

# Public Document Pack

## COUNCIL

Monday, 13 July 2009

Present:

The Mayor (Councillor Andrew Hodson) in the Chair  
Deputy Mayor (Councillor Alan Jennings)

Councillors	RL Abbey	K Hayes	S Quinn
	T Anderson	P Hayes	M Redfern
	C Blakeley	S Holbrook	P Reisdorf
	S Clarke	P Johnson	L Rennie
	IO Coates	AER Jones	D Roberts
	J Crabtree	J Keeley	L Rowlands
	G Davies	S Kelly	J Salter
	P Davies	B Kenny	H Smith
	WJ Davies	D Kirwan	T Smith
	F Doyle	D Knowles	W Smith
	W Duffey	I Lewis	P Southwood
	D Elderton	AR McLachlan	J Stapleton
	G Ellis	M McLaughlin	A Taylor
	S Foulkes	C Meaden	S Taylor
	L Fraser	D Mitchell	C Teggins
	G Gardiner	R Moon	G Watt
	J George	S Moseley	R Wilkins
	P Gilchrist	S Mountney	J Williams
	JE Green	C Povall	P Williams
	J Hale	A Pritchard	K Wood
	T Harney	J Quinn	

Apologies

Councillors A Bridson S Niblock

### 18 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor welcomed pupils from Hoylake Holy Trinity CE Primary School and Wirral Grammar School for Girls who were the winners of the recent Children's Parliament on the Environment. They each gave a brief presentation of their school's work in this area which had won the overall awards and emphasised the need for community involvement to protect the environment.

The Mayor congratulated those young people who were involved in the work of the Wirral Children's Parliament on behalf of the Council and wished them well for the future.

### 19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The members of the Council were invited to consider whether they had a personal or prejudicial interest in connection with any matter to be debated or determined at the meeting and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of such interest. The following declarations were made:

Councillor Kirwan declared a prejudicial interest in Minute 27 (Matters for Debate) (Motion 1 Secretary of State's Intervention on Wirral Library Closures) due to having been engaged in legal proceedings connected with the Strategic Asset Review and left the chamber whilst the matter was considered.

Councillor Lewis declared a personal interest in Minute 27 (Matters for Debate):-

(Motion 1 Secretary of State's Intervention on Wirral Library Closures) by virtue of his involvement in the save Leasowe Library campaign.

(Motion 4 ID Cards) by virtue of his membership of an organisation which is opposed to the use of ID Cards.

(Motion 5 Easy Access to Information on Councillor Allowances) by virtue of his membership of Merseytravel

(Motion 7 EP Elections ) by virtue of his employment in a political organisation.

Councillor L Rennie declared a personal interest in respect of Minute 27 (Matters for Debate):-

(Motion 4 ID Cards) by virtue of her husband's employment.

(Motion 11 Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority) by virtue of her membership of the Authority.

Councillor C Blakeley declared a personal interest in Minute 27 (Matters for Debate) (Motion 5 Easy Access to Information on Councillor Allowances) by virtue of his membership of Merseytravel.

Councillor R Abbey declared a personal interest in Minute 27 (Matters for Debate) (Motion 5 Easy Access to Information on Councillor Allowances) by virtue of his membership of Merseytravel.

Councillor A Jones declared a personal interest in Minute 27 (Matters for Debate) (Motion 5 Easy Access to Information on Councillor Allowances) by virtue of his membership of Merseyside Police Authority.

Councillor K Wood declared a personal interest in Minute 27 (Matters for Debate) (Motion 5 Easy Access to Information on Councillor Allowances) by virtue of her membership of Merseyside Police Authority.

Councillor D Roberts declared a personal interest in Minute 27 (Matters for Debate) (Motion 11 Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority) by virtue of her membership of the Authority.

Councillor G Ellis declared a personal interest in Minute 27 (Matters for Debate) (Motion 11 Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority) by virtue of his membership of the Authority.

## 20 **PETITIONS**

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

(a) Councillor C Blakeley on behalf of 363 signatories objecting to a Potential Landfill Site at North Wirral Brickworks site, Carr Lane, Moreton.

(b) Councillor L Fraser on behalf of 303 signatories objecting to a Potential Landfill Site at North Wirral Brickworks site, Carr Lane, Moreton.

(c) Councillor L Fraser on behalf of 459 signatories requesting a period of free car parking in Liscard Shopping Centre.

(d) Councillor A McLachlan on behalf of 164 signatories requesting traffic calming on Fender Way, Beechwood Estate.

(e) Councillor T Anderson on behalf of 355 signatories regarding parking in Upton Village.

(f) Councillor W Smith on behalf of 22 signatories requesting highway repair works at Mount Drive, Hr Bebington.

(g) Councillor A Jones on behalf of 100 signatories requesting action to deal with environmental nuisance problems at the Former Tate and Lyle site, Seacombe.

(h) Councillor J George on behalf of 240 signatories requesting action to deal with anti social behaviour in the Overchurch /Upton area.

## 21 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 11 and 18 May, 2009 had been circulated to members, and it was –

Resolved - That the minutes be approved and adopted as a correct record, subject to the amendment set out below and to the following corrections:

(i) Amendment

Amend minute 15 ( 18 May) by the insertion of the following words in the final paragraph of the preamble:

“Following a brief debate, during which it was clarified that the effect of the proposal included the removal of Councillor Gilchrist and Cllr P M Williams from all committee places and outside bodies, it was Resolved etc”

(ii) Corrections:

**Cabinet Minute 16 – 18 May 2009 Appendices**

Tam O'Shanter Trust

Councillors D E Roberts and S Moseley (appointed until July 2010)

Parks and Countryside Options Group

Councillor B Kenny in place of Councillor Tony Smith

**22 MATTERS REQUIRING APPROVAL BY THE COUNCIL**

Resolved – That minute 39 (Cabinet – 25 June) Mersey Heartlands New Growth Point Funding 2009/10 and 2010 /11 be approved, as required by the Constitution.

**23 MATTERS FOR NOTING**

Resolved - That the following matters be noted, as required by the Constitution:

- (i) Cabinet minute 50 (25 June) - Future Jobs Fund (Reason: waiving of call-in)
- (ii) Cabinet minute 51 (25 June) – Merseyside Information Service ( Reason : compliance with Contract procedure rule 5.2)

**24 QUESTIONS**

No questions having been received from members of the public, nor any written questions from Council members it was:

Resolved (unanimously) – That Standing Order 11 be suspended and question time be dispensed with.

**25 MATTERS REFERRED FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

No specific references had been made from overview and scrutiny committees.

**26 MATTERS FOR DEBATE**

The matters listed for debate in accordance with Standing Order 5(1) (I) were dealt with as indicated in minutes 27 to 37 below.

The Leader of the Council requested that Standing Order 7 (8) be applied from 8.30pm.

Resolved (unanimously) – That Standing Order 7 (8) be applied from 8.30pm.

27 **MOTION: CABINET'S FAILURE TO DEFEND THEIR DECISION AT LIBRARY INQUIRY**

(Councillor D Kirwan, having previously declared a prejudicial interest in respect of this matter, left the chamber during its consideration)

Proposed by Councillor Tom Anderson  
Seconded by Councillor Paul Hayes

Council condemns the Leader of the Council's failure to give oral evidence in front of the public at the Library Inquiry.

Council notes that not one Labour or Liberal Democrat Cabinet member chose to give public testimony at the Inquiry and denounces the Council's Cabinet for hiding behind officers leading to a gross failure of transparency and accountability for the closure process and the decisions they have taken.

Council notes that the administration found it necessary to hire a barrister at Council Tax payer's expense to defend the Cabinet's decision and is concerned at the indicated costs.

This Council believes that the decision of the Labour/Liberal Democrat Cabinet not to defend their decision to close 11 Wirral Libraries in person at the Inquiry demonstrates contempt for the users of those libraries.

Council believes that the public of Wirral have lost confidence in the Leader of Wirral Borough Council and its Cabinet and therefore demands their immediate resignation.

The motion was put and lost, with the Council dividing as follows:

For the motion (25) - Councillors T Anderson, C Blakeley, SL Clarke, WA Duffey, DM Elderton, GJ Ellis, Mrs L Fraser, JE Green, J Hale, Karen Hayes, Paul Hayes, AC Hodson, PSC Johnson, J Keeley, D Knowles, I Lewis, SD Moseley, SR Mountney, C Povall, A Pritchard, Mrs LA Rennie, SL Rowlands, Sue Taylor, GCJ Watt, and Mrs K Wood.

Against the Motion (38) - Councillors RL Abbey, I Coates, JA Crabtree, WJ Davies, George Davies, PL Davies, F Doyle, S Foulkes, G Gardiner, John George, PN Gilchrist, T Harney, SA Holbrook, AT Jennings, A Jones, SE Kelly, Brian Kenny, Ann McLachlan, M McLaughlin, CM Meaden, GD Mitchell, RK Moon, Jean Quinn, Sarah Quinn, M Redfern, PTC Reisdorf, DE Roberts, J Salter, H Smith, PA Smith, WW Smith, PM Southwood, JV Stapleton, A Taylor, CM Teggin, R Wilkins, KJ Williams, Pat Williams.

Resolved – The Motion was lost.

28 **MOTION: COUNCIL FINANCE**

Proposed by Councillor Steve Foulkes  
Seconded by Councillor Simon Holbrook

Council recognises the hard work of the last two years that has gone into creating a sustainable budget for this Council, in line with the Council's Corporate Plan, with a projected gap for 2010/11 of just 5.5m, (assuming a 4% increase in Council Tax), which is much lower than projected gaps in previous years.

Council further recognises that this achievement has placed the Council in a much healthier position to face the consequences of the current global recession, which will affect all local authorities in the coming years, as the next Comprehensive Spending Review takes account of the country's changed financial circumstances.

Council notes that Wirral's projected budget for 2011-14 takes the impact of the recession into account and currently shows a deficit of between £50m and £67m over the three years.

Council understands that, if Wirral residents are to continue to show the current high levels of satisfaction with the area in which they live, it will be essential to find new ways of providing the best possible services at the lowest possible costs and that these ways may be different from the way in which services have been traditionally delivered in the past.

Council therefore:

1. Asks all Chief Officers to prepare for the years ahead by doing everything in their power to find new, cost effective ways of delivering good services to the people of Wirral.
2. Calls on the Conservatives locally to explain, were they ever to achieve their stated ambition of running an administration, exactly how they will meet their financially reckless opposition promises, and the costs of their continued opposition to financially beneficial changes, without unscrupulously raiding reserves and balances and completely wrecking the Council's finances as they did the last time they had any power.
3. Calls on the Conservative members to explain exactly how they square their generous spending plans with the calls from their party nationally for a 10% cut in Council spending.

**AMENDMENT**

Proposed by Cllr Jeff Green  
Seconded by Cllr Lesley Rennie

Delete all and insert:

This Council notes the inconsistency between Wirral's Labour Group Leader, who has warned of cuts, and a Prime Minister who has insisted that spending will not be cut despite evidence in Treasury documents that there would be a 'reduction in medium-term spending'.

Further, this Council notes the Council Leader's implicit threats to cut services further. Council expresses disquiet that neither the Labour nor Liberal Democrats in Wirral have learnt anything from their catastrophic handling of the Strategic Asset Review.

Council resolves that any savings which are made at Wirral Council should be dedicated to preserving front line services and protecting Wirral's most vulnerable.

Council notes that the Conservatives in Wirral have, over the last decade, a consistent record of proposing below average council tax increases, including at the last budget, and that it was the Conservatives who have fought hardest to protect front line services such as libraries, youth clubs and school crossing patrols under the current round of budget cuts.

The amendment was put and lost (25:38) (One abstention). The motion was put and carried (38:25)(One abstention).

Resolved (38:25:1) –

Council recognises the hard work of the last two years that has gone into creating a sustainable budget for this Council, in line with the Council's Corporate Plan, with a projected gap for 2010/11 of just 5.5m, (assuming a 4% increase in Council Tax), which is much lower than projected gaps in previous years.

Council further recognises that this achievement has placed the Council in a much healthier position to face the consequences of the current global recession, which will affect all local authorities in the coming years, as the next Comprehensive Spending Review takes account of the country's changed financial circumstances.

Council notes that Wirral's projected budget for 2011-14 takes the impact of the recession into account and currently shows a deficit of between £50m and £67m over the three years.

Council understands that, if Wirral residents are to continue to show the current high levels of satisfaction with the area in which they live, it will be essential to find new ways of providing the best possible services at the lowest possible costs and that these ways may be different from the way in which services have been traditionally delivered in the past.

Council therefore:

1. Asks all Chief Officers to prepare for the years ahead by doing everything in their power to find new, cost effective ways of delivering good services to the people of Wirral.
2. Calls on the Conservatives locally to explain, were they ever to achieve their stated ambition of running an administration, exactly how they will meet their financially reckless opposition promises, and the costs of their continued opposition

to financially beneficial changes, without unscrupulously raiding reserves and balances and completely wrecking the Council's finances as they did the last time they had any power.

3. Calls on the Conservative members to explain exactly how they square their generous spending plans with the calls from their party nationally for a 10% cut in Council spending.

29     **MOTION: DECLINE IN BEE POPULATION**

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist  
Seconded by Councillor Steve Niblock

This Council shares the concerns expressed by the Women's Institute at its Annual General Meeting over the decline in the bee population and widespread concern about the decline of pollinators.

Council notes that the WI called on local authorities to plant verges, derelict land and public parks with bee friendly flowers.

In December 2008 Council recognised that the decline in vital contribution that bees make to pollination and to sustainable agriculture when it called for research and action to halt their decline.

Many of Wirral's management plans already recognise the need for sensitive management but that there is a pressing need to respond to the decline in the bee population.

Council requests, therefore, that Wirral's existing practices in managing open spaces and verges should be reviewed and updated to take account of this concern and brought back to the Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

As part of this process Council officers to consult with the local branches of the Women's Institute and other organisations to develop this initiative.

Resolved (unanimously): That the motion be approved.

30     **MOTION: ID CARDS**

Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green  
Seconded by Cllr Lesley Rennie

This Council notes Her Majesty's Government's intention to push ahead with a National Identity Card and Database Scheme despite rising costs and continued opposition from many organisations, including a growing number of Local authorities.

This Council believes that such a scheme will be ineffective in the fight against crime, and that the vast amount of public money needed to execute the scheme would be better spent on more proven crime prevention measures, or paying down the excessive government debt.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Take part in no pilot scheme or feasibility work in relation to the introduction of national identity cards.
2. Assert that national identity cards will not be required to access any council services or benefits, unless required to do so by law.
3. Asks that the Chief Executive writes to the Home Secretary expressing this Council's opposition to the National Identity Card and Database Scheme.

#### **AMENDMENT**

Proposed by Councillor Phil Davies  
Seconded by Councillor Brian Kenny

Delete all the existing text and replace with the following:

Council welcomes the recent announcement by the Home Secretary, Alan Johnson, that ID Cards will be voluntary for British citizens; that these cards will become a single proof of identity replacing the multiplicity of forms of identity many people currently have to carry with them; to cap the cost of the cards at £30 per person for the first two years; and to pilot this scheme, again on a voluntary basis, in a small number of geographical areas from 2010.

The amendment was put and lost (20:44). The motion was put and carried (44:20).

Resolved (44:20) –

This Council notes Her Majesty's Government's intention to push ahead with a National Identity Card and Database Scheme despite rising costs and continued opposition from many organisations, including a growing number of Local authorities.

This Council believes that such a scheme will be ineffective in the fight against crime, and that the vast amount of public money needed to execute the scheme would be better spent on more proven crime prevention measures, or paying down the excessive government debt.

Council therefore resolves to:

4. Take part in no pilot scheme or feasibility work in relation to the introduction of national identity cards.

5. Assert that national identity cards will not be required to access any council services or benefits, unless required to do so by law.
6. Asks that the Chief Executive writes to the Home Secretary expressing this Council's opposition to the National Identity Card and Database Scheme.

**31 MOTION: EASY ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES**

Proposed by : Councillor Steve Foulkes  
Seconded by: Councillor Phil Davies

Council notes that there is considerable public and press interest in the level of allowances being paid by taxpayers to members of public bodies.

Council further notes that Wirral Councillors have been frugal in their approach to allowances with an increase of just 1.9% in five years, that income tax and national insurance is paid on allowances and that Councillors on Wirral do not have access to a pension fund.

Although a lot of information is available in the public domain, Council believes that information on councillor allowances should be easily accessible to all those who wish to see it.

Council therefore requests the Chief Executive to place on the Council website a detailed list of all the allowances actually paid to individual Councillors, both by the Council and by those bodies funded from the Council Tax through a precept or levy.

**AMENDMENT**

Proposed by Councillor Simon Holbrook  
Seconded by Councillor Bob Moon

Like all other Councils, Wirral Council has an Independent Remuneration Panel, which makes recommendations on the level of Councillors' Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances. However, Council notes that these arrangements do not extend to Fire, Police and Passenger Transport Authorities; and calls upon the Leaders of all the constituent Council's in Merseyside to support the appointment of a local Independent Remuneration Panel to take on this task.

The Leader of the Council accepted the amendment as a friendly amendment to the motion.

Resolved (unanimously): That the motion, as now amended, be approved.

**32 MOTION: KITCHEN WASTE COLLECTION TRIAL SCHEME**

Proposed by Councillor Gill Gardiner  
Seconded by Councillor Mike Redfern

(1) Council notes that:

The Government has awarded Wirral a '3-star' rating for its environmental performance and has named Wirral as 'the most improved metropolitan borough' for recycling in 2007/08.

Wirral's recycling rates have soared from 14% in 2006/07 to 35%

in 2008-09 and around 38% now, peaking at 43% last summer thanks to the garden waste collections.

With landfill taxes rising, this commitment to recycling will save

Wirral council tax payers money and at the same time reduce our impact on climate change.

(2) Council welcomes the recent raising of the national recycling target to 55% by the Government.

(3) Council also notes that:

a) The Government is encouraging Local Authorities to collect food waste separately from other household waste and have commissioned a report to consider the implications of banning of kitchen waste from landfill.

b) Kitchen waste makes up approximately 18% of our household waste stream, and it has been estimated that the introduction of a kerbside collection of food waste across Wirral would divert between 6,500 and 9,500 tonnes of waste from landfill, increasing our recycling performance by around 7%.

c) That the treatment of kerbside collected food waste is being actively considered by Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority and that the planning stages of the treatment facility are being pursued.

(4) Council therefore proposes that in preparation for the time Merseyside Districts are required to make a decision as to whether food waste is separately collected, a study is carried out to establish the most effective methods for households to safely separate this waste and for its efficient kerbside collection.

(5) Council therefore resolves:

(a) to request officers present the details of a short term trial of the collection of food waste to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration in September. The details of any trial options should include cost implications, timescales and coverage.

(b) that the findings of the trial are reported to the Scrutiny Committee in January with a detailed options report on the future of kitchen waste collections in Wirral.

The motion was put and carried (63:1) (Councillor Kirwan voting against the motion).

Resolved (63:1) - That the motion be approved.

**33 MOTION: EP ELECTIONS**

Moved by Councillor Jeff Green  
Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

Council regrets the election of a BNP Member of the European Parliament to represent Wirral, however Council further notes that the vote for the BNP rose by only a single ballot in Wirral and recognises that the Government's decision to introduce Proportional Representation for European elections in 1999 has enabled Nick Griffin to be elected a decade later.

Council fully rejects the racist policies of the BNP and calls upon the Chief Executive and all council officers to refuse to meet with Mr Griffin and his colleagues in the BNP (in any official capacity) and deny them access to information held by the Council or entry to council owned premises, unless to do so would be unlawful.

Council warmly congratulates Rt Hon Sir Robert Atkins, Sajjad Karim, Jaqueline Foster, Arlene McCarty, Brian Simpson, Paul Nutall and Chris Davies upon their election to the European Parliament and invites them to meet with Council officers and the leaders of the three main political parties in Wirral to discuss how best they can promote the interests of Wirral in the European Parliament.

**AMENDMENT**

Proposed by Councillor Steve Foulkes  
Seconded by Councillor Phil Davies

In para 1, put a full-stop after the words "single ballot in Wirral" and delete everything else in that paragraph. Keep the other two paragraphs as they are.

The amendment was put and carried (39:25)

Resolved (63:0) (Councillor Southwood abstaining). – That the motion, as now amended, be approved.

**34 MOTION: SUCCESS OF WIRRAL BUSINESSES**

Proposed by Councillor Jean Stapleton  
Seconded by Councillor Ann McLachlan  
This Council congratulates those Wirral businesses who won awards or were shortlisted at the recent Liverpool Daily Post Regional Business Awards event.

In particular, Council congratulates Cammell Laird on winning the KPMG Business of the Year award for its continued growth after it secured major long term contracts for

the whole life maintenance of some of its vessels, as well as being shortlisted to build flight (decks) for the Royal Navy's next generation of aircraft carriers.

Council notes that this success comes at the end of a lengthy period during which a Labour led Council kept faith with the shipbuilding industry and with Wirral's skilled workers, refusing to give up hope for its revival at a time when all current advice said shipbuilding on Wirral was finished, and encouraging all efforts to use the unique facilities available for shipping repair. Council welcomes the fact that this award shows the shipbuilding industry has also kept faith with the people of Wirral, building a thriving business and employing local people.

Council also welcomes the approach to inward investment on Wirral, which forms part of the Vision put forward by the Labour/Liberal Democrat administration, and recognises the success of the Bromborough based T-systems which created 40 new jobs last year at Wirral International Business Park and won the Liverpool Vision Investment of the Year Award.

Council is delighted that a Wirral painting and decorating firm, the Roy Hankinson Group, won the Royal Mail Green award for finding ways to recycle over 50,000 used paint tins.

Council believes that the success of Wirral's businesses is a tribute to all the hard work put in by Wirral workers and their employers and that the continuing partnership on Wirral between businesses and the Council which encourages inward investment and growth can only be to everyone's advantage.

Resolved - Resolved (unanimously): That the motion be approved.

### 35 **MOTION: LANDFILL IN WIRRAL**

Proposed by Councillor Chris Blakeley  
Seconded by Councillor Leah Fraser

Council is disappointed to note that Merseyside Environmental Agency Services (MEAS) has moved to the next stage of investigations for landfill sites in Wirral, at Moreton and Prenton.

2. Council supports the views expressed of local residents, the Council, Wirral Wildlife and other interested stakeholders during the first stage of consultation, rejecting both sites

3. Council further notes that MEAS has republished their initial report, having omitted the responses from local residents, elected members and other agencies in the first version.

4. Council again urges MEAS to reject the use of the North Wirral Brickworks, Carr Lane Moreton (MIN027) and the site in Prenton (MIN030) and asks MEAS to remove, without delay, both of these sites from their proposals.

Resolved (unanimously): That the motion be approved.

**36 MOTION: PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC GRADE 11\* HANGARS ASSOCIATED WITH 610 SQUADRON OF THE ROYAL AUXILIARY AIR FORCE**

Proposed by Councillor Jerry Williams  
Seconded by Councillor Walter Smith

This Council recognises the historic importance of the 610 (County of Chester) Squadron of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force and its close association with Wirral.

Council notes that the Squadron was formed at Hooton Park in 1936 and that the importance of Hooton Airfield goes back much further. Council also notes that, even with the boundary changes over the years, a large proportion of this historic airfield is still within Wirral Council's boundaries.

Council further recognises that the 610 squadron was to become one of the most famous Battle of Britain Squadrons flying from Biggin Hill and its forward base Hawkinge and that during the height of the battle in July and August 1940 many local pilots were killed and others had died before over Dunkirk. Many of those pilots had worked at Lever's, the Post Office, Bibby's and other Wirral firms and many of the indispensable and hardworking ground crew also came from the Wirral.

The most famous photograph of Spitfires in formation is that of 610 Squadron aircraft bearing their famous 'DW' markings in 1940. Even after the airfield's closure, 610 Squadron Association remained closely associated with the Grade II\* Belfast hangars and fought hard to save them from demolition.

Wirral Council fully endorses the campaign to preserve the historic hangars on site as part of Britain's and Wirral's rich heritage, and wishes the 610 Squadron Association all the best for the future."

Resolved (unanimously): That the motion be approved.

**37 MOTION: MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

Proposed by Councillor Lesley Rennie  
Seconded by Councillor Chris Blakeley

This Council thanks Councillor John George for the loyal service he has given over many years as this Council's Labour representative on the Fire Authority, and expresses its belief that his presence and experience will be sorely missed.

This Council also thanks Councillor Denis Knowles for his invaluable contribution to the work of the Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority

### **AMENDMENT**

Proposed by Councillor Adrian Jones  
Seconded by Councillor Ron Abbey

At the end of the second paragraph add the following:

The Council also urges Councillor Knowles to do the honourable thing and resign his seat and stand for election to Seacombe ward as a Conservative Party member.

Following a debate, the amendment was put and lost (20:25) (18 Liberal Democrat abstentions) and it was:–

Resolved (45:0)(18 abs) - That the motion be approved.

### **38 VACANCIES**

The Council was requested to deal with the following appointments:

Licensing Health and Safety and GP Committee – Appointment of Deputies - Councillor Karen Hayes to replace Councillor Blakeley

Economy and Regeneration O& S Committee - Appointment of Deputies - Councillor Karen Hayes to replace Councillor Blakeley

Wirral Partnership Homes – Councillor Brian Kenny to replace Councillor Jim Crabtree

Employment and Appointments Committee – Appointment of Deputies – Councillor S Taylor to replace Councillor Paul Hayes and Councillor L Rowlands to replace Councillor S Mountney

Resolved – That the appointments set out above be approved.

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