

NOTICE OF MOTION – CLLR W FORSTER – LOCATION OF WOKING'S RAIL AGGREGATES YARD

Executive Summary

At its meeting on 14 October 2021, the Council referred the following Notice of Motion to the Executive.

Councillor W Forster

“The Victoria Arch widening scheme has brought into focus that Woking's rail aggregates yard is in a completely unsuitable location.

The Council agrees to use its best endeavours to encourage Network Rail, Surrey County Council and other partners to move the aggregates yard to a more appropriate and non-residential location.”

Officer Comment

“The Goods Yard has been in existence since the railway was built in Victorian times, providing a means of getting various goods to the Woking area. Day Aggregates has operated from Woking Goods Yard since the mid-1980s, fulfilling demand from a wide range of local customers. The local area has seen a dramatic increase in construction activity and this has demanded significant quantities of aggregates. Some 300 train loads of construction aggregates are imported to the Goods Yard each year, replacing more than 14,000 long-distance lorry journeys that would otherwise amount to roughly 2.5 million HGV ‘road miles’. The aggregates site is safeguarded by policy MC6 of the Surrey Minerals Plan 2011 Core Strategy Development Plan Document.

Notwithstanding the above, having an aggregates yard in the middle of the town centre is neither sustainable or desirable. Officers are in constant dialogue with Network Rail and raised the issue some time ago that an alternative location should be considered. The lead Executive Member is formally writing to Network Rail to express that consideration be given to finding a suitable alternative. Given the sites importance to the economy of the local area, the associated reduction in road miles the yard provides and its safeguarding under the County Council's Minerals Plan any relocation would need to be carefully planned with all stakeholders and lead by Network Rail as the land owner.”

Background Papers: None.

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