

Council – 29 July 2024

Amendments to Motions on Notice

The Council is requested to consider the following amendments submitted in accordance with Standing Order 13.3.

MOTION 1. WORKING WITH THE NEW LABOUR GOVERNMENT

Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green

Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Delete struck through words and add as follows,

Council notes ~~congratulates~~ the new Labour Government ~~has achieved a~~ ~~on their~~ ~~resounding and~~ decisive victory in the recent ~~G~~general Election:-

~~This is an immense milestone for our nation~~ and people of Great Britain clearly voted for 'cChange'.

Council extends ~~special~~ congratulations to the four elected Members of Parliament who will serve Wirral going forward:

Dame Angela Eagle MP – Elected for the Wallasey constituency.

Alison McGovern MP – Elected for the Birkenhead constituency.

Matthew Patrick MP – Elected for the Wirral West constituency.

Justin Madders MP – Elected for the Ellesmere Port & Bromborough constituency.

Council notes ~~Their successful campaigns and subsequent election as Members of Parliament are a testament to the hard work, dedication, and~~ the trust their constituents have placed in them and ~~the our~~ new Labour government.

Council recognises and appreciates the commitment and efforts of Wirral candidates from all political parties who participated in a positive campaign, as well as their campaign teams.

Council further recognises ~~It is also important that we recognise~~ and thanks all the council staff who worked so hard to make ~~the process of the General Election things~~ run smoothly ~~throughout the General Election process.~~ and acknowledges the importance of this contribution to a flourishing and vibrant democracy.

Council requests that the Leader of the Council and all Party Leaders write to all four MPs to give our ~~heartfelt~~ congratulations ~~on their election~~ and confirm our commitment to working collaboratively with our MPs, ~~when in the best interests of Wirral,~~ and the ~~n~~New Labour Government, to improve the lives of Wirral residents, communities and businesses.

MOTION 1. WORKING WITH THE NEW LABOUR GOVERNMENT

Proposed by Councillor Amanda Onwuemene

Seconded by Councillor Judith Grier

Insert additional paragraphs after paragraph 8,

Council also notes that, according to the Electoral Reform Society the 2024 general election was “the most disproportional in British electoral history”¹ with Labour winning 64% of seats on less than 34% of the overall vote and, nationally, the votes required to elect one MP per party were:

Labour: 23,615

Conservative: 56,422

Liberal Democrat: 48,877

Green Party: 485,814

Reform UK: 821,322

Proportional representation is the national policy of the Labour Party, Liberal Democrats, Green Party and Reform UK along with a host of Trade Unions and pro-democracy organisations.

Council therefore agrees that the scandal of wasted votes must end and asks all Group Leaders to write to the Prime Minister calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws and to enable Proportional Representation to be used for UK general elections.

¹ <https://election2024.electoral-reform.org.uk/>

MOTION 2. PROTECTING WIRRAL'S PRECIOUS GREEN BELT

Proposed by Councillor Ann Ainsworth

Seconded by Councillor Paul Jobson

Delete final bullet point in final paragraph,

- ~~• Request that all Group Leaders write to Wirral's four MPs to invite support for retention of Wirral's Green Belt, regardless of any previous positions they may have taken, and to share their responses with all councillors.~~

And insert as follows:

- Council congratulates the Leader of the Council for prioritising the protection of Wirral's greenbelt and writing with urgency on 13th July to all of the Wirral MPs notifying them that Wirral's housing need will be met by the brownfield only plan and obtaining their assurances of support for this approach.

- *Council further thanks the Chief Executive for raising this issue at the earliest possible opportunity on 19th July with Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner, raising the profile of Wirral's Brownfield only plan and the need to support this approach at the highest levels of Government.*
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MOTION 2. PROTECTING WIRRAL'S PRECIOUS GREEN BELT

Proposed by Councillor Jo Bird

Seconded by Councillor Gail Jenkinson

Insert additional paragraphs after paragraph 5,

Council also recognises that successful place making and regeneration is fundamental to the protection of our precious green belt. Council acknowledges the achievements by officers in securing large sums of public finance for regeneration and the work to date on delivery. Council reaffirms its commitment to the Birkenhead 2040 Framework and its vision for the transformation of Birkenhead and the wider left bank of the Mersey and restates its desire to deliver on the promise and potential contained in the 2040 Framework.

However, Council has a number of concerns including the progress of the regeneration programme, in particular the transformation of Birkenhead and the absence of regular and clear, RAG-rated progress reports on regeneration projects to the Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee.

Insert additional resolution in paragraph 6,

- *Request that the Chief Executive, brings a RAG-rated progress report to the next Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee to update Members in relation to the regeneration programme, in particular relating to the regeneration of Birkenhead and how that supports the Local Plan process.*
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MOTION 2. PROTECTING WIRRAL'S PRECIOUS GREEN BELT

Proposed by Councillor Stuart Kelly

Seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Add words to paragraph 2,

Council recognises that with 5,691 on the waiting list for housing, it must be a priority for the Council to increase housing supply and affordability, but this must not be at the expense of the Borough's precious natural environment *and agricultural land.*

Add words to paragraph 4,

Following Labour's landslide victory on July 4th, the newly appointed Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State of Housing, Communities and Local Government, will be writing to local planning authorities instructing them to 'review *where necessary*' Green Belt boundaries with a view to releasing land for development.

Delete struck through word and add as follows to paragraph 5,

Having undertaken the work required to reach this stage of the Local Plan process and to comply with the 2004 Act, Council does not believe that any land designated as Green Belt or Local Green Space in Wirral is ~~appropriate~~ *required* for development.

Add additional paragraph after paragraph 5,

Council notes that Wirral's planners have used the standard method to calculate housing need in line with previous mandatory housing targets; that the local plan properly identified sufficient brown field land to meet mandatory housing targets as part of regeneration within Wirral; and believes recent government announcements will not affect the progress of the regeneration led local plan.

Add wording to first bullet point in final paragraph,

Council therefore resolves to:

- Instruct the Chief Executive to respond accordingly to any correspondence received *including the consultation on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which was used to prepare our local plan in consultation with group leaders.*

MOTION 3. SOCIAL HOUSING GROWTH NEEDS AN END TO RIGHT-TO-BUY

Proposed by Councillor Chris Carubia
Seconded by Councillor Helen Raymond

Insert additional wording in recommendation 3) in final paragraph,

3) call on the Government to commit to ending right-to-buy *in its current form* as soon as possible.

MOTION 4. AN END TO SEWAGE DISCHARGES INTO OUR WATERS

Proposed by Councillor Gail Jenkinson
Seconded by Councillor Jason Walsh-McDonald

Insert additional paragraph after paragraph 4,

Council recognises that since its privatisation in 1989, when it was debt-free, United Utilities has accumulated debts amounting to £8.9 billion. This equates to an additional £2,503 per household, and servicing this debt contributes approximately 11% to everyone's bills. During the same period, United Utilities has paid out £9.5

billion in dividends to shareholders, with only one of the top seven major shareholders currently based in the UK.

Insert additional paragraph after paragraph 5,

In addition, Council requests that the Council Leader and Group Leaders writes to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to request that instead of making minor adjustments to a regulatory system where private water companies have incorporated fines into their business models, the government bring United Utilities and other private water companies back into public ownership. This is a move supported by 82% of the British public.

References:

1. Guardian How much of your water bill is swallowed up by company debt? – interactive, Feb 2024, retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/ng-interactive/2023/dec/18/how-much-of-your-water-bill-is-swallowed-up-by-company-debt-interactive>
2. Financial times Retrieved 19th July 2024 <https://markets.ft.com/data/equities/tearsheet/profile?s=UU.:LSE>
3. Support for nationalising utilities and public transport has grown significantly in last seven years June 2024 retrieved from <https://yougov.co.uk/politics/articles/50098-support-for-nationalising-utilities-and-public-transport-has-grown-significantly-in-last-seven-years>