

## Cross Party Motion

Merton Council supports the strategic case for Crossrail 2 and recognises the benefits it would provide to London and could bring to Merton. However, our support for Crossrail2 is not at any cost and the Council has strong reservations about the proposals, which have recently been subject to consultation.

In particular we are concerned about the impact of those proposals on our town centres and particularly Wimbledon, which is now in a uniquely vulnerable position. These proposals would bring about an unacceptable level of upheaval and disruption to our residents and our business community for an extended period of up to ten years: to a greater extent than we are aware has occurred in any other town centre in recent history.

Wimbledon is a very successful business centre with a low vacancy rate and a current unmet demand for modern office accommodation. We believe that it is vital that the vibrancy and quality of Wimbledon town centre is maintained before, during and after Crossrail2 works. We note that more than 3000 jobs are at stake.

Wimbledon SW19 is a globally recognised brand that has enormous potential for the future. This Council believes that Crossrail2 must fulfil that potential and not damage it. We understand that the consultation scheme is an early concept design. However, if the current proposals are not changed, we would be forced to reconsider our support for the project.

This Council believes that the options for delivering Crossrail2 through the Borough should be reassessed fundamentally with a view to minimising disruption and ensuring that businesses continue to prosper in a high quality town centre that retains the heritage and essential qualities of Wimbledon that we all cherish.

We are also concerned at the potential negative impacts on Raynes Park and Motspur Park. Changes to these stations will be required and there need to be viable alternatives to the level crossings. We note that "diversions" as quoted as one option put forward seems to mean "close the level crossing and expect all vehicles to find alternative routes"

which would lead to increased traffic congestion in the Raynes Park / West Barnes area. Closure of the level crossing at Motspur Park could result in many of the local businesses leaving.

We invite Crossrail2 to join the Council, Love Wimbledon, landowners and our residents in a comprehensive master-planning process to create a framework for the future of Wimbledon based on the principles set out in this motion.

Cllr Andrew Judge: Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability & Regeneration

Cllr Oonagh Moulton: Leader of the Conservative Group and Leader of the Opposition

Cllr Peter Southgate: Leader of the Merton Park Independent Group