reports changing for the better?

Councillor Hackett responded that things were changing in a number of ways, one was actions speak louder than words. He added that Council now had a Cabinet Member for the Local Plan which was very important and with Members help on the Local Plan Advisory Committee, Council would be able to roll out the Local Plan in the next year or so, possibly even earlier. He also reported that Council also had a Cabinet Member for Climate Change which had not existed previously. This would see a change in stance on all environmental issues. The Council aimed to continue how they had started this year, whipping away the cynicism to make sure that in the future it was more consensual.

Councillor Chris Cooke asked a question of Councillor Elizabeth Grey, Cabinet Member Environment and Climate Change if she could explain how the authority was to ensure that Wirral reached its recycling target of 50% when over the past few years its recycling rate had actually declined.

Councillor Grey responded that the issue of recycling was under review, and the Council was working with the Liverpool City Region and the Waste Authority on ways of moving forward in the best possible way. She added that recycling rates had declined across the whole country and was a behavioural issue. Plans were in progress to increase Wirral's recycling rates as quickly as practicable.

Councillor Geoffrey Watt asked a question of Councillor Stuart Whittingham, Cabinet Member Housing and Planning if the Cabinet Member was satisfied that the planning department was sufficiently resourced to inform development control in Wirral, and if not, what did he propose to do about it, and by when?

Councillor Whittingham responded that there were some issues to tackle in the Council's planning function, and assistance from the Local Government Association had been requested to take steps to invest the right level and quality of support and quickly deal with the capacity issues currently faced.

Councillor David Burgess-Joyce asked a question of Councillor Christine Spriggs, Cabinet Member Culture and Tourism regarding places like Hay on Wye where a regular book fair festival brought in £18million a year. He questioned if the Cabinet Member had any plans to do something that was a bit more 'annual' as opposed to some of the excellent work which had been done that tended to be more 'one off' events.

Councillor Spriggs responded that she hoped that the current food and drink festival would become an annual event, based on food and music, but also other areas of the arts as well. She explained that work was being planned with local libraries on this and similar ideas.

Councillor Julie McManus, Cabinet Member Community Services added that with regards to the library service it was important not to think one size fits all. Members needed to look at what different communities wanted from different libraries. Other ideas included the encouraging the use of parks for drama events.

Councillor Paul Stuart asked a question of Councillor Janette Williamson, Cabinet Member Finance & Resources on when the council tax reduction for 9000 households announced last year was going to come into effect, and how could people apply for it?

Councillor Williamson responded that this had come about as a result of continued welfare reform from this Conservative government which had left a large section of the population on Wirral in poverty. The Council was currently out to consultation on the matter and feedback had been really positive. She was hoping to implement the reduction, and come April 2020, 9000 household would benefit as a result. She added that she and her department were really proud of this scheme.

Councillor Les Rowlands asked a question of Councillor Pat Hackett, Leader of the Council on what had been the Leader's greatest achievement in his 73 days since election?

Councillor Hackett responded 'getting in office and staying elected'. He also added that cross party work and parties working together to deliver what the residents had asked at the election last May was his key aim.

Councillor Chris Blakeley asked a question of Councillor Christine Spriggs, Cabinet Member Culture and Tourism whether she believed that news releases sent out on her behalf should have a misleading headline. For instance, that day's news release stating "The one o'clock gun will be fired", however the body of the story explained that a field gun was to be used to replicate the firing of the one o'clock gun. Did she agree that the Council Media Department was misleading the public of Wirral?

Councillor Spriggs responded that she would provide a written response.

Councillor Geoffrey Watt asked a question of Councillor Christine Spriggs, Cabinet Member Culture and Tourism whether she believed it was appropriate to conduct an event which could be perceived as celebrating witchcraft and the occult, and was she party to that decision?

Councillor Spriggs responded that she hadn't been in post when the decision to progress that specific project was taken. She understood that some people might have found the name of the event possibly upsetting, but that group were a minority and they were spoken to by the culture project team at the time. Over 7000 people attended the event, 90-95% of whom said it was wonderful. It wasn't a piece about witchcraft, it was a wonderful piece, a participatory piece of art of world class quality, open performance, by Absolute Culture which came from the Hull 2017 Festival of Culture. It was a superb piece, one of the biggest parts of which was about celebrating people and having the right to go into parks.

Councillor Julie McManus, Cabinet Member Community Services added that there had been some concerns from St Oswald's Church in Duke Street, and they had met with the Council's culture team and were able to talk through their concerns, one of the positives was that they spoke directly with people

involved with the event who then went along to Christ the King where they had their own prayer meeting.

Questions notified in advance

Councillor Mike Collins asked a question of the Cabinet Member for the Local Plan requesting confirmation that she agreed that the sites in Pensby highlighted for development, and to which the then Cabinet in November 2018 agreed should not be developed, and also whether she could confirm the status of the list of sites that the same Cabinet endorsed.

Councillor Anita Leech responded, stating that no decisions had been taken on any of the sites. The Council was currently preparing the local plan which would set out the vision for strategic priority, the options and the preferred options. This would be considered by cabinet on the 25th of November and Council on the 9th of December, consultation would commence in January 2020. At this point the council would formally respond to limitation comments for regeneration. Although she could not pre-judge the content of the Local Plan, she was able to state that it would be open and collaborative and would include the views of Wirral Green Space Alliance and other such groups who bring a helpful voice to this process and would be invited to play a role in the Local Plan.

Councillor Phil Gilchrist asked a question of the Cabinet Member for Community Services in relation to faulty street lighting, citing an example of a ward constituent and her neighbour who had, whilst following up a request, uncovered difficulties with the transfer of data and requests from one Council system to another. He asked what steps were being taken to improve the systems and end the frustrations faced by the public.

Councillor Julie McManus responded accordingly and agreed that a written response would be circulated.

34 MINUTES OF CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEES

Following the disbanding of the Constituency Committees, the minutes of the final meetings were submitted for final sign-off, namely:

Birkenhead Constituency Committee – 28 February 2019;
Wirral South Constituency Committee – 6 March 2019;
Wallasey Constituency Committee – 12 March 2019; and
Wirral West Constituency Committee – 14 March 2019

On a motion moved by Councillor Pat Hackett, seconded by Councillor Anita Leech, it was –

Resolved (61:0) (One abstention) – That the minutes of the Birkenhead Constituency Committee (28 February 2019); Wirral South Constituency Committee (6 March 2019); Wallasey Constituency Committee (12 March 2019); and Wirral West Constituency Committee (14 March 2019), be approved and adopted as a correct record.

35 **VACANCIES**

In accordance with Standing Order 25(6) the Council was requested to deal with the following matters in respect of the membership of committees and appointments to outside organisations.

Cheshire and Wirral NHS Partnership Trust.

It was moved by Councillor Gilchrist, seconded by Councillor Mitchell that Councillor Andy Corkhill be appointed the Council's nominee as Cheshire and Wirral NHS Partnership Trust: Appointed Governor, replacing Councillor Phil Gilchrist, when his term of office expires on 17 October 2019.

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

It was moved by Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Blakeley that Councillor Tom Anderson be appointed as Chair of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, replacing Councillor Chris Blakeley with immediate effect.

Resolved – That the above appointments and nominations be approved.

36 **MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL OR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL**

In accordance with Standing Order 5(2) a number of matters had been submitted for approval or consideration by the Council (see Minutes 37 to 39 post).

37 **RECOMMENDATION OF THE INDEPENDENT PANEL ON MEMBERS ALLOWANCES**

The first matter requiring consideration by Council was in relation to a recommendation within minute 3 of the Panel on Members Allowances (4 June 2019) -

That:

- (1) a Special Responsibility Allowance of £1,146 (5% of the SRA paid to the Leader of the Council) be paid to the Leaders of Minority Groups, i.e. Groups having fewer Members than the second largest Opposition Group, comprising of at least three Members;
- (2) no Special Responsibility Allowances be paid to the Deputy Leaders of Minority Groups; and
- (3) the Panel be requested to give further consideration to Special Responsibility Allowances for the Leaders and Deputy Leaders, as part of its periodic review of Members' Allowances, when it meets again on 25 September 2019.

On a motion by Councillor Pat Hackett, seconded by Councillor Anita Leech, it was –

Resolved (60:0) (One abstention) – That the recommendations contained within Minute 3 of the Panel on Members Allowances (4 June 2019), be approved.

38 **RECOMMENDATION OF THE EMPLOYMENT AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

The second matter requiring consideration by Council was in relation to the appointment of an Interim Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service), as recommended by the Employment and Appointments Committee, 12 June 2019 (Minute 3(2) refers).

That:

Mr Paul Satoor be appointed to the post of Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service), to include the appointment as Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer, for a period of twelve months or until such time as a permanent appointment is made.

On a motion by Councillor Pat Hackett, seconded by Councillor Anita Leech, it was –

Resolved (60:0) (One abstention) – That the recommendation contained within Minute 3(2) of the Employment and Appointments Committee (12 June 2019), be approved.

39 **RECOMMENDATION OF CABINET - EXECUTIVE DECISION MAKING PROCESS**

The final matter requiring consideration by Council was a recommendation to note the amended Leader's Scheme of Delegation and Procedure as agreed at the meeting of Cabinet, 24 June 2019 (Minute 7(2) refers).

Resolved – That the recommendations contained within Minute 7(2) of the Cabinet meeting held on 24 June 2019, be noted.

40 **NOTICES OF MOTION**

The following Notices of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7(1) were reported to Council and determined as detailed in Minutes 42 to 56 (post).

- A better offer for Care Leavers;
- Relationships education, relationships and sex education and health education;
- Investing to change our urban scene;
- Glyphosate-free Wirral;
- Verges and Pollinators;
- Keep free TV licences for over 75s;
- TV Licences;
- Inconsiderate parking around schools;

- The Tories' national housing shortage, poverty incomes, unemployment and private sector overcrowding;
- Tyred;
- Cutting pollution in the interests of all;
- Borough of Culture;
- Wirral View;
- Protecting Wirral's heritage sites of archaeological importance; and
- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Services (MFRS)

41 **PROCEDURAL MATTER**

It was moved by Councillor Chris Blakeley and seconded by Councillor Adrian Jones that Standing Order 9(1) be suspended and Motions 1 and 2 at agenda item 11 be debated with the guillotine coming into effect after that.

Upon being put to the vote, it was -

Resolved (54:4) (One abstention) –

That Standing Order 9(1) be suspended and Motions 1 and 2 at agenda item 11 be debated with the guillotine coming into effect after that.

42 **MOTION - A BETTER OFFER FOR CARE LEAVERS**

The Civic Mayor introduced the item 'A Better Offer for Care Leavers' for which one motion and two amendments had been submitted.

MOTION

Councillor Tom Usher moved and Councillor Kate Cannon seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 –

“Council notes that the new Offer for Care Leavers reflects a commitment to do the right thing by the young people in our care. Those involved, both from the Council and our partner organisations should be thanked for their work and determination, especially those young people at the Care Leaver's Council and beyond who helped shape this new offer.

Council also makes the assurance that it will continue to listen to children and young people in its efforts to improve the offer. We are resolute that one of the most important responsibilities of any government, local or national is to ensure children and young people get the best possible start to their life. Council supports the decision to exempt care leavers from Council Tax and to write off any arrears owed.

The Council supports the £20m investment made in 2018/19 and is committed to continued investment in Children's services. However, our commitment and aspirations for our young people are made more difficult by the government's refusal to act on the crisis in social care funding. If austerity is truly over, Council calls on the government to set children as their number one priority, provide adequate funding for local councils, and reverse some of the

harmful cuts in services that have led to a record number of children in care. In the sixth richest country in the world we should not have more than one in four children living in poverty in the UK. This statistic shames us all.”

AMENDMENT 1

Proposed by Councillor Tom Anderson

Seconded by Councillor Wendy Clements

In paragraph 3 delete all from: ‘However, our commitment.....’ to ‘truly over,’

In paragraph 3 delete all from ‘and reverse.....’ to ‘us all.’

Insert ‘and’ between ‘priority’ and ‘provide’

Insert new paragraphs:

Council welcomes the Government’s Care Leavers Strategy and is fully committed to ensuring that this guidance is implemented within the local authority. Council requests that a report goes to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee detailing the progress in implementing this strategy.’

Council recognises the beneficial effect of employment on life chances. To give our care leavers the best start possible, Council requests Cabinet to ensure Officers continue their work to prioritise apprentice vacancies within the authority and working with our partners, for care leavers. Thereby ensuring they have a better start in life.

Therefore, the final three paragraphs read:

The Council supports the £20m investment made in 2018/19 and is committed to continued investment in Children’s services. Council calls on the government to set children as their number one priority and provide adequate funding for local councils.

Council welcomes the Government’s Care Leavers Strategy and is fully committed to ensuring that this guidance is implemented within the local authority. Council requests that a report goes to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee detailing the progress in implementing this strategy.

Council recognises the beneficial effect of employment on life chances. To give our care leavers the best start possible, Council requests Cabinet ensures Officers continue their work to prioritise apprentice vacancies within the authority and working with our partners, for care leavers. Thereby ensuring they have a better start in life.

AMENDMENT 2

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Seconded by Councillor Andy Corkhill

Insert after para 3...

Council also believes that the Government needs to take steps to intervene in the operation of the private sector providing residential placements for children. In particular, the findings of the National Audit Office 'Pressures on children's social care' (18 January 2019) highlighted the spiralling cost of care in that sector (paras 1.26 and 1.27).

The Government also needs to review the operation of the 'market' in care homes where the shortage of suitable places in some localities leads to increased charges. It should be noted that, at the end of August 2017, 43 private companies ran 41 per cent of all children's homes in England, with the five largest companies accounting for about 17 per cent of all homes.

However, only 14 per cent of privately-owned homes were judged to be "outstanding" overall by Ofsted in 2016/17, compared with 25 per cent of homes run by local authorities and 19 per cent of homes run by voluntary organisations. (source: Children and Young People Now, 17 July 2018)

www.cypnow.co.uk/cyp/news/2005543/call-for-councils-to-monitor-profits-of-private-childrens-home

Following the Council having debated the matter, the amendment (1) moved by Councillor Anderson was put and lost (19:41) (One abstention).

Councillor Usher as mover of the motion, and duly supported by Councillor Cannon as seconder, indicated acceptance of the amendment (2) moved by Cllr Gilchrist.

The substantive motion was therefore put and carried.

Resolved (60:0) (One abstention) – That

Council notes that the new Offer for Care Leavers reflects a commitment to do the right thing by the young people in our care. Those involved, both from the Council and our partner organisations should be thanked for their work and determination, especially those young people at the Care Leaver's Council and beyond who helped shape this new offer.

Council also makes the assurance that it will continue to listen to children and young people in its efforts to improve the offer. We are resolute that one of the most important responsibilities of any government, local or national is to ensure children and young people get the best possible start to their life. Council supports the decision to exempt care leavers from Council Tax and to write off any arrears owed.

The Council supports the £20m investment made in 2018/19 and is committed to continued investment in Children's services. However, our commitment and aspirations for our young people are made more difficult by the government's refusal to act on the crisis in social care funding. If austerity is truly over, Council calls on the government to set

children as their number one priority, provide adequate funding for local councils, and reverse some of the harmful cuts in services that have led to a record number of children in care. In the sixth richest country in the world we should not have more than one in four children living in poverty in the UK. This statistic shames us all.

Council also believes that the Government needs to take steps to intervene in the operation of the private sector providing residential placements for children. In particular, the findings of the National Audit Office 'Pressures on children's social care' (18 January 2019) highlighted the spiralling cost of care in that sector (paras 1.26 and 1.27).

The Government also needs to review the operation of the 'market' in care homes where the shortage of suitable places in some localities leads to increased charges. It should be noted that, at the end of August 2017, 43 private companies ran 41 per cent of all children's homes in England, with the five largest companies accounting for about 17 per cent of all homes.

However, only 14 per cent of privately-owned homes were judged to be "outstanding" overall by Ofsted in 2016/17, compared with 25 per cent of homes run by local authorities and 19 per cent of homes run by voluntary organisations. (source: Children and Young People Now, 17 July 2018).

43 **MOTION - RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION, RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION AND HEALTH EDUCATION**

The Civic Mayor introduced the item 'Relationships education, relationships and sex education and health education' for which one motion (no amendments) had been submitted.

MOTION

Councillor Ian Lewis moved and Councillor Tom Anderson seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 -

"Council believes that at the heart of preparing children for life in modern Britain is making sure that they understand the world they are growing up in.

Council welcomes the publication of guidance for schools on relationships, sex and health education by the Department for Education and agrees with the statement by Stonewall that it marks a 'real, positive step forward for LGBT inclusion in England's schools' to help ensure all children have the knowledge they need to grow up healthy, happy and safe.

Council urges all schools in Wirral to take steps now to ensure compliance with the guidance ahead of the introduction of compulsory relationships education for primary-age pupils and compulsory relationships and sex education for secondary-age pupils, and compulsory health education for all pupils in state-funded schools from September 2020.

Council also looks forward to the work by the expert group convened by the Secretary of State to support the effective implementation of these new subjects in schools, which includes teaching unions such as the NAHT, sector experts, representatives of faith groups, parents and young people.”

Resolved: (57:0) (Two abstentions) – That the motion be approved.

44 **MOTION - INVESTING TO CHANGE OUR URBAN SCENE**

The Civic Mayor introduced the item ‘Investing to change our Urban Scene’ for which one motion and one amendment had been submitted.

MOTION

Councillor Phil Gilchrist moved and Councillor Dave Mitchell seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 -

“Council believes that there is a need for a step change or programme of improvements to the quality of the urban scene in Wirral. The footways leading to local shopping centres and the areas of dropped kerbs and crossings need upgrading in some areas to provide safe, convenient and attractive routes for pedestrians and the users of electric buggies.

Council notes that there has been a measurable decline in the condition of Wirral’s roads and that the recently announced maintenance programme is constrained by the financial pressures facing the Borough. Some local shopping centres have areas of damaged footways and need investment to ensure these are not only safe but are even and attractive environments.

Council considers that the use of prudential borrowing may provide a way of investing in road surfaces, footways and cycling facilities. The opportunity could be taken to look at modifications to improve safety, reduce speeds and improve facilities for parking, pedestrians and cyclists. This might enable the creation of a more pleasant environment, especially in congested areas and around schools.

Council recommends that Cabinet invites Ward Members to submit reports on the areas that they believe need to be upgraded. This would be over and above minor maintenance but should be a series of suggestions for turning the decline around. A target date for submissions should be offered so that a planned programme of improvement can be drawn up.

Council also requests that Cabinet reports back on how long it would take to address the backlog of highway repairs at current spending levels and how the deterioration might be reversed and resourced through prudential borrowing.”

AMENDMENT

Proposed by Councillor Liz Grey

Seconded by Councillor Janette Williamson

Delete all after, "Council recommends that Cabinet invites Ward Members to submit reports on the areas that they believe need upgraded."

Replace with:

"This would be over and above minor maintenance but should be a series of suggestions for improving the environment and road safety. A target date for submissions should be offered so that a planned programme of improvement can be drawn up.

Council also requests that Cabinet reports back on how long it would take to improve the situation along our roads and pavements at current spending levels and if the deterioration might be reversed and resourced through prudential borrowing or capital investment".

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

Councillor Gilchrist as mover of the motion, and duly supported by Councillor Mitchell as seconder, indicated acceptance of the amendment moved by Cllr Grey.

The substantive motion was therefore put and carried.

Resolved (60:0) (One abstention) – That

Council believes that there is a need for a step change or programme of improvements to the quality of the urban scene in Wirral. The footways leading to local shopping centres and the areas of dropped kerbs and crossings need upgrading in some areas to provide safe, convenient and attractive routes for pedestrians and the users of electric buggies.

Council notes that there has been a measurable decline in the condition of Wirral's roads and that the recently announced maintenance programme is constrained by the financial pressures facing the Borough. Some local shopping centres have areas of damaged footways and need investment to ensure these are not only safe but are even and attractive environments.

Council considers that the use of prudential borrowing may provide a way of investing in road surfaces, footways and cycling facilities. The opportunity could be taken to look at modifications to improve safety, reduce speeds and improve facilities for parking, pedestrians and cyclists. This might enable the creation of a more pleasant environment, especially in congested areas and around schools.

Council recommends that Cabinet invites Ward Members to submit reports on the areas that they believe need to be upgraded. This would be over and above minor maintenance but should be a series of suggestions for improving the environment and road safety. A target date for submissions should be offered so that a planned programme of improvement can be drawn up.

Council also requests that Cabinet reports back on how long it would take to improve the situation along our roads and pavements at current spending levels and if the deterioration might be reversed and resourced through prudential borrowing or capital investment.

45 **MOTION - GLYPHOSATE-FREE WIRRAL**

The Civic Mayor introduced the item 'Glyphosate-free Wirral' for which one motion and three amendments had been submitted.

MOTION

Councillor Steve Hayes moved and Councillor Chris Cooke seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 -

"Council notes:

The use of pesticides such as glyphosate in the UK has increased by 60% in real terms since 1990 [1]. Italy, Portugal and the Canadian city of Vancouver have all banned the use of glyphosate [or glyphosate based weed killers] and France is working towards this. Mosanto and German owner Bayer face 9,000 lawsuits in the USA from those that believe their illnesses are caused by their products, the first plaintiff won unanimously with many more to follow [2]. Recent studies published in ScienceDirect show a 41% increased risk of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma caused by exposure from glyphosate-based weed killers and products [3].

Council believes:

- There is compelling evidence that glyphosate and a wide range of other herbicides and pesticides may be harmful to human health
- The use of pesticides and weed killers reduces biodiversity, impacting negatively on insects, birds and bees, in a time when the world is losing 2.5% of its insect population per-year [4].
- Harmful weed killer residues can creep into the food chain.
- Pets and children should not be playing in parks, in our streets or any area treated with such chemicals.

Council recommends that cabinet resolves to:

- Phase out the use of all pesticides and weed killers on council land.
- Cut out all use of glyphosate based treatments in all council-owned parks within one year and across all council-owned land within two years.

- Trial pesticide-free alternatives during this period. Particularly those adopted by the likes of Hammersmith and Fulham and Lewes Councils who use biodegradable foam or hot steam treatments on weeds.
- Grant an exception to the above ban regarding the control of Japanese knotweed, or other invasive species, where there are currently no effective mechanical techniques available. However, in this case chemicals such as glyphosate will only be stem-injected, rather than sprayed, to reduce its spread in the environment.
- Grant an exception on sprays only in relation to Giant Hogweed where it's not safe to be dug out or safely removed by other means and then cordon off the surrounding area.
- Write to the prime minister to inform the government of this Council's opposition to glyphosate-based pesticides and to call for a UK-wide programme to phase out their use.

1. <http://www.pan-uk.org/pesticides-agriculture-uk/> Link to external page/site
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/oct/07/monsanto-trial-cancer-appeal-glyphosate-chemical> Link to external page/site
3. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1383574218300887> Link to external page/site
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/10/plummeting-insect-numbers-threaten-collapse-of-nature>- Link to external page/site”

AMENDMENT 1

Councillor Liz Grey moved and Councillor Julie McManus seconded the following amendment submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12(9) such that the Motion be approved subject to –

Delete all after: “Pets and children should not be playing in parks, in our streets or any area treated with such chemicals.”

Replace with “Council recognises that WBC does not use glyphosate in Green Flag areas.

Council welcomes the fact that WBC is trialling the use of alternatives to glyphosate, such as hot foam, for use in our other areas, with the intention of phasing out the use of glyphosate as soon as possible.

Council requests Cabinet /or recommends that cabinet resolves to:

- Grant an exception to the above ban regarding the control of Japanese knotweed, Hogweed or other invasive species. In such cases, all means possible will be used to minimise the spread of the chemicals into the surrounding area.

- Write to the prime minister to inform the government of this Council's opposition to glyphosate-based herbicides and to call for a UK-wide programme to phase out their use.

1. <http://www.pan-uk.org/pesticides-agriculture-uk/> Link to external page/site

2. <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/oct/07/monsanto-trial-cancer-appeal-glyphosatechemical> Link to external page/site

3. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1383574218300887> Link to external page/site

4. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/10/plummeting-insect-numbers-threatencollapse-of-nature-> Link to external page/site”

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

The amendment moved by Councillor Elizabeth Grey was put and carried (54:6) (One abstention).

AMENDMENT 2

Following advice from the Director: Governance and Assurance regarding the amendment as notified by Councillor Andrew Gardner and Councillor Tony Cox in the agenda papers, Council was apprised that having given its support to Amendment 1 above, Amendment 2 therefore automatically ‘falls’.

AMENDMENT 3

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 –

Line 1, insert after "Council notes..."

...the research reported within the Notice of Motion as set out here.

Insert additional bullet point immediately after ‘Council recommends that Cabinet resolves to:’

- Request that officers establish how the Wirral can move from a borough where there is clearly a problem with the prevalence of long established and persistent weeds on footways, roadsides and traffic islands to a borough where the alternative controls and courses of action suggested can be introduced as set out.

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

The amendment moved by Councillor Phil Gilchrist was put and carried (41:18) (One abstention).

The substantive motion as amended was put and carried (41:19) (One abstention).

Resolved (41:19) (One abstention) –

That Council notes the research reported within the Notice of Motion as set out here:

The use of pesticides such as glyphosate in the UK has increased by 60% in real terms since 1990 [1]. Italy, Portugal and the Canadian city of Vancouver have all banned the use of glyphosate [or glyphosate based weed killers] and France is working towards this. Mosanto and German owner Bayer face 9,000 lawsuits in the USA from those that believe their illnesses are caused by their products, the first plaintiff won unanimously with many more to follow [2]. Recent studies published in ScienceDirect show a 41% increased risk of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma caused by exposure from glyphosate-based weed killers and products [3].

Council believes:

- **There is compelling evidence that glyphosate and a wide range of other herbicides and pesticides may be harmful to human health**
- **The use of pesticides and weed killers reduces biodiversity, impacting negatively on insects, birds and bees, in a time when the world is losing 2.5% of its insect population per-year [4].**
- **Harmful weed killer residues can creep into the food chain.**
- **Pets and children should not be playing in parks, in our streets or any area treated with such chemicals.**

Council recognises that WBC does not use glyphosate in Green Flag areas.

Council welcomes the fact that WBC is trialling the use of alternatives to glyphosate, such as hot foam, for use in our other areas, with the intention of phasing out the use of glyphosate as soon as possible.

Council requests Cabinet or recommends that cabinet resolves to:

- **Request that officers establish how the Wirral can move from a borough where there is clearly a problem with the prevalence of long established and persistent weeds on footways, roadsides and traffic islands to a borough where the alternative controls and courses of action suggested can be introduced as set out.**
- **Grant an exception to the above ban regarding the control of Japanese knotweed, Hogweed or other invasive species. In such cases, all means possible will be used to minimise the spread of the chemicals into the surrounding area.**

- **Write to the prime minister to inform the government of this Council’s opposition to glyphosate-based herbicides and to call for a UK-wide programme to phase out their use.**

1. <http://www.pan-uk.org/pesticides-agriculture-uk/> Link to external page/site
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/oct/07/monsanto-trial-cancer-appeal-glyphosatechemical> Link to external page/site
3. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1383574218300887> Link to external page/site
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/10/plummeting-insect-numbers-threatencollapse-of-nature-> Link to external page/site

46 **MOTION - VERGES AND POLLINATORS**

The Civic Mayor introduced the item ‘Verges and Pollinators’ for which one motion and one amendment had been submitted.

MOTION

Councillor Stuart Kelly moved and Councillor Chris Blakeley seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 -

“Council notes the public interest in, and appreciation of, the scheme in Rotherham where the main Ring road has, for some years, had areas planted with native wildflowers.

As these have created an attractive visual environment and encouraged pollinators Council requests Cabinet to instruct officers to:

- a) report in detail on such a scheme, the cost of introduction and potential maintenance
- b) offer advice on suitable areas for similar planting in Wirral
- c) consider an area for an initial trial scheme in Wirral
- d) draw up proposals for consultation regarding further areas where this could be introduced; and

present this report for consideration by the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee with a timetable that might enable a trial scheme to commence in 2020.”

AMENDMENT

Proposed by Councillor Pat Cleary
Seconded by Councillor Steve Hayes

Add a new final paragraph:

“In the meantime, Council requests Cabinet to ensure that officers work proactively with residents who wish to create wildflower meadows on council-owned land in appropriate locations”.

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

Councillor Kelly as mover of the motion, and duly supported Councillor Blakeley as seconder, indicated acceptance of the amendment moved by Cllr Cleary.

The substantive motion was therefore put and carried.

Resolved (60:0) (One abstention) – That

Council notes the public interest in, and appreciation of, the scheme in Rotherham where the main Ring road has, for some years, had areas planted with native wildflowers.

As these have created an attractive visual environment and encouraged pollinators Council requests Cabinet to instruct officers to:

- a) report in detail on such a scheme, the cost of introduction and potential maintenance**
- b) offer advice on suitable areas for similar planting in Wirral**
- c) consider an area for an initial trial scheme in Wirral**
- d) draw up proposals for consultation regarding further areas where this could be introduced; and**

present this report for consideration by the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee with a timetable that might enable a trial scheme to commence in 2020.

In the meantime, Council requests Cabinet to ensure that officers work proactively with residents who wish to create wildflower meadows on council-owned land in appropriate locations.

47 MOTION - KEEP FREE TV LICENCES FOR OVER 75S

The Civic Mayor introduced the item 'Keep Free TV Licences for Over 75s' for which one motion (no amendments) had been submitted.

MOTION

Councillor Chris Jones moved and Councillor Sharon Jones seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 -

“Introduced by a Labour Government in 2000 the introduction of free TV licences helped alleviate hardship for many people over the age of 75, a high proportion of whom are in the lowest three income deciles.

However, the present government has outsourced to the BBC new ‘means testing’ whereby only older people who receive Pension Credit benefit will receive free TV licenses. They are amongst the poorest in our society. Yet two fifths of those entitled to the benefit aren’t getting it. Some simply don’t know they can claim; many may struggle even to discover how to claim, and many are embarrassed about needing help. Many older people have struggled through their working lives to accumulate a little extra for retirement.

But that small 'rainy day' pot means they are excluded from means-tested benefits. Many of that age are coping with the costs of diminished health or disability. Many have outlived their life partners and are alone and lonely. Taking away their TV license is a cruel blow.

Council calls on this 'Austerity Government' to reverse a mean, means-testing measure, foisted by proxy onto the BBC, that contrasts so vividly with the wish of some politicians to give even greater tax reductions to the super-rich."

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

The motion moved by Councillor Chris Jones was put and carried.

Resolved (42:18) (One abstention) – That the motion be approved.

48 **MOTION - TV LICENCES**

The Civic Mayor introduced the item 'TV Licences' for which one motion and one amendment had been submitted.

MOTION

Councillor Chris Blakeley moved and Councillor Mary Jordan seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 -

"Council notes and condemns the decision made by the BBC to remove free TV licenses from over 75s except for those on pension credit.

Council believes that this decision could have a negative effect on the wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

Therefore, Council requests the Chief Executive to write to the Director General of the BBC to relay the Council's views and opposition and calls on the BBC to think again and reinstate unconditionally free TV licenses for over 75s."

AMENDMENT

Proposed by Councillor Janette Williamson

Seconded by Councillor Christine Spriggs

Delete paragraph 1, 'Council notes and condemns...'

Replace with:

Council notes that in 2015 the Conservative government announced that the BBC would take over the cost of providing free licences for over 75s by 2020, at the cost of £745m, a fifth of their budget.

Council notes the decision made by the BBC to remove free TV licences from over 75s except for those on pension credit.

Delete paragraph 3, 'Therefore...'

Replace with:

Therefore, Council requests the Chief Executive to write to the government to properly fund the BBC in order that it can reinstate unconditionally free TV licences for over 75s.

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

The amendment moved by Councillor Williamson was put and carried (41:19) (One abstention).

The substantive motion was then put and carried.

Resolved (41:19) (One abstention) – That

Council notes that in 2015 the Conservative government announced that the BBC would take over the cost of providing free licences for over 75s by 2020, at the cost of £745m, a fifth of their budget.

Council notes the decision made by the BBC to remove free TV licences from over 75s except for those on pension credit.

Council believes that this decision could have a negative effect on the wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

Therefore, Council requests the Chief Executive to write to the government to properly fund the BBC in order that it can reinstate unconditionally free TV licences for over 75s.

49 **MOTION - INCONSIDERATE PARKING AROUND SCHOOLS**

The Civic Mayor introduced the item 'Inconsiderate parking around schools' for which one motion and two amendments had been submitted.

MOTION

Councillor Stuart Kelly moved and Councillor Allan Brame seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 -

"Council notes that inconsiderate parking around schools has a detrimental impact on the local environment and has safety implications for children using the local road network to walk or cycle to school.

Council is aware that this is an issue that affects schools in Wirral and elsewhere in the country. Council notes that initiatives have been introduced in other parts of the country to tackle the problem, notably...

in Solihull

<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Resident/Parking-travel-roads/road-safety/Solihull-School-Streets-Pilot/How-will-it-work>)

in Edinburgh

http://www.streetsaheadedinburgh.org.uk/streetsahead/info/35/school_travel/87/school_streets

in Hackney

<https://www.hackney.gov.uk/school-streets>

...who have each explored introducing Controlled Parking Zones around their worst effected schools. Council believes that it is time that such schemes were introduced around targeted Wirral schools, especially primary schools.

Council recommends that Cabinet should introduce Controlled Parking Zones schemes at selected schools, with the residential areas around Townfield Primary School and Raeburn Primary School selected as suitable pilot areas.”

AMENDMENT 1

Proposed by Councillor Liz Grey

Seconded by Councillor Tom Usher

This amendment was withdrawn.

AMENDMENT 2

Proposed by Councillor Pat Cleary

Seconded by Councillor Chris Cooke

In final paragraph, delete all after "at selected schools" and replace with:

“with pilot schools to be determined following cross-party discussions and incorporating advice from relevant council officers with specific reference to schools adjacent to main roads where controlled parking is likely to have the most impact on air quality concerns”.

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

Councillor Kelly as mover of the motion, and duly supported by Councillor Brame as seconder, indicated acceptance of the amendment moved by Cllr Cleary.

The substantive motion was therefore put and carried.

Resolved (60:0) (One abstention) – That

Council notes that inconsiderate parking around schools has a detrimental impact on the local environment and has safety implications for children using the local road network to walk or cycle to school.

Council is aware that this is an issue that affects schools in Wirral and elsewhere in the country. Council notes that initiatives have been introduced in other parts of the country to tackle the problem, notably...

in Solihull

<http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Resident/Parking-travel-roads/road-safety/Solihull-School-Streets-Pilot/How-will-it-work>)

in Edinburgh

http://www.streetsaheadedinburgh.org.uk/streetsahead/info/35/school_travel/87/school_streets

in Hackney

<https://www.hackney.gov.uk/school-streets>

...who have each explored introducing Controlled Parking Zones around their worst effected schools. Council believes that it is time that such schemes were introduced around targeted Wirral schools, especially primary schools.

Council recommends that Cabinet should introduce Controlled Parking Zones schemes at selected schools, with pilot schools to be determined following cross-party discussions and incorporating advice from relevant council officers with specific reference to schools adjacent to main roads where controlled parking is likely to have the most impact on air quality concerns.

50 **MOTION - THE TORIES' NATIONAL HOUSING SHORTAGE, POVERTY INCOMES, UNEMPLOYMENT AND PRIVATE-SECTOR OVERCROWDING**

The Civic Mayor introduced the item 'The Tories' national housing shortage, poverty incomes, unemployment and private-sector overcrowding' for which one motion and one amendment had been submitted.

Councillors Steve Foulkes and Jeff Green, having previously declared a personal prejudicial interest in this item left the Chamber whilst the matter was decided upon.

MOTION

Councillor Adrian Jones moved and Councillor Paul Stuart seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 -

"Council notes government announcements claiming the highest statistical rates of employment in decades, implying that serious UK unemployment is virtually a thing of the past.

Council further notes that to effect a favourable presentation of this claim millions of adults are shown in government publicity as 'employed' who are in fact under-employed working only part-time in low paid jobs.

TUC research shows that accurately weighted accounting would add a further 1.3 million to the real unemployment total – demonstrating that analysis exposing the extent of austerity driven poverty-wages and uncovering statistically masked unemployment shows the true situation in a bleaker light.

Council further notes that: *“More people are being pushed to the hard edge of the housing crisis by crippling private rents, frozen benefits and endless waiting lists for social homes that don’t exist.”* (Liverpool Echo report, May 31st 2019.)

Simultaneous analysis from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) reveals: *“A poverty cloud is hanging over 42% of workers in the North West with almost a million earning below £20,000 a year.”* (Liverpool Echo report, 8th June 2019.)

Council further notes that the government’s continuing ‘austerity’ policy of wage depression, underscoring its low-wage, post-industrial poverty-economy, combined with the greatest dearth of house building since the decades after the First World War, encourages increasing conversion of former Wirral family homes and shops into multi occupancy dwellings which, through over-crowding and high rents, risks today’s creation of tomorrow’s slums.

Council believes everybody should have access to decent housing as a fundamental right and applauds Wirral’s Housing Standards Team, and Selective Licensing scheme, for significantly influencing the quality of Wirral’s private sector housing stock but believes the tendency to over-crowding can only practicably be reversed by large scale development of high-quality council housing at *genuinely* affordable rents.

Council therefore calls upon the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning to:

- Work closely with Homes England and other partners to tackle viability issues and maximise development on brown field land in Wirral;
- examine options to increase the supply of genuinely affordable quality homes to meet housing need; and
- develop a Policy approach via the planning system to respond to potential over-crowding by the creation of further Houses in Multiple Occupation

Council would therefore welcome measures by central government to alleviate the risk of multi-millions of pounds of HRE (Housing Revenue Account) clawback from previous stock transfers and notes that a Labour Government would remove that anomaly.

Finally, Council recalls with immense pleasure the Wirral Conservative Leader’s recent declaration in favour of large-scale Wirral council housing, proposals that accord uncharacteristically with our Wirral Labour administration’s – and Jeremy Corbyn’s.”

AMENDMENT

Proposed by Councillor Ian Lewis

Seconded by Councillor Mike Collins

Insert after Paragraph 1:

Council notes Labour's failure to produce a Local Plan; to introduce a policy to regulate Houses in Multiple Occupation and to tackle a housing waiting list of 8,797 households.

Council also notes that, nationally, more council houses were built under the Conservative-Liberal Democrat Coalition (2010-15) than under the entire period of the previous New Labour Government.

Delete paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Paragraph 10: delete all after 'Wirral council housing'

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

The amendment moved by Councillor Lewis was put and lost (24:34) (One abstention).

The original motion moved by Councillor Adrian Jones was then put and carried.

Resolved (37:18) (Four abstentions) That the motion be approved.

51 **MOTION - TYRED**

The Civic Mayor introduced the item 'Tyred' for which one motion and one amendment had been submitted.

MOTION

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

“Council welcomes, finally, the decision by the Department for Transport to implement a limit on the age of tyres that can be used on buses, coaches, lorries and minibuses and thanks Frances Molloy and the team at Tyred for the relentless pursuit of a long overdue change in the law to improve road safety.”

AMENDMENT

Proposed by Councillor Janette Williamson

Seconded by Councillor Brian Kenny

Add additional sentence:

Council thanks Maria Eagle MP, Steve Rotheram Metro Mayor and our trade unions for their ongoing political support for the Tyred campaign, and for putting pressure on the Conservative Government to implement the new legislation.

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

Councillor Lewis as mover of the motion, and duly supported by Councillor Blakeley as seconder, indicated acceptance of the amendment moved by Cllr Williamson.

The substantive motion was therefore put and carried.

Resolved (59:1) (One abstention) – That

Council welcomes, finally, the decision by the Department for Transport to implement a limit on the age of tyres that can be used on buses, coaches, lorries and minibuses and thanks Frances Molloy and the team at Tyred for the relentless pursuit of a long overdue change in the law to improve road safety.

Council thanks Maria Eagle MP, Steve Rotheram Metro Mayor and our trade unions for their ongoing political support for the Tyred campaign, and for putting pressure on the Conservative Government to implement the new legislation.

52 **MOTION - CUTTING POLLUTION IN THE INTERESTS OF ALL**

The Civic Mayor introduced the item 'Cutting pollution in the interests of all' for which one motion (no amendments) had been submitted.

MOTION

Councillor Phil Gilchrist moved and Councillor Dave Mitchell seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 -

"Council recognises that in January 2019, the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP launched the Clean Air Strategy 2019, describing air pollution as a 'health emergency':

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/air-pollution-is-a-health-emergency>

Council also notes that in March 2019, Public Health England published a substantial report on the relationship between air pollution and health:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-outdoor-air-quality-and-health-review-of-interventions>

In addition to this, the National Planning Policy Framework published in July 2018 states that:

102. Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals so that:
 - d) the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified, assessed and taken into account - including appropriate opportunities for avoiding and mitigating any adverse effects, and for net environmental gains....

Council also appreciates that the Air Quality Annual Status Report brings together findings relating to air pollution in Wirral and compares the findings at various monitoring sites through time:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/environmental%20problems/Pollution/Wirral%20ASR%202018.pdf>

Council also welcomes all the publicity given in the build-up to, and following, Clean Air Day on 20 June 2019, involving local schools.

Council considers that:

- a) all these interventions and approaches need to be strengthened and coordinated;
- b) there is a need to reduce congestion and air pollution around our schools and build on wider public support for tackling environmental issues;
- c) the development of the Local Plan needs to take account of the latest initiatives on tackling pollution and environmental concerns.

To this end, Council requests that the Health and Wellbeing Board, at its meeting on 13 November 2019, should review these issues to ensure that these various projects and initiatives are considered, together with the aim of coordinating, building upon and extending them.

Council requests that this review and the outcome of the discussion on policy should be referred to the Cabinet so that the issues can be progressed.”

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

The motion moved by Councillor Gilchrist was put and carried.

Resolved (60:0) (One abstention) – That the motion be approved.

53 **MOTION - BOROUGH OF CULTURE**

The Civic Mayor introduced the item ‘Borough of Culture’ for which one motion (no amendments) had been submitted.

MOTION

Councillor Christine Spriggs moved and Councillor Janette Williamson seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7

–

“Council welcomes the Wirral-led partnership that has made the ‘Borough of Culture’ year so far such an overwhelming success. As part of our Wirral Plan we pledged to encourage more Wirral people to enjoy the wide range of culture and arts opportunities on offer across our Borough and so far, in the first half of the programme; an estimated 100,000 visitors have attended Borough of Culture events and it is anticipated some 500,000 residents and visitors will do so over the course of the year. Amazing high-quality events that have taken place so far include the spectacular **Animated Square** event,

the **Witching Hour** event taking place in our wonderful and historic Birkenhead Park, the **OVO Energy Tour Series** and now a season of **Art Outdoors** happening across the Borough.

Council notes that over £140k has already been secured through grant, sponsorship and commercial opportunities, including the largest ever successful grant of £130k secured from Arts Council England; that over 100 local Wirral residents have been trained to act as volunteers and have supported the delivery of the Borough of Culture programme, equating to over 300 volunteering hours; that over 90% of visitors have rated the quality of all events so far this year, as either 'good', or 'very good' and *welcomes the news that an anticipated overall economic impact of £7m over the course of the year will be achieved.*

Council also agrees with **Arts Council England** that from providing jobs to making places better to live, arts and culture make a huge contribution to the economy.

Council therefore congratulates the Culture and Tourism team and the wider council staff teams and our partners who have worked so hard on every aspect of the programme and welcomes the second half of our highly successful Wirral Borough of Culture year.”

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

The motion moved by Councillor Spriggs was put and carried.

Resolved (59:0) (Two abstentions) – That the motion be approved.

54 **MOTION - WIRRAL VIEW**

The Civic Mayor introduced the item 'Wirral View' for which one motion and one amendment had been submitted.

MOTION

Councillor Tony Cox moved and Councillor Steve Williams seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 -

“Council notes that Wirral View newspaper has, to date, cost £402,000 of taxpayers' money but continues to fail to reach all parts of the Borough.

Council further notes that the Authority has, itself, chosen to advertise in the independent, free local media rather than its own publication.

Council therefore asks Cabinet to end its support for this publication.”

AMENDMENT

Proposed by Councillor Pat Hackett

Seconded by Councillor Janette Williamson

Delete all after: 'free local media rather than its own publication.'

Replace with:

Council does however recognise the value community organisations, charities and other groups place on their ability to promote their work through Wirral View.

Council therefore requests officers to review how the publication is delivered, and present options back to the relevant scrutiny committee by the end of the calendar year in order for Members to fully debate the future direction of the publication.

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

The amendment moved by Councillor Hackett was put and lost (29:31) (One abstention).

The original motion moved by Councillor Cox was then put and carried.

Resolved (31:29) (One abstention) That the motion be approved.

55 **MOTION - PROTECTING WIRRAL'S HERITAGE SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE**

The Civic Mayor introduced the item 'Protecting Wirral's heritage sites of archaeological importance' for which one motion (no amendments) had been submitted.

MOTION

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

"Council welcomes the work being undertaken by Wirral Archaeology to explore and publicise Wirral's valuable Viking heritage.

Council looks forward to receiving information on their past, current and future findings that will enable Wirral to add to the understanding and appreciation of this heritage.

Council notes that the Unitary Development Plan has a detailed policy and justification relating to non-scheduled remains in Section CH25 which states that...

"Where archaeological remains are of significant importance and can only be appropriately preserved in-situ, the Local Planning Authority will assess the impact of the proposals, in terms of the potential disturbance to be caused to those remains and their setting. Where those remains cannot be accommodated within the layout of a revised development scheme or where it is not appropriate to do so, planning permission will be refused."

In addition, Council notes that the National Planning Policy Framework places emphasis on sites of archaeological interest and such heritage assets (see section 16 Conserving and enhancing the historic environment) and states at paragraph 189 that....

“In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets’ importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.”

Council believes that these policies offer important protection to various sites throughout Wirral and asks Cabinet to report on how, as part of the current work on the Local Plan, sites of potential archaeological importance can be properly protected and recognised.”

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

The motion moved by Councillor Carubia was put and carried.

Resolved (60:0) (One abstention) That the motion be approved.

56 **MOTION - MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES (MFRS)**

The Civic Mayor introduced the item ‘Merseyside Fire & Rescue Services (MFRS)’ for which one motion (no amendments) had been submitted.

Prior to moving the motion, Councillor Brian Kenny declared a personal non-prejudicial interest, by virtue of his Council appointment to the MFRS, Councillor Bruce Berry similarly declared.

MOTION

Councillor Brain Kenny moved and Councillor Adrian Jones seconded the following Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 7 -

“This Wirral Council:

1. Recognises and applauds Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) for enhancing the reputation of Merseyside following its very strong performance in the recent Inspection carried out by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

The Inspectorate deemed Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority as GOOD when considering.

- How effective they are in keeping people safe from fire and other risks
- How efficient they are in keeping people safe from fire and other risks
- How well they look after their people

but notably, OUTSTANDING in the areas of preventing fires and national resilience – the only Service in the Country to receive 2 Outstanding's for its work.

2. Notes that this is the highest 'performance' in the Country, from the first two rounds of inspection.
3. Congratulates the Chief Fire Officer for his leadership and his team for their hard work and tenacity, notably his Fire Fighters; Fire Prevention teams; Protection Officers; Support Services and the representative bodies, who along with the members of the MFRA have achieved this recognition.
4. Agrees that the political decision to - support an operational model which only utilises professional full time firefighters, to partner with the Home Office as lead authority for national resilience, to maintain a 10 minute response standard (5 min 40 sec average attendance time), to resource to demand, to increase the number of fire engines, to improve the diversity of the workforce, to invest in up to date fit for purpose Community Fire and Rescue Stations, whilst giving home fire prevention very high priority; has contributed to the result and findings of the inspectorate.
5. Notes that the proposed changes to the Integrated Risk Management Plan will help to maintain night time cover at Wallasey Fire Station and for the Wirral in General, as part of a plan to improve staff availability, increase the numbers of fire engines and update the general staffing system within the Authority, further contributing to the safety of Merseyside.
6. Believes that the results would have been even better if the Government had maintained the proper level of funding for MFRA, who have suffered some of the largest cuts to Government grant in the country, but have tenaciously hung on to full time firefighters whilst maintaining an emphasis on community fire prevention, in order to help keep Merseyside safe."

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

The motion moved by Councillor Kenny was put and carried.

Resolved (60:0) (One abstention) That the motion be approved.

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