

MOTION ON NOTICE



Date of Council Meeting: 19 June 2023

Title of Motion:

The formation of a Strategic Working Group to progress a railway station in the East of Plymouth

Motion Narrative and Action Required:

The populations of Plympton and Sherford continue to grow, and with a Free Port site planned for Langage, it would seem vital to hasten the exploration of new railway station in the East of the City. The provision of a new railway station on the main rail line would improve connectivity, support economic growth and reduce the City's reliance on road transport.

The proposal to open a Plympton station, in conjunction with an electric "Devon Metro" transit system for Plymouth is mentioned in the South West Devon joint Local Plan, P45 Section 3.60, a plan that was adopted in 2019 and received cross-party support.

In 2020 an online petition was initiated, that has since gone on to collect over 1700 signatures signifying strong public support for a new station.

In 2021 Rail manufacturer Alstom recognised Plymouth's potential as a city which could benefit from a mass transit system in their report - The UK's New Green Age: A Step Change in Transport Decarbonisation

Since the adoption of South West Devon joint Local Plan little progress has been made with securing a new station for the East of Plymouth, meanwhile Exeter and Torbay have made progress with establishing two new stations at Marsh Barton and Edginswell.

The formation of a Strategic Working Group will send a clear message to the residents, business and industry that the Council is planning transport infrastructure necessary for sustainable economic development.

Therefore Council recommends to the Cabinet

1. To form a Strategic Working Group alongside stakeholders such as Network Rail, Rail Operators, Rail User Groups, Devon County Council, and the Peninsular Rail Task Force, to further the opening of a railway station to service the growing communities of Plympton, Sherford, the commercial area of Langage and the new Free Port site.
2. The group will provide the focus needed to identify a suitable site, produce a robust business case and secure the necessary funding required to build the station.

Proposer Email: Cllr Ian Poyser
Seconder Email: Cllr Lauren McLay