

Motion 4 - Supporting the Streetcar proposals for Wirral Waters

Proposed by: Councillor Pat Cleary

Seconded by: Councillor Andrew Gardner

Council notes;

- The brownfield-first policy contained in the draft local plan which commits Wirral to building 12,000 new homes on brownfield sites by 2035
- That work has already commenced on providing the first new homes at Wirral Waters
- That the new Eureka facility is expected to attract up to 200,000 visitors p.a. to Seacombe within a few years

Council also notes the proposals by Peel Holdings to incorporate a Streetcar light rail system as an integral part of creating a modern, sustainable transport scheme to support the wider aims of the Wirral Waters development. Council welcomes the positive comments of the Council Leader regarding the Streetcar proposals during the debate on the Local Plan consultation at Full Council on January 13th, 2020.

Council believes the Streetcar proposals offer many potential benefits including:

- creating a sustainable, potentially zero-carbon transport infrastructure for Wirral Waters;
- minimising car dependency and associated land use, thereby freeing up more land for green spaces and residential development as well as easing pressure on our precious green belt;
- attracting more people to Wirral as a tourist attraction in its own right
- linking existing rail and ferry transport hubs, thereby creating an integrated public transport system that will support residential, commercial and tourism objectives.

Council therefore believes that progress on the Streetcar scheme is vital if Wirral Waters is to achieve its full potential for the people of Wirral and that effective cooperation between all relevant parties including Peel Holdings, Wirral Council and Merseytravel is essential to its future success.

To that end, Council looks forward to rapid progress in bringing forward and implementing the first stage of the Streetcar plans as a basis for assessing its potential and viability to serve the wider East Wirral area. Council requests that the leader provides regular feedback on progressing these plans.