

MINUTE EXTRACT

BUSINESS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 29 NOVEMBER 2017

32 NOTICE OF MOTION: WIRRAL WELL-MADE NEED FOR INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

The Chair reported that at the meeting of the Council held on 16 October, 2017 (minute 68 (4) refers), the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Chris Blakeley and seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie was referred by the Mayor to this Committee for consideration –

WIRRAL WELL-MADE NEED FOR INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

“Council notes that in Moreton more than 500 new houses will be built in the next two/three years including:

- 297 on the former Burton’s site
- 122 on the former Fernbank Farm site and
- a number (yet to be determined) on the former Foxfield School.

However at the recent ‘Moreton Conversation’ it was clear that, while plans to push forward with the initiative were welcomed, no thought had been given to provide adequate infrastructure to support the proposals including additional education, health and public transport provision.

Council therefore requests the Leader of the Council to put in place, alongside these proposals, plans to ensure that fully adequate infrastructure is designed which will include working with Merseytravel to bring forward the plans for the provision of the long overdue and much needed Town Meadow Railway Station.”

In accordance with Standing Order 7 (6), Councillor Blakeley had been invited to attend the meeting in order for him to be given an opportunity to explain the Motion.

Councillor Blakeley elaborated on the motion which had also been referred to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The proposed Town Meadow Railway station had been in the planning since 1984 and at a cost of £8m-£9m would bring real benefits to the area.

Councillor Ron Abbey stated that the proposed station had always been an aspiration but unfortunately Merseytravel had had a third of its budget cut since 2010 and funding was not currently in place to support it.

Councillor Blakeley stated that a business case had previously been undertaken which supported the proposal as had a survey undertaken by Mott Macdonald on behalf of Merseytravel in 2010.

The Strategic Commissioner for Environment commented upon the process of planning colleagues’ involvement when there were large scale developments and a transport assessment process in which any pressures on the local network would be

highlighted. Sometimes a Section 106 agreement could also be used. With regard to education services he gave details of the ratio of school places required to new houses being built and also referred to the fact that quite a number of schools had spare capacity.

Members expressed support for the need to look at infrastructure, particularly when it was proposed to build 3,500 new homes in Wirral by 2020. The Chair referred to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority which was currently looking at the issue of spatial development.

Resolved (unanimously) – That the motion be referred to Merseytravel and officers in Forward Planning for a report to be brought back to this Committee.