

with Torus/Bamboo be suspended to allow the Council the opportunity to fully investigate the use of social housing stock as de facto private rented houses.

4. SUPPORT FOR NEW FERRY *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Warren Ward

Seconded by Councillor Phil Davies

Following the devastating explosion in New Ferry, hundreds of Wirral residents and businesses have been affected. Residents' homes have been destroyed or badly damaged and local businesses have had to close, forcing many local people into unemployment, along with hundreds of residents who were injured, including the tragic case of a 21 year-old man who almost lost his life.

On behalf of the people of New Ferry and Port Sunlight, this Council agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and also the Prime Minister to urge the government to provide New Ferry with urgent financial support and to meet with community leaders and residents affected on site in New Ferry for them to see first-hand the absolute devastation caused by the explosion.

5. SECURING OUR ECONOMY IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD *(to be debated)*

Proposed by Councillor Phil Gilchrist

Seconded by Councillor Dave Mitchell

Council notes that the Queen's Speech included commitments to honour the process of Brexit as interpreted by the Government. In particular, it aspired to securing 'the best possible deal', building the 'widest possible consensus' for our future 'outside the European union', providing 'certainty for individuals and businesses' and 'forging new trading relationships across the globe'.

Council also notes that, in his Mansion House speech, the Chancellor of the Exchequer placed his emphasis on 'maintaining our strong trade links with European markets after we leave the EU, as well as seeking out new opportunities for trade and investment with old friends and fast growing emerging economies alike'.

Council is anxious, however, that the route to reaching these new arrangements is unlikely to be smooth and without difficulty and will have an impact on the national and Wirral economy. The Wirral economy benefits greatly from the presence of Vauxhalls. There is a real risk of administrative barriers, paperwork and tariffs affecting the supply chains, ease of assembly and production of vehicles.

Council, therefore, appreciates the concerns put by Mike Hawes, Chief Executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, who has reportedly said:

"We waited patiently to hear how the Government square the circle of leaving the single market and the customs union while maintaining our competitiveness. We have asked for clarity and certainty".