

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	Councillor Angela Davies
CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR	Jobs & Growth
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to her portfolio.

A THRIVING LOCAL ECONOMY

At the start of this month, we reached a major milestone in our efforts to kick-start development at Wirral Waters. A major new housing scheme, comprising an initial 500 apartments, was agreed at Cabinet.

This is just the start. We know this first housing scheme will trigger further developments at the site, including a major care complex and further modern residential scheme. We're also improving the local infrastructure in the area, and the Wirral Waters One development will also include new retail options and local amenities for the people living in the new homes.

These developments are vital. We have been resolute in our commitment to brownfield developments first, as we continue in our efforts to protect Wirral's Green Belt.

We have been clear with every developer and landowner in this borough who has planning permissions in place: we will support you every step of the way, but we need you to build the homes you promised.

The Wirral Waters One proposal shows just how serious we are in our determination to get brownfield sites developed. These types of schemes are always difficult for private developers to make viable. The council has stepped in and made it work, securing national funding to improve local infrastructure and devising a commercial approach which will see the financing put in place.

It will also help Wirral in the longer term by generating ongoing revenue from the homes which are built which can be used to help unlock additional brownfield sites for development.

This is an exciting proposition which will play a significant part in helping us to deliver the new housing which the area so desperately needs and will also help kick-start even more development on one of the key regeneration sites in Wirral.

Read more about the Wirral Waters One development [here](#).

Work also continues on our exciting Wirral Growth Company initiative. This programme will create thousands of new jobs, alongside new housing developments, leisure and office complexes throughout the borough in key locations.

Final preparations are being made to the business plan and development schedule and we expect to bring forward initial proposals for consideration and consultation very soon.

I am incredibly excited to confirm to the Chamber that we may soon be welcoming Eureka! Children's museum to the Wirral Waterfront, after the scheme was successful in securing £3m from the Inspiring Science fund.

The forthcoming £11m centre, set to transform Merseytravel's Spaceport in Wirral, was one of two fund recipients in the Liverpool City Region, alongside Widnes-based Catalyst.

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) cash will be instrumental in developing the Eureka! brand's second UK visitor centre. The site is set to open in 2021 and will be turned into 2,200 sq m of interactive exhibition space with workshops, a shop, café and adjoining outdoor science park.

Eureka! Mersey will build on the success of the National Children's Museum in Halifax, which has welcomed more than 7m visitors since it opened in 1992. Eureka! has been a huge success in Halifax as a very popular visitor attraction with a serious remit to instill excitement and interest in science, technology, engineering and maths.

I'm sure it will help attract visitors to Wirral as well as inspiring our next generation. We have a long-term ambition to encourage more girls to study STEM subjects in school and having Eureka! here in the city region will definitely support that aim.

Read more about Eureka! In the [Liverpool Echo](#).