



Wirral Borough Council  
Town Hall  
Brighton Street  
Wallasey  
Wirral CH44 8ED



Mr. Marcus Jones MP  
Minister for Local Government  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

4<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Dear Mr. Jones

Further to our ongoing correspondence concerning Wirral Council's flagrant disregard for the Code of Practice for Local Authority Publicity I have taken the liberty of enclosing some hard copies of the first edition for you and your officials to peruse. There is also an e-edition available at the following link: <https://issuu.com/wirralview/docs/5997-1477048224>

I would respectfully like to draw your attention to the following highly contentious and political articles:

Page 3 – Children's services to get major investment where the Cabinet Member for Children's Services has been given a platform to defend the Council's abysmal Ofsted inspection without challenge.

Page 3 – Your views needed on budget plans where the Council Leader is quoted as saying "Wirral has to make over £100 million in cuts over the next four years – on top of the more than £150 million we've already had to absorb since 2010" with absolutely no reference to the alternative funding streams the government has made available to this Council.

Page 9 – 10,000 responses received to food recycling survey. The proposals to change the Authority's waste collection service is a highly contentious political issue an opposition councillors have not been able to contribute their thoughts.

Page 11 – Leader's column in which the Council Leader admits that existing advertising budgets will be diverted away from other channels and media which will no doubt threaten the independent, free and vibrant press that currently plays an important part in holding local politicians to account.

Page 22 – Young Voices – a quick internet search shows the subject in the article is "Proud Liverpudlian, Love Star Wars & Doctor Who, interested in politics, science & History. Political activist & member of @WallaseyCLP & @thefabians "

As you know we have consistently used the provisions in the Council's Constitution to oppose the production of this newspaper and have been clear that it would contravene the guidance set out in the Recommended Code of Practice for Local Authority Publicity, specifically the frequency of publication and that it was an inappropriate use of taxpayers' money.

However those avenues have now been exhausted and production of this monthly newspaper is established. I am therefore sincerely hoping that you will use the tools at your disposal to ensure compliance with the Code of practice on local authority publicity (Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, Part 7, Section 39) at the earliest opportunity.

If a representative from your Department wishes to speak to me further or needs any more information they can contact me directly on [REDACTED]

With very best wishes [REDACTED]