

## **Council – 17 March 2025**

### **Amendments to Motions on Notice as Amended**

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

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#### **MOTION 2. GETTING THE NHS BACK ON ITS FEET**

##### **Conservative Group Amendment**

**Proposed by Councillor Simon Mountney**  
**Seconded by Councillor Gary Bennett**

This Council welcomes the Government's plans to cut NHS waiting times to 18 weeks.

At the end of December 2024, there were 47,379<sup>1</sup> waiting for what is called "non urgent elective operations or treatment" at Arrowe Park Hospital, part of more than seven and half million across the country – and Council considers that this is far too many.

Council notes that every single person on those waiting lists represents a life put on hold, stuck waiting for care often in pain, worry or in fear.

Council welcomes the creation of millions more appointments to get people the treatment they need more quickly. Across the country, up to half a million more appointments will be provided each year thanks to some new access to Community Diagnostic Centres and new or expanded surgical hubs. Also, greater patient choice over follow-up care will open up a million appointments alongside better use of technology and other action to save another million missed appointments.

As a borough we need to boost opportunities for our residents to enjoy exercise and healthy lifestyles and working with government, GPs, hospitals and other health leaders to ensure we work together to fix our health service as part of the wider plan to fix the foundations of the NHS and get Britain back on track.

Council notes that the new Labour Government inherited an NHS that was broken, with too many waiting for treatment, people waiting too long for an ambulance even in the most serious of circumstances, and waiting in A&E. These delays have cost and ruined lives.

Council commits to working with the government and the Wirral health & care system to help get our NHS back on its feet by providing the highest possible quality care, addressing poor health and health inequalities in our communities.

***Council is, however, concerned that some of the initial decisions by the Labour Government will have a detrimental impact on the health and wellbeing***

**of those who are most vulnerable, potentially causing more people to require NHS treatment, including:**

- **The ill-considered removal of dementia diagnosis targets from the new NHS Operational Plan by the Secretary of State for Health, Wes Streeting**
- **The rushed announcement of cuts to personal independence payments, and freezing of other disability and health-related benefits, by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Liz Kendall**

**Council believes that impact assessments for these decisions should be published prior to implementation and with particular reference to likely additional demand for NHS services.**

Council resolves that the Leader of Wirral Council writes to the Place Director (Wirral), NHS Cheshire and Merseyside to pass on our thanks to local residents, patients, and NHS staff who have taken part in the government's Change NHS consultation which has ensured that Wirral's voice has been heard to help shape the future of our health service.

References:

<sup>1</sup> [Statistics » Consultant-led Referral to Treatment Waiting Times Data 2024-25](https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2025/02/Download-Waiting-Times-by-Hospital-Trust-Dec24-XLS-10M-69130.xls)  
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## **MOTION 2. GETTING THE NHS BACK ON ITS FEET**

### **Liberal Democrat Group Amendment**

**Proposed by Councillor Helen Raymond**

**Seconded by Councillor Phil Gilchrist**

This Council welcomes the Government's plans to cut NHS waiting times to 18 weeks.

At the end of December 2024, there were 47,379<sup>1</sup> waiting for what is called "non urgent elective operations or treatment" at Arrowe Park Hospital, part of more than seven and half million across the country – and Council considers that this is far too many.

**Council fully recognises that the NHS is being urged to live within its budget and so must modernise and work more efficiently. In order to achieve this goal there needs to be a clear pathway in to and a role for Wirral's social care sector as without a social care sector which is adequately resourced for its role the NHS will continue to struggle to fulfil its role.**

**Taken from *Road to recovery: the government's 2025 mandate to NHS England - GOV.UK* published on January 30 2025, Council notes how Objective 5 makes it clear that 'reform ' is required to 'drive efficiency and productivity' and that this must..'**

***‘ensure that ICBs and partner trusts exercise their functions with a view to managing within agreed plans, to deliver financial balance across their systems’ 2***

***It is essential that Wirral’s councillors have information on:***

- ***the steps that might be put forward to address the known deficits and their impact; and***
- ***the timescales that NHS Cheshire and Merseyside might be working to***

***Council observes how Wirral University Teaching Hospital was posted on NHS England as having an average of 121 patients in January as having a status of ‘no criteria to reside’. It is vital to recognise that***

- ***the reforms enable the NHS and social care to work together; and***
- ***the benefits of ensuring care in the community will enable the NHS to secure the improvements in inpatient care that residents and patients long for.***

Council notes that every single person on those waiting lists represents a life put on hold, stuck waiting for care often in pain, worry or in fear.

Council welcomes the creation of millions more appointments to get people the treatment they need more quickly. Across the country, up to half a million more appointments will be provided each year thanks to some new access to Community Diagnostic Centres and new or expanded surgical hubs. Also, greater patient choice over follow-up care will open up a million appointments alongside better use of technology and other action to save another million missed appointments.

As a borough we need to boost opportunities for our residents to enjoy exercise and healthy lifestyles and working with government, GPs, hospitals and other health leaders to ensure we work together to fix our health service as part of the wider plan to fix the foundations of the NHS and get Britain back on track.

Council notes that the new Labour Government inherited an NHS that was broken, with too many waiting for treatment, people waiting too long for an ambulance even in the most serious of circumstances, and waiting in A&E. These delays have cost and ruined lives.

Council commits to working with the government and the Wirral health & care system to help get our NHS back on its feet by providing the highest possible quality care, addressing poor health and health inequalities in our communities.

Council resolves that the Leader of Wirral Council writes to the Place Director (Wirral), NHS Cheshire and Merseyside to pass on our thanks to local residents, patients, and NHS staff who have taken part in the government’s Change NHS consultation which has ensured that Wirral's voice has been heard to help shape the future of our health service.

## References:

1 [Statistics » Consultant-led Referral to Treatment Waiting Times Data 2024-25](https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2025/02/Download-Waiting-Times-by-Hospital-Trust-Dec24-XLS-10M-69130.xls)  
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2025/02/Download-Waiting-Times-by-Hospital-Trust-Dec24-XLS-10M-69130.xls>

2 [\*\*Road to recovery: the government's 2025 mandate to NHS England - GOV.UK\*\*](#)

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## MOTION 4. ENSURING WIRRAL IS IN POLE POSITION FOR HOUSING INVESTMENT AND FUNDING

### Labour Group Amendment

**Proposed by Councillor Jean Robinson**

**Seconded by Councillor Paul Stuart**

Wirral Council acknowledges the importance of great design in our regenerated towns and that of the greenbelt which provides the green lungs of our peninsula and many biodiverse habitats. To meet the challenge of delivering 1602 new homes per annum, as set out in the latest development framework, while protecting the greenbelt, the Council must ensure that Wirral is in the strongest possible position to access government funding and support for housing and regeneration. 1

Recent funding opportunities have demonstrated the importance of early engagement, transparency, and cross-party collaboration to ensure Wirral does not miss out on vital investment. By not pursuing New Town status, future funding opportunities are now even more critical.

Members may recall how a member question was asked at Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 with reference to a public question raised at Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee in September 2024 (minute 102 refers) regarding the potential for a New Town status application. In response to this question, ***Council notes that*** on the day of the deadline (13<sup>th</sup> December) an application was not pursued. It is understood this decision was taken following advice from a Director at the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). ***Advice from MHCLG confirmed that to apply for the new towns program would have detrimentally affected the borough's emerging local plan by adding a further 10,000 housing units in addition to the numbers set out by Government.*** However, ***we welcome the notice provided to Group Leaders setting out the reasons why the decision was taken and support the approach by the Interim Director of Regeneration and Place.*** An application, even if unsuccessful, ***could have prejudiced the emerging local plan, further risking the greenbelt.***

This Council understands that further conversations will take place with the MHCLG to raise the profile of the Wirral and align to their pipeline of programmes and looks forward to the outcomes of such discussions.

The Council also recognises that working collaboratively across parties is essential to achieve the best outcomes for Wirral residents, and it is vital that ***Group Leaders and the Economy, Regeneration and Housing Committee are updated and*** consulted at all stages of major funding bids. A shared, strategic approach will put Wirral in the best possible position to succeed.

To ensure Wirral is “in it to win it” for future funding and investment opportunities, Members of this Council resolve to:

1. Recognise the scale of the challenge in delivering ***the Council’s emerging local plan including much needed*** homes over the next 20 years and ensure that all plans align with the needs of Wirral’s communities.
2. Requests that the ***Interim*** Director of Regeneration and Place commits to identifying and applying for relevant government and grant funding opportunities to support regeneration and sustainable development, ***which does not risk the Council’s emerging local plan and our greenbelt.***
3. Requests that the ***Interim*** Director of Regeneration and Place ensures that members from all parties are engaged at an early stage in any major funding opportunities, bids or applications to promote transparency and cross-party collaboration.
4. Reaffirm the importance of the Birkenhead 2040 Framework as a key strategy for regeneration, ensuring that it remains a priority in all future discussions on housing and investment. <sup>2</sup>

By taking this approach, Wirral Council can be ready to maximise opportunities for investment and regeneration, delivering the high-quality, sustainable housing that local people need while securing the resources to make it happen.

References:

1 [Local Development Scheme for Wirral](#)

2 [Birkenhead 2040 Framework](#)

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## **MOTION 4. ENSURING WIRRAL IS IN POLE POSITION FOR HOUSING INVESTMENT AND FUNDING**

**Liberal Democrat Group Amendment**

**Proposed by Councillor Stuart Kelly  
Seconded by Councillor Allan Brame**

Wirral Council acknowledges the importance of great design in our regenerated towns and that of the greenbelt which provides the green lungs of our peninsula and many biodiverse habitats. To meet the challenge of delivering 1602 new homes per annum, as set out in the latest development framework, while protecting the greenbelt, the Council must ensure that Wirral is in the strongest possible position to access government funding and support for housing and regeneration. <sup>1</sup>

Recent funding opportunities have demonstrated the importance of early engagement, transparency, and cross-party collaboration to ensure Wirral does not

miss out on vital investment. By not pursuing New Town status, future funding opportunities are now even more critical.

Members may recall how a Member question was asked at Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024 with reference to a public question raised at Economy Regeneration and Housing Committee in September 2024 (minute 102 refers) regarding the potential for a New Town status application. In response to this question, **Members heard how** on the day of the deadline (13<sup>th</sup> December) that an application was not pursued. It is understood this decision was taken following advice from a Director at the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) **whereby it was explained that if the bid were to be successful it would mean an additional 10,000 further homes in excess of what has been set out within the local plan.**

This Council understands that further conversations will take place with the MHCLG to raise the profile of the Wirral and align to their pipeline of programmes and looks forward to the outcomes of such discussions.

The Council also recognises that working collaboratively across parties is essential to achieve the best outcomes for Wirral residents **whilst protecting the green belt**, and it is vital that members of all parties are consulted at all stages of major funding bids. A shared, strategic approach will put Wirral in the best possible position to succeed.

To ensure Wirral is “in it to win it” for future funding and investment opportunities, Members of this Council resolve to:

1. Recognise the scale of the challenge in delivering over 30,000 homes over the next 20 years and ensure that all plans align with the needs of Wirral’s communities.
2. Requests that the Director of Regeneration and Place commits to identifying and applying for all relevant government and grant funding opportunities to support regeneration and sustainable development whilst **maintaining a brownfield first stance.**
3. Requests that the Director of Regeneration and Place ensures that members from all parties are engaged at an early stage in any major funding opportunities, bids or applications to promote transparency and cross-party collaboration.
4. Reaffirm the importance of the Birkenhead 2040 Framework as a key strategy for regeneration, ensuring that it remains a priority in all future discussions on housing and investment. 2

By taking this approach, Wirral Council can be ready to maximise opportunities for investment and regeneration, delivering the high-quality, sustainable housing that local people need while securing the resources to make it happen.

References:

- 1 [Local Development Scheme for Wirral](#)

## 2 [Birkenhead 2040 Framework](#)