

COUNCIL

Monday, 9 October 2023

Present: The Civic Mayor (Councillor Jerry Williams) in the Chair
Deputy Civic Mayor (Councillor Cherry Povall, JP)

Councillors	A Ainsworth	JE Green	R Molyneux
	C Baldwin	EA Grey	S Mountney
	P Basnett	J Grier	K Murphy
	G Bennett	B Hall	Murphy
	S Bennett	A Hodson	A Onwuemene
	J Bird	K Hodson	R Pitt
	M Booth	P Jobson	S Powell-Wilde
	A Brame	G Jenkinson	Raymond
	H Cameron	J Johnson	L Rennie
	C Carubia	T Jones	M Redfern
	P Cleary	M Jordan	J Robinson
	C Cooke	S Kelly	M Skillicorn
	T Cox	B Kenny	K Stuart
	A Davies	T Laing	P Stuart
	GJ Davies	E Lamb	M Sullivan
	G Davies	L Luxon-Kewley	E Tomeny
	S Foulkes	P Martin	Jason Walsh
	A Gardner	C McDonald	V Wilson
	P Gilchrist	G McManus	
	H Gorman	J McManus	

36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Brian Kenny declared a personal interest in motion 2 as a member of a Trade Union and indicated that the same interest would apply for all members of the Labour Group.

37 CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Daisy Kenny, Naomi Graham, Ian Lewis, James Stewart Laing, Janette Williamson and Gill Wood.

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor expressed his best wishes to Councillor Gill Wood who was recovering from a recent fall. The Mayor gave an update on his civic activity since the last meeting of Council, which included attending The Open at Hoylake Golf Club, opening the new state of the art facilities at Bidston Sports and Activity Centre and hosting a delegation from the Embassy of Peru.

The Mayor indicated that he wished to exercise his discretion and allow a presentation from Tommy Dunne who lived with Dementia and was in attendance at the invitation of Councillors Julie McManus and Mary Jordan on behalf of the Dementia friendly CIC, Thred. Tommy spoke of his experiences living with Dementia and a video was shown of a song he had written and produced. The Mayor thanked Tommy as well as Paul and Pat who accompanied him for their attendance.

38 **URGENT ITEM - TERRORIST ATTACKS IN ISRAEL**

The Mayor advised Council that he had received a request for an emergency motion following recent events in Israel, and was content to allow the motion to be tabled.

Councillor Jeff Green moved and Councillor Paul Stuart seconded the motion, which read:

‘Council wishes to express its absolute horror at the terrorist attacks across Israel, which began on Saturday morning.

Council requests the Leader of the Council and Party leaders to write to Israel’s Ambassador to the UK, Tzipi Hotovely, expressing our deepest sympathy for all those who were murdered and confirms Council’s continuing support for Israel’s right to exist and defend itself.’

Councillor Pat Cleary moved and Councillor Jo Bird seconded the following amendment:

‘Council also requests that group leaders write to the Palestinian ambassador to the UK, Husam Zomlot, conveying our heartfelt condolences to all those suffering due to this conflict. Council supports the right of Palestine to exist and protect itself.’

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6.41pm to allow Council to consider the amendment. The meeting resumed at 6.47pm.

Following a debate, the amendment was put to the vote and lost (40:18) (1 abstention).

Prior to the vote on the original motion, a number of Members rose to request a recorded vote in accordance with Standing Order 17.4. A recorded vote was then taken on the original motion as follows:

For

(47) Councillors Ann Ainsworth, Colin Baldwin, Paula Basnett, Gary Bennett, Stephen Bennett, Max Booth, Allan Brame, Helen Cameron, Chris Carubia,

Tony Cox, Angie Davies, Graham Davies, George Davies, Steve Foulkes, Andrew Gardner, Phil Gilchrist, Jeff Green, Liz Grey, Brenda Hall, Andrew Hodson, Kathy Hodson, Gail Jenkinson, Paul Jobson, Jenny Johnson, Tony Jones, Mary Jordan, Stuart Kelly, Brian Kenny, Tom Laing, Louise Luxon-Kewley, Paul Martin, Grahame McManus, Julie McManus, Simon Mountney, Tony Murphy, Richie Pitt, Cherry Povall, Sue Powell-Wilde, Helen Raymond, Mike Redfern, Lesley Rennie, Jean Robinson, Mark Skillicorn, Kaitlin Stuart, Paul Stuart, Mike Sullivan and Vida Wilson.

Against

(11) Councillors Jo Bird, Pat Cleary, Chris Cooke, Harry Gorman, Judith Grier, Ed Lamb, Craig McDonald, Ruth Molyneux, Kieran Murphy, Amanda Onwuemene and Jason Walsh.

Abstention

(2) Councillors Ewan Tomeny and Jerry Williams

The motion was therefore carried, and it was –

Resolved – That

Council wishes to express its absolute horror at the terrorist attacks across Israel, which began on Saturday morning.

Council requests the Leader of the Council and Party leaders to write to Israel's Ambassador to the UK, Tzipi Hotovely, expressing our deepest sympathy for all those who were murdered and confirms Council's continuing support for Israel's right to exist and defend itself.

39 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings held on 10 July 2023 be approved as a correct record.

40 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The Mayor outlined that 10 public questions had been received.

Wendy Bennett asked a question on behalf of Charlotte Smith to the Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, Councillor Liz Grey, regarding the Kings Gap slipway at Hoylake Beach and the need to clear this of vegetation for public access, including people with disabilities.

In response, Councillor Grey outlined that the slipways acted as an interface between the natural and man-made environment and users were made aware

of the hazards present through the adjacent signage and to remove any vegetation without permission would be an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

David Pearson asked a question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Stuart, asking why Wirral Motorcycle Action Group was not consulted on the imposition of 20mph speed limits.

In response, Councillor Stuart outlined that statutory consultees were directly consulted which did not include user groups, but that all residents were able to provide feedback via the Have Your Say consultation,

It was asked as a supplementary question why user groups were not included in the direct consultation. Councillor Stuart undertook to provide a written response.

Linda Ferrie asked a question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Stuart, further to the statistics provided by Councillor Liz Grey on the number of those killed or serious injured in road traffic collisions in Wirral between 2017 and 2022, seeking the statistics for how many of those were as a result of speeding, drink/drug driving, stolen vehicles and uninsured drivers on which the 20mph zone rollout would have little impact.

In response, Councillor Stuart outlined that he believed Councillor Grey was responding to a specific question in relation to KSI data not the 20mph scheme, but would ask officers to provide those figures in a written response.

It was asked as a supplementary question why the figures were not available, if they had been used for the rollout of the 20mph scheme. Councillor Stuart undertook to ensure that this would be included in the written response.

Elaine Revans asked a question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Stuart, outlining the opposition to the rollout of the 20mph scheme in Wirral, concerns around the consultation and concerns about the use of resources impact on traffic and asked Councillor Stuart to give reassurances regarding these concerns.

In response, Councillor Stuart outlined that the principle of introducing 20mph speed limits in residential areas of the borough was determined as policy by the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee in 2021 following a series of cross-party road safety working group meetings which included key stakeholders. Statutory consultation had already taken place on the particular zones proposed for 20mph limits in phases 1 and 2 of the scheme. Phase 1 would be fully implemented by the end of 2023 and a report will be presented back to that Committee in December providing feedback on the results of the phase 2 consultation for their decision on whether to proceed with phase 2. The report would also include details of further comments

received since the phase 1 consultation was reported and officers responses to these, as well as the recently published government 'plan for drivers' and its potential future implications.

Paul Beacall asked a question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Stuart, outlining concerns around the impact the rollout of the 20mph scheme would have on bus timetables and pollution following learning from Wales, and asked would the Council acknowledge the government's recent responses on 20mph schemes.

In response, Councillor Stuart outlined that Wales had rolled out a default 20mph zone which Wirral had not and the Council would await the outcome of the recent declarations by the Prime Minister.

Tony Pritchard asked a question to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Paul Stuart, outlining in his view that the rollout of 20mph zones had been rushed through despite the opposition from residents and asked does the Leader of the Council believe the Council should listen to and act on behalf of Wirral residents.

In response, Councillor Stuart outlined that the Council was listening to the voice and opinions of Wirral residents and actively encouraging residents give their feedback via the Have Your Say portal, and that the scheme had been voted through unanimously at success committees.

A supplementary question was asked why such an unpopular scheme would be voted through and requested that the scheme be put on hold. In response, Councillor Stuart reiterated that all parties had voted for the scheme.

Christine Watson asked a question to the Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, Councillor Liz Grey, asking when as Cabinet Member did she receive permission from the Board of Trade to cancel the Hoylake Beach Management Plan.

In response, Councillor Grey outlined that the conveyance of 1935 of the Hoylake Urban District Council (predecessor to Wirral Borough Council) did not require the consent of the board of trade and that only acts that would prejudice navigation require permission from the board of trade.

A supplementary question was asked whether the Chair agreed that the covenant stated that nothing could be done to prejudice or obstruct the public interest. In response, Councillor Grey stated that the 1935 Conveyance wasn't applicable to the situation at Hoylake Beach today.

Joanne Randles asked a question to the Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, Councillor Liz Grey, asking whether

she as Cabinet Member or the Council informed Peel Ports of the cancellation of the Hoylake Beach Management Plan.

In response, Councillor Grey outlined that it would not have been her role as Cabinet Member or in any subsequent role to contact Peel Ports with regards to operational matters as referred to you in your question. She outlined that the Conveyance of 1935 allowed for the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board to maintain, repair or renew cables that were in existence at the time of the conveyance and that the conveyance did not lead to any requirement for the Council to contact Peel Ports in manner that you suggest.

It was asked as a supplementary question whether the Council was aware that Peel Port was of the opinion that the Council and Natural England had no remit on Hoylake Beach unless 500m from the shoreline. Councillor Grey undertook to provide a written response.

Wendy Bennett asked a question to the Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, Councillor Liz Grey, asking if she was aware of the existence of a Beach Covenant dated 1935 stating that Hoylake Beach should be cleaned and maintained completely clear of all vegetation and whether the Council intended to honour this.

In response, Councillor Grey outlined that the Conveyance of 1935 to the Hoylake and West Kirby Urban District Council (predecessor to Wirral Borough Council), in Clause 6 had a covenant which was a requirement 'at all times to keep the premises hereby granted in good and proper state of repair and condition free from all defects injurious to navigation or the adjacent lands or public interests.' and that the Council was compliant with this covenant.

The Director of Law and Governance read a question on behalf of Karen Young relating to the speeds on the B5136 through Thornton Hough seeking the Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee's commitment to address the speed limit as a matter of urgency.

In response, Councillor Grey outlined that officers were aware of the recent sad fatal collision in Thornton Hough and aside from the 20mph scheme proposals, would undertake a wider review of speed limits on the approaches to the village in conjunction with Merseyside Police and Cheshire West and Chester.

41 **STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS**

The Mayor indicated that he had exercised his discretion and allowed Councillor Mary Jordan to submit a petition of 437 signatures relating to speed limits in Thornton Hough.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Councillor Graham Davies asked a question to the Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, Councillor Liz Grey, seeking clarification as to why the Council was intending to close three Heswall car parks.

In response, Councillor Grey confirmed no decision was being presented to close the car parks referred to, but a report was due to be presented to the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee in December which would include the findings of the general Phase 2 consultation and the proposed parking strategy.

Councillor Davies asked a supplementary question on how much the Council paid for the report informing the Parking Strategy, the process for the selection of the consultants and the process in place to ensure the outcome was fit for purpose. Councillor Grey undertook to provide a written response.

Councillor Phil Gilchrist asked a question to the Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee, Councillor Liz Grey, about what measures were in place to ensure Wirral was prepared for the risk of floods given budgetary constraints.

In response, Councillor Grey outlined the Council's statutory duty for highway drainage maintenance and outlined that proposals for service improvement would be the subject of a future report to the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee.

Councillor Gilchrist asked as a supplementary question that leaf sweeping for the autumn leaf fall could begin in good time to prevent gully blockage. Councillor Grey undertook to pass the request onto officers.

Councillor Amanda Onwuemene asked a question to the Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee, Councillor Tony Jones, asking what costs had been incurred to date on the potential move of market traders to Argos and what the implications were for the already agreed plans to build a new market at the former House of Fraser site.

In response, Councillor Jones outlined that stage 1 design and viability assessment work was completed at a cost of £24,000, and that current proposals to relocate market to former House of Fraser site were being reviewed as costs had significantly increased.

Councillor Ewan Tomeny asked a question to the Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee, Councillor Tony Jones, asking when members could expect to receive the Pathfinder Investment Plan for

consideration prior to its submission to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

In response, Councillor Jones outlined that the Policy and Resources Committee on 4 October 2023 delegated the decision to the Director of Regeneration and Place, in consultation with Group Leaders, to submit the Simplification Pathfinder Investment Plan to the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities on 20 October 2023. A report would be brought back to a future meeting of Policy and Resources Committee.

43 **2023/24 CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING FOR QUARTER ONE (THE PERIOD TO 30 JUN 2023)**

The first matter for approval was to approve the revised Capital Programme of £87 million for 2023/24, including the virements of budget referred to in Appendix C of this report, and to approve the additional funding for the schemes referred to in section 3.7, as recommended by Policy and Resources Committee on 12 July 2023.

On a motion by Councillor Paul Stuart, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That

- (1) the revised Capital Programme of £87 million for 2023/24, including the virements of budget referred to in Appendix C of this report be approved.**
- (2) t the additional funding for the schemes referred to in section 3.7 be approved, with proposed extra funding from a variety of sources, new borrowing required from the Council, revenue contributions and the repurposing of previously agreed Council borrowing.**

44 **2023/24 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER ONE (THE PERIOD TO 30 JUN 2023)**

The second matter requiring approval was the proposed increase of the revenue budget by £2.000m due to increased Council funding, detailed in paragraph 3.25 and allocate to the budget areas detailed in Table 2.

On a motion by Councillor Paul Stuart, seconded by Councillor Jean Robinson, it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That the revenue budget be increased by £2.000m due to increased Council funding, detailed in paragraph 3.25 and allocate to the budget areas detailed in Table 2.

45 **WIRRAL YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE ANNUAL PLAN**

The third matter requiring approval was the Wirral Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2023-2024 as recommended by the Children, Young People and Education Committee on 25 September 2023.

On a motion by Councillor Sue Powell-Wilde, seconded by Paul Stuart it was –

Resolved – That the Wirral Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2023-2024 be approved.

46 **MEMBERS PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY**

The fourth matter requiring approval was the Members Parental Leave Policy as recommended by the Constitution and Standards Committee on 28 September 2023.

On a motion by Councillor Tony Cox, seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, it was –

Resolved – That the draft Member Parental Leave Policy be approved, subject to the deletion of the paragraph titled ‘Paternity’ and the deletion of all references to ‘maternity’ and ‘paternity’ and their replacement with the word ‘parental’.

47 **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTEGRATED CARE PARTNERSHIP**

The fifth matter requiring approval was the establishment of the Integrated Care Partnership as a Joint Committee, as recommended by the Constitution and Standards Committee on 28 September 2023.

On a motion by Councillor Tony Cox, seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, it was –

Resolved – That

(1) the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership be established as a Joint Committee.

(2) the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and a named deputy be appointed to represent the Council on the Cheshire and

Merseyside and Care Partnership.

(3) the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to make any necessary changes to the Council's Constitution.

48 DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

Councillor Stuart Kelly asked a question to the Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee in relation to minute item 10 at the meeting held on 19th June 2023, asking what plans were in place for the use of the grounds maintenance machinery in parts of East Wirral which this year had not had roadside verges cut at the same frequency at the same frequency as West Wirral.

In response, Councillor Grey outlined that the rota would be reviewed to ensure that the maintenance would be fair and equitable for all residents and Councillors across the borough.

Councillor Kathy Hodson asked a question to the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee in relation to minute item 21 at the meeting held on 12th July 2023, seeking clarification on whether the adverse variance for car parking charges income was £500,000 or £600,000, what date the car parking strategy was expected, and what the forecast adverse variance would be in Quarter 2 or Quarter 3. Councillor Paul Stuart undertook to provide a written response.

Councillor Kathy Hodson asked a question to the Chair of the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee in relation to minute item 8 at the meeting held on 19th June 2023, asking why a five year contract was entered into for parking enforcement as opposed to an option for less than five years given the Council was consulting on closing car parks in the borough. Councillor Liz Grey undertook to provide a written response.

Councillor Gary Bennett asked a question to the Chair of the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee in relation to minute item 8 at the meeting held on 20th June 2023, seeking an update on the impact of the cycle lanes and whether the original survey had progressed in the last 3 months and when the responses would be shared with members. Councillor Tony Jones undertook to provide a written response.

49 JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

One question had been submitted by Councillor Mary Jordan to Councillor Steve Foulkes as Chair of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee, in accordance with Standing Order 12.4.

Councillor Jordan outlined that Spital railway station had been due to have a lift installed in 1999 but still had not received one and asked when Spital would have a lift installed.

In response, Councillor Foulkes outlined that the Combined Authority had applied to the Department for Transport had in 2019 applied for match funding from the Department for Transport for the installation of lifts at 10 stations, one of which was Spital, but the Department for Transport did not approve the application. He outlined that a further bid was being developed for 2024 which would again include Spital.

Councillor Jordan asked a supplementary question outlining the greater number of accessible trains and stations on the West Kirby line and asked Councillor Foulkes to use his influence to improve accessibility on the Chester and Ellesmere Port line. In response, Councillor Foulkes outlined that of the 10 stations submitted by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee, 4 were in Wirral on the Chester and Ellesmere Port line.

50 **MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

Councillor Paul Stuart proposed under Standing Order 14(c) that motions 2 and 4 be re-ordered, so that the Liberal Democrat motion could be debated before the Labour motion.

With the consent of Council, the order of business was rearranged accordingly.

51 **RESPONDING TO RESIDENTS' CONCERNS REGARDING CONSULTATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF 20MPH ZONES**

Councillor Jeff Green moved and Councillor Lesley Rennie seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Following a debate, and Councillor Green having replied, the motion was put and lost (16:43) (1 abstention).

The guillotine was applied at 9.30pm.

52 **THE UNACCEPTABLE COST OF CHILD PLACEMENTS**

Councillor Chris Carubia moved and Councillor Phil Gilchrist seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 9.1, the Council did not debate the matter, and it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That

Council notes that the number of children in need of support nationally from Local Authorities is now at its highest level since before the pandemic.

Council further notes that the funding announced in the Government's Children's Social Care Implementation Strategy falls way short of addressing the £1.6 billion shortfall required each year simply to maintain current service levels.

Council believes that there needs to be significant additional funding for all Local Authorities, not just for those chosen for the DFE's pilot and pathfinder schemes, so it can be wisely invested in stabilising the current system to ensure strong foundations on which to build future reform.

The number of Wirral's children in care fluctuates around eight hundred, the cost of which in 2022/23 was £27.952m. The current average cost of a care placement for Wirral is £5,887.83 per week. With the cost for Wirral's children with more complex needs being many times higher.

Council therefore requests that the Leader of the Council writes to The Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP to highlight the need to implement regulations to prevent private companies setting exorbitant fees for childcare placements, and from benefiting from huge profits made off the backs of our most vulnerable children in care.

53 CLEAN AIR FOR A HEALTHIER WIRRAL

Councillor Ewan Tomeny moved and Councillor Ed Lamb seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

In moving the motion, Councillor Tomeny confirmed he was happy to accept the amendments proposed by all three other groups as follows:

As moved by Councillor Liz Grey and seconded by Councillor Gill Wood, to insert additional paragraph after paragraph 7:

'Council welcomes that fact that Wirral officers have successfully secured £171,000 of DEFRA funding to engage with residents in campaigns aimed at developing understanding and behaviour that will improve Air Quality in Wirral. This included a very successful workshop with interested stakeholders and experts from across the region held in Wirral earlier this year.'

As moved by Councillor Andrew Gardner and seconded by Councillor Jenny Johnson, to insert an additional paragraph at the end as follows:

'To further safeguard against adverse effects of air pollution, Council resolves to continue monitoring air quality across the borough and bring a report back to the relevant committee within the guidance of committee terms of reference.'

As moved by Councillor Stuart Kelly and seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist, to insert 'as means to tackle health inequalities within the Borough' after 'Wirral Plan' in the penultimate paragraph.

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 9.1, the Council did not debate the matter, and it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That

Health inequalities on Wirral are substantial, deeply rooted, and in many cases, worsening.

The *2022/2023 Wirral Plan Refresh* underscores that health inequalities within our borough remain 'stubbornly persistent', and outlines addressing them as a key priority for the upcoming year.[1]

Health inequalities are caused by a web of many complex factors. One such factor is poor air quality, as recognised in the *Wirral 2023 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)* published this June.[2] The report additionally recognises how air pollution disproportionately affects the most vulnerable in our communities, including children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing heart and lung conditions. Considering our commitment to reducing the significant health inequalities on Wirral, it is vital that we proactively pursue strategies able to mitigate contributing factors to these disparities.

In *Bidston St James, Rock Ferry, Birkenhead & Tranmere, and Seacombe* the number of deaths from respiratory diseases is over twice the expected rate based on national data.[3] On Wirral, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), a respiratory condition linked to both air pollution levels and income,[4] is more prevalent compared to the rest of England. However, the Wirral COPD burden is not spread evenly, with the rate of emergency hospital admissions in Seacombe five times higher than in Heswall.[5]

Last year, Wirral Council undertook monitoring of the pollutant nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) at 56 sites across the borough.[2] These monitoring sites encompassed roadside and kerbside detection, and sensors outside of seven schools. At one-third of the 43 sites with comparative data from

2021, NO₂ levels had increased, while just one of the 56 sites met World Health Organization (WHO) air quality guidelines (10 µg/m³ for annual average NO₂ levels).[6] Four out of five sensors placed at schools also showed an increase in NO₂ levels compared to 2021. Furthermore, PM_{2.5} (particulate matter which causes a range of diseases) has seen no overall reduction between 2018 and 2022 and remains above WHO guidelines.[6]

Currently, the 'Wirral Plan 2022/23 Refresh' document does not make any explicit mention or reference to air quality.

Council welcomes that fact that Wirral officers have successfully secured £171,000 of DEFRA funding to engage with residents in campaigns aimed at developing understanding and behaviour that will improve Air Quality in Wirral. This included a very successful workshop with interested stakeholders and experts from across the region held in Wirral earlier this year.

Council therefore requests the Chief Executive to include air quality considerations in the refreshed Wirral Plan as means to tackle health inequalities within the Borough to be presented to P & R in November 2023, taking into account the recommendations and priorities detailed in the *Wirral Air Quality Annual Status Report*.

Furthermore, in alignment, with the Council's commitments to reduce health inequalities and safeguard against the adverse effects of air pollution, Council supports the World Health Organization Air Quality Guidelines as long-term targets, and requests that the Environment, Climate Emergency and Transport Committee consider the adoption and implementation of these as part of its work programme.

To further safeguard against adverse effects of air pollution, Council resolves to continue monitoring air quality across the borough and bring a report back to the relevant committee within the guidance of committee terms of reference.

1: <https://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50091567/Enc.%203%20for%20Wirral%20Plan%20Update.pdf>

2: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/files/wbc036-wirral-air-quality-annual-status-report-2023.pdf>

3: <https://www.localhealth.org.uk/>

4: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31285306/>

5: <https://wirral.communityinsight.org/>

6: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240034228>

Councillor Brian Kenny moved and Councillor Julie McManus seconded a motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.

Councillor Judith Grier moved and Councillor Jo Bird seconded the following amendment, submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.3:

Insert at the end:

‘Council further agrees that the letter should include the request from Council that the New Deal for Working People should include a commitment to offer at least the real living wage to all workers delivering council services.’

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 9.1, the Council did not debate the matter.

The amendment was put to the vote and lost (18:41) (1 abstention).

The original motion was then put to the vote and carried (43:16) (1 abstention). It was therefore –

Resolved – That

This Council recognises that there must be a fundamental change in our economy, and for this to happen the world of work must be fundamentally changed, to the benefit of all working Wirral residents.

Council therefore agrees that there must be a New Deal for Working People.

Council notes with concern that the Government wants to continue with insecure and exploitative employment eg Zero hours contracts, resulting in many Wirral residents suffering.

Council affirms that Wirral residents need to have a new partnership with employers and trade unions, to create jobs and build a society where everyone is entitled to fair pay, job security and dignity at work.

To achieve this, all Wirral workers must have a comprehensive set of rights and protections with trade unions empowered to organise, bargain and win for working people.

Council agrees that fair and decent work that provides security, improves national productivity, increases economic opportunity, and protects health is what all Wirral residents deserve.

Council affirms that it is entirely possible to have a future economy that rebalances wealth and power to serve the needs of working people.

Council is adamant that all Wirral residents need and deserve improved living standards and economic security.

Council therefore agrees to request the Council Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions – Mel Stride MP, to insist that a New Deal for Working People is agreed and introduced, as soon as possible.