

SYMMETRY PARK AT CRONTON COLLIERY, MERSEYSIDE

PUBLIC CONSULTATION TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS INFORMATION

- 1.1 Vectos is advising Tritax Symmetry Ltd on a proposed commercial warehousing development and Country Park on land to the south of the M62 in Knowsley, which forms part of the allocated Halsnead Garden Village strategic development site in the Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (adopted in 2016). Halsnead Garden Village is located immediately to the east of the M62 Junction 6 (also known as the ‘Tarbock Island’ roundabout). It is a strategic site allocation that will deliver approximately 1,600 homes and at least 22.5ha of employment land, and forms a key element of Knowsley’s planned growth strategy over this Local Plan period.
- 1.2 Vectos are developing the transport and access strategy to support the proposed Symmetry Park scheme at Cronton Colliery, including the vehicular access arrangements to serve the site, access proposals for sustainable transport modes and the assessment of the traffic impacts.
- 1.3 The transport work to support the planning application involves close engagement with Knowsley Council Highways (local road network), Highways England (Trunk Road – M62) and Merseytravel (public transport) to ensure robust assessments, strategies and proposals are agreed to demonstrate that the proposed development can come forward being policy compliant and without having a severe impact on the transport network.
- 1.4 The traffic impact assessment work is underpinned by the collection of traffic survey data for an extensive network of off-site junctions around the site as agreed with Knowsley Council Highways.
- 1.5 The Halsnead Garden Village Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) indicates up to three vehicular access points into the whole employment allocation at land to the south of the M62, all off the A5080 Cronton Road. The proposed vehicular access arrangements for Symmetry Park are broadly in line with the eastern most access position (number 5) as shown in the Access and Movement Framework in the SPD.

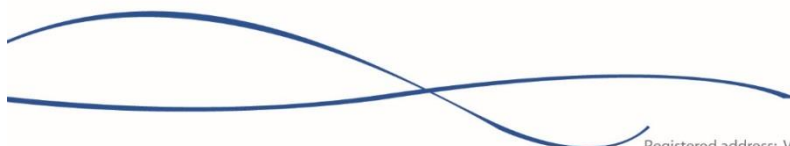




Figure 1: Access and Movement Framework (Halsnead Garden Village SPD)

- 1.6 The proposed vehicular access is a ghost island junction arrangement. The access has been designed with reference to the relevant design standards, and surveyed traffic flows on Cronton Road and forecast development traffic flows to inform junction capacity requirements.
- 1.7 Guidance within the Halsnead Garden Village Design and Local Distinctiveness Guide (May 2020) has also been taken into account to ensure an acceptable street typology and provision for pedestrians and cyclists.
- 1.8 The access proposals also include a new pedestrian crossing, and the retention and improvement of the existing bus stop provision on Cronton Road adjacent to the site.

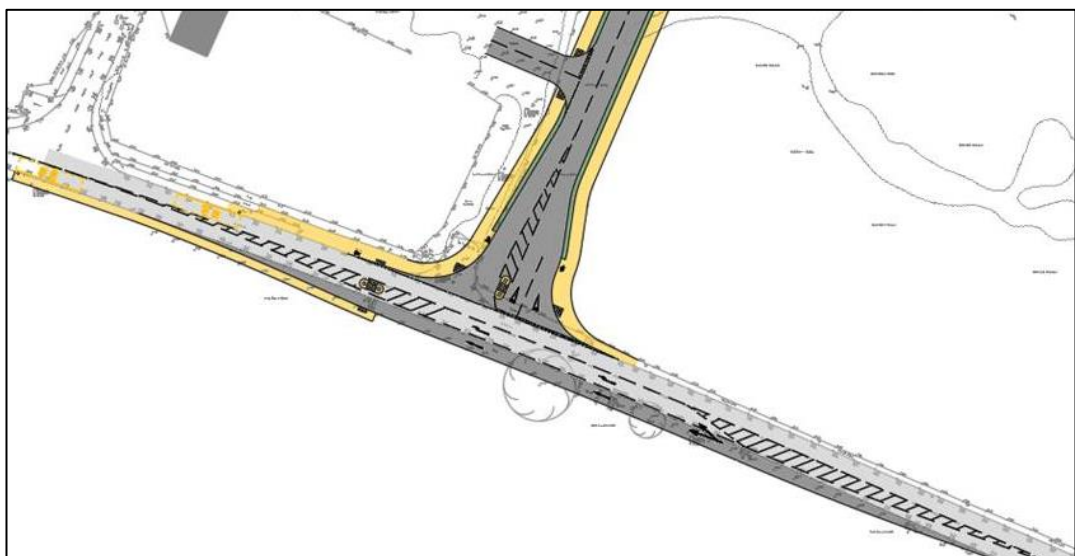


Figure 2: Proposed Site Access Arrangement from Cronton Road

- 1.9 The site is directly accessible by bus, with the number 7 service operating along Cronton Road. This provides a connection between Liverpool City Centre and Warrington via Huyton all through the week. Bus 7 does provide the opportunity for links to rail stations at Liverpool, Huyton and Warrington (Bank Quay and Central).

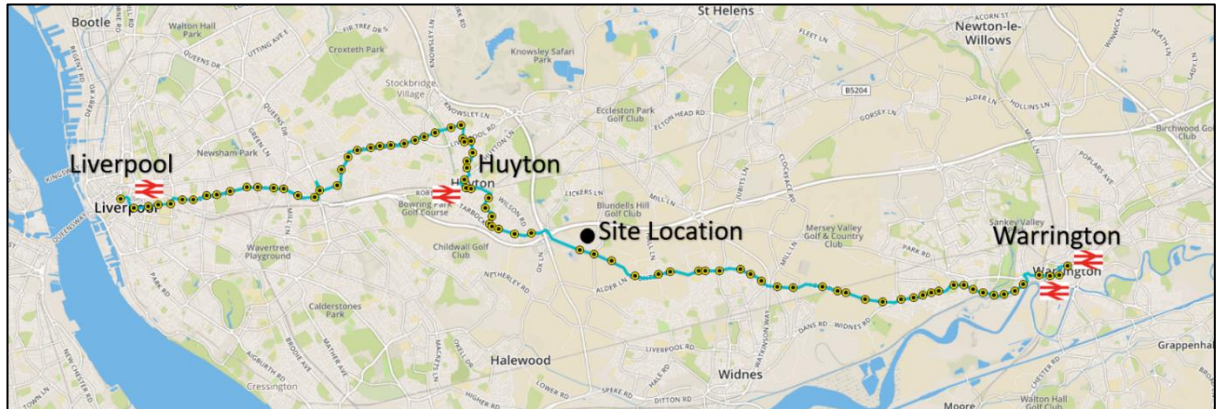


Figure 3: Bus 7 Route

- 1.10 Pre-application discussions with Merseytravel are reviewing potential opportunities for accommodating bus access within the internal site layout, and Vectos are developing a sustainable access strategy for the site which will detail proposed bus access improvements as agreed with Merseytravel.
- 1.11 The Symmetry Park development will include a pedestrian and cycle connection on the route of the former Cronton Colliery mineral railway line that runs west-east through the site to the south of the M62. The pedestrian / cycle link would serve the commercial warehousing development and link to the adjacent proposed Country Park via a new pedestrian footbridge over the main site access road.
- 1.12 As part of the wider Halsnead Garden Village development area, it is proposed for the existing footbridge structure across the M62 to reopen to connect the developments north and south of the M62.
- 1.13 The main pedestrian / cycle link through the site is proposed to form part of the wider Sustainable Urban Development Prescott to Cronton Cycleway route that is being promoted and brought forward by Knowsley Council.

1.14 The traffic impact assessment being undertaken by Vectos will be consistent with the trip forecasts for the site that have already been developed as part of the work undertaken in support of Knowsley Council’s Single Investment Fund (SIF) Bid (Access to Halsnead Garden Village Outline and Full Business Cases), which identified a number of junction improvements as being required in the area to facilitate the Garden Village proposals to the north and south of the M62. The SIF Bid to the Liverpool City Region in 2017 and 2018 was successful and Knowsley Council successfully secured £12 million of Government funding to deliver part of the enabling infrastructure and off-site highway mitigation requirements for the Garden Village development. This includes the Tarbock Island roundabout, which will benefit from a £5 million capacity improvement scheme along with six other off-site junctions.

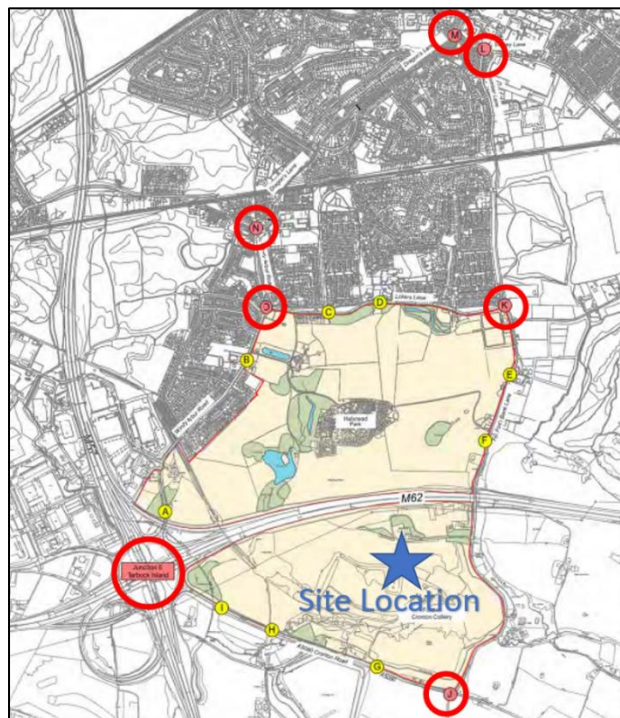


Figure 4: Committed Off-Site Junction Improvements Being Delivered Through SIF Funding

1.15 To support the planning application, Vectos propose to build upon the work undertaken to date and prepare a comprehensive Transport Assessment and Framework Travel Plan to support the planning application and address the access requirements, traffic impacts and improvements to sustainable transport infrastructure with regard to the proposed Symmetry Park scheme at Cronton Colliery.