



## Scrutiny Programme Board Special Meeting

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Thursday, 11 November 2010</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>4.30 pm</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Committee Room 3 - Wallasey Town Hall</b>

**Contact Officer:** Mark Delap  
**Tel:** 0151 691 8500  
**e-mail:** [markdelap@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:markdelap@wirral.gov.uk)  
**Website:** <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

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### AGENDA

**1. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP**

Members are asked to consider whether they have personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they are.

Members are reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they are subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

**2. ALLOCATION OF CALL-IN NOTICE (Pages 1 - 2)**

The views of the Scrutiny Programme Board are sought with regard to the allocation of the Call-In Notice in relation to The Sail Project (Cabinet minute 160 (14 October 2010) refers), which has been submitted by the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Labour Group, Councillor S Foulkes and Councillor P Davies.

It is entirely a matter for the Board whether it chooses to consider the Call-In itself, or to refer it to one or more of the themed Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Members should note that the call-in should be considered by overview and scrutiny no later than 22 November 2010. In anticipation of a Special Meeting being required of whichever committee will consider it, Members of Council Excellence, Economy and Regeneration and Sustainable Communities have been asked to keep free 22 November for this purpose if they are able to. No other provisional arrangements have been made.

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## Cabinet Minute 160 - October 14<sup>th</sup> The Sail Project.

### Reasons for Call In.

- This project was set up to secure a world class sailing school and supporting facilities for the West Kirby Marine Lake, and the Hotel development on the Dee Lane Car Park is the enabling development to achieve that goal.
- The need for that world class sailing school and supporting facilities for the Marine Lake has not changed and there is no other source of finance available now, or likely to be in the future, given the current financial climate.
- This project has taken considerable time to develop, is in the last stages before Heads of Terms for the Development Agreement are finalised, and the developer remains committed to the project.
- Another quality hotel in Wirral would be of benefit because, as the Merseyside Partnership acknowledges, “it would attract investment and bring significant benefits to the tourism offer in Wirral”. This is particularly the case with the advent of the Open Golf.
- Any development, particularly in this current economic climate, will require a level of compromise in order to achieve the primary goals.
- There is still time to consider the best way of mitigating the loss of those parking spaces and accompanying traffic issues, provided that any investigation is set in the broader context of the interests of West Kirby as a whole. However, that time has been denied to officers and to the Developer by the Cabinet decision to abort the whole project at this late stage.
- A rejection of the project at this late stage sends out a very negative message to potential investors in Wirral who may be wary in the future of investing time and money into development projects that can be cancelled in this arbitrary way, and who may believe in future that Wirral politicians are prepared to allow a small and vocal minority, resistant to change, to over-ride the interests of the wider community.

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