

Council – 05 December 2022

AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS ON NOTICE

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

1. MANDATORY VOTER ID CHECKS COULD STOP PEOPLE VOTING

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Judith Grier
Seconded by Councillor Harry Gorman

Insert after final paragraph:

'If, despite the many arguments against, mandatory checks are introduced for the elections in May 2023 Council believes that the earliest possible implementation and timely delivery of any voter ID procedures will be essential to ensure as few residents as possible are disenfranchised. We therefore call on government to ensure that adequate funds are made available to local authorities to implement any changes.'

2. PROTECTING THE SERVICES OUR RESIDENTS WANT

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Janette Williamson
Seconded by Councillor Liz Grey

Delete second sentence of first paragraph and insert instead:

'However, Council recognises that in 2011, the Tory led council made 1100 staff redundant, and it has relied upon a diminished but committed workforce ever since, and we thank them for that.'

Replace second paragraph with:

'Council notes that despite the Conservative Group not supporting the Wirral Plan Update, Council remains committed to working to achieve:'

Insert at end of third paragraph:

'Council also recognises that to protect and deliver these services at their current levels it needs adequate funding from a government that has inflicted 11 years of austerity on local councils which looks to resume following the impending public sector cuts of £35bn, who have lost 60p in every £1.'

Insert at end of fourth paragraph:

‘They expect the vulnerable to be cared for with high-quality social care, to be protected with vital and life-saving public health measures and to address the growing climate emergency which Full Council agreed in 2019.’

Delete after first word of fifth paragraph:

‘welcomes the statement by the Leader of the Council reported in the local media that a “Council tax rise ‘is not on the cards’ in Wirral” and’

Insert at end of fifth paragraph:

‘and deplores the recent Autumn Statement by Jeremy Hunt which seeks to balance the £55bn black hole in the economy, as reported in the media to have been caused by the Truss/Kwarteng ‘mini-budget’ off the backs of Council Tax payers and up to £35bn in public sector cuts.

Insert at end of sixth paragraph:

‘Council also calls on all members to work together to deliver a legal and balanced budget protect the services that residents deserve, and to renew its request to Government, in writing with a letter signed by all Group Leaders to fund Wirral fairly to do so in the forthcoming settlement on or around December 19th.’

2. PROTECTING THE SERVICES OUR RESIDENTS WANT

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist
Seconded by Councillor Stuart Kelly

Paragraph 1 – insert after ‘...rely upon ‘:

‘but recognises that this has become more difficult in this period of high inflation, increased material costs and shortages, along with fluctuating energy prices.’

Paragraph 1 – insert at the start of the second sentence:

‘Council recognises that’

Paragraph 1 – insert at end of second sentence:

‘and supports the ongoing programme of reducing overheads and the number of buildings.’

Paragraph 3 - insert after ‘...is performing ‘:

‘so welcomes plans to secure a closer working relationship with its contractors to manage and target resources that are under pressure.’

Paragraph 5 – insert after ‘...income families..’:

‘due, in the main, to the valuations used in this unfair system which is overdue for overhaul or replacement. However, it is clear that final budgets and Council Tax levels can only be finalised in the full knowledge of the settlement expected to be announced by the Government on or around 19 December.’

Paragraph 6 – insert after ‘...can afford.’:

‘In so doing, Council recognises the very real constraints that have been made clear by Cllr Izzy Seccombe, the Leader of the Conservative Group on the Local Government Association, when she set out her honest assessment of the situation facing us all...

‘Without immediate additional funding, councils will face increasingly difficult decisions about which services to stop providing, meaning not just isolated closures of individual facilities but significant cuts to the services people rely on, including those to the most vulnerable. It is important that we are honest with central government about these pressures’

(<https://conservativehome.com/2022/11/18/izzi-seccombe-local-government-is-ready-to-step-up-to-the-financial-challenge-by-championing-innovation-and-partnership-working/>)’

3. WIRRAL NEEDS MORE TRAIN SERVICES NOT LESS

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Steve Foulkes

Seconded by Councillor Sue Percy

Insert at end:

‘Furthermore Council supports the Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram in his Campaign to establish a “London Style Public Transport System “ across the Liverpool City Region.

Additionally, Council notes that there is a review meeting with Mersey Rail already arranged for the 8th December and Wirral Council calls for the outcome of that meeting to notified to Council straight away.

Council calls on Councillors on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee to continue to work together to ensure the best possible level of service for all Wirral Rail users and regrets the operational issues currently being experienced on the Chester Line.

Council notes that at the last meeting of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee, public assurances were given to review the current situation in light of public comments and submissions from Ward Councillors and we should all work together to bring about improvements as soon as possible.'