

## **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.