From:
To:
Local Plan

Subject: Objection to local plan

Date: 13 November 2021 13:25:25

I wish to register my strong objection to the latest iteration of the Local Plan.

I do not support the irrecoverable loss of Green Belt land (over 1,400 acres), the majority of which is in South Warrington.

The Plan does not properly assess the corresponding environmental and ecological impact of the loss of the Green Belt land. I don't think you need to be an expert however to foresee that this will have a huge detrimental impact on the local environment in terms of loss of green space and wildlife habitats.

The existing Green Belt boundary was confirmed only 7 years ago in a plan that was supposed to be good for 20 years. Against the backdrop of a climate emergency, it is astounding that the Council sees it fit to revise the boundary in this way.

In my view, the Council should be prioritising the redevelopment of Brownfield sites across the Borough, in particular in the town centre, to provide any additional housing that is required. Many other town centres (such as Manchester and Liverpool) have changed their use significantly over the last two decades with urban living doubling in many cities due to access to work, culture and leisure activities. At the moment you're renewing many parts of the town centre but do not seem to be considering how young professionals could live there to take advantage of these facilities and how this would reduce the strain on the transport networks. Assuming the population wants out of town properties with few facilities does not seem to reflect the changes occurring in other parts of the UK.

Furthermore, the Local Plan does not provide sufficient detail of how infrastructure would be improved to accommodate the increased population.

## **Transportation**

The existing infrastructure is insufficient to serve the existing population of South Warrington, never mind the increased population that the Local Plan would bring. There is no train station to serve South Warrington; travel into central Warrington is dependent on the aged and overloaded bridge crossings, with frequent closure to allow for boats; and traffic throughout the town is frequently gridlocked due to motorway incidents.

## **Shops and amenities**

The largest supermarket in the area is Morrisons. The traffic leaving this site regularly overloads the current road system in Stockton Heath and a large number of additional housing would further add to these issues.

In summary this is, in my view, an ill-considered plan.

Regards

Steve Lowndes,