

Warrington Local Plan Examination

Hearing Session Note Action 25

Matters 6f - Agenda Item 6 (Infrastructure requirements and costs) - Consideration given to multi-modal employment growth opportunities in the Borough.

5th October 2022

The Council has existing policies contained in its Local Transport Plan (LTP4) to support multi-modal freight. These are set out below:

- Policy FM8 - We will work with partners to identify ways of increasing the use of rail freight
- Policy FM9 - We will continue to support sustainable economic activity generated and sustained by the Manchester Ship Canal and the West Coast Main Line
- Policy FM10 - We will support the development of intermodal freight facilities in Warrington, including Port Warrington

In the development of LTP4 the Council employed specialist consultants with experience of freight operations to inform the policies and background supporting LTP4.

The Local Plan took into account LTP4's policies and evidence base in its preparation.

With regard to specific sites, the potential for multi-modality was considered as part of the EDNA site assessment process.

Port Warrington – which has the potential of rail, ship and road inter-modality – was one of the highest scoring employment sites through the EDNA site assessment process, but was not included due to constraints which would prevent the allocation coming forward at the present time (see Council's Matters Statement 3.01). Port Warrington will however be considered as part of a future review of Warrington's long term employment land needs.

Whilst Fiddlers Ferry does have existing rail access, it is considered unlikely the site will be able to provide a multi-modal facility given the stated preference of Government to use the rail line serving Fiddlers Ferry for Northern Powerhouse Rail.

The Council has also considered the potential of land to the south of Birchwood station. This would not provide any rail freight opportunities but could facilitate station improvements and a park and ride scheme at the station as well as employment uses in proximity to the station. The Council has however significant concerns regarding underlying peat in this location and the business case for the station improvements and park and ride (see Council's Matters Statement 3.01). The Council will however consider land south of Birchwood as part of a future review of Warrington's long term employment land needs.