

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

(Meeting held on 12 March 2020)

1. WATERSIDE RAIL LINK MOTION

The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel, having discussed and considered the motion from Cllr Harrison regarding supporting the resumption of a rail link along the Waterside, is reporting back to Council.

Members received an update from the Chief Planning Officer regarding the work being carried out in the Waterside area in relation to transport, in terms of both road and rail. It was noted that the principle of supporting rail transport was in the National Planning Policy guidance. It was also noted that Hampshire County Council would be submitting a bid to request funding for a feasibility study into the resumption of a rail link along the Waterside.

Members expressed their views in relation to the motion. Some Members felt that they could not support the motion as it was presented to them and therefore, amendments to the motion were considered. It was agreed to amend the first part of the motion to express support to the principle of rail transport in general. Members also agreed to supporting the HCC bid for funding into a feasibility study into a proposed rail link along the Waterside.

RECOMMENDED:

That the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel advise the Council that it is supportive of the following amended motion:

- (i) That this Council supports the principle of rail transport, and therefore supports the Hampshire County Council bid for the funding of a feasibility study into the resumption of a rail link along the Waterside as part of a strategic transport infrastructure in the light of planned development in the south waterside area. Officers will be tasked to work closely with HCC staff to ensure oversight on planning issues and economic and environmental viability are maintained and resolved.***

**COUNCILLOR STEVE RIPPON-SWAINE
CHAIRMAN, ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL**

Note – the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel continue to receive regular progress updates on this matter.