

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Plan](#)
Subject: No more development on greenbelt!
Date: 13 November 2021 19:33:38

To whom it may concern,

The case that is made for the green belt release not sound. The The Plan refers to an annual “target”, may I remind you that, Christopher Pincher MP (Housing Minister) in parliament on the 2nd of March 2021 stated that, “the standard method for assessing local housing need is only the starting point in the process of planning for new homes it is not a housing target.” Instead it is a starting point. The Council appear to have used this as a target and then increased the numbers via further uplift of 10% generating a total requirement of 16,157 homes over an 18 year period. See also point (i) above.

The Plan, at point 4.1.10 of the document, Confirms that Warrington has an urban capacity of approximately 11,800 homes that could be built on brownfield sites, the annual “target” pre the 10% uplift of 816 homes (which I considered to be un sound and excessive), Implies that there is sufficient Brownfield land to support a 14 1/2 year building program. On this basis there is no need to release any greenbelt until sometime well beyond the first decade of this plan.

The priority of the Council should be renewal of the town centre and the development of Brownfield sites not release of the greenbelt.

There is no need for greenbelt release for well over 10 years using the councils own numbers if the Brownfield land available is remediated. The council have some £1.7Bn billion of borrowings much of which relates to investments. If some of these investments were realised the capital recovered could be put to local use in remediation of the Brownfield sites. The councils priority should be that of regeneration of the town centre and the Brownfield sites around Warrington.

The plan is not sound, in that it will increase air pollution levels in the already highly polluted areas of Stockton Heath, Latchford and London Road. Any plan cannot be sound in that increases the unacceptable levels of air pollution already experienced in South Warrington.

The plan is not sound because it releases greenbelt immediately and will divert investment from the regeneration of the town centre and the Brownfield sites around the town. A sound plan would delay any greenbelt release until at least the first five years of the plan were completed at which time when the plan is reviewed The significant changes to lifestyles and work patterns caused by Brexit, Covid, and the climate emergency as well as the most up-to-date ONS data may well confirm that no greenbelt release is required to support the growth of Warrington.

A sound plan would preserve the greenbelt when there is so much uncertainty regarding the real future demand for housing in the towns and cities of England.

The plan is not sound its sacrifices the pleasant green spaces of South Warrington for no valid reasons, it is harmful to the environment, unsustainable in the context of the climate emergency, unjustified when looking at the 2018 ONS data, detrimental to the plans of developing the town centre, detrimental to the remediation and improvement of brown

field land, contrary to the maintenance of distinctive and separate villages, woefully inadequate in terms of infrastructure to support in particular the greenbelt development, woefully inadequate in terms of concrete proposals for the funding of infrastructure and services. The plan appears to have one purpose which is the unjustified and premature release of greenbelt. A greenbelt that should be protected for the future generations of people living in Warrington able to enjoy the green spaces the people of Warrington enjoyed today.

To progress the plan now is not sound, given the government's latest announcements and Michael Gove's comments regarding the protection of the greenbelt and the ending of housing targets.

PLEASE listen to the people of Warrington, and the scientists and campaigners who are fighting to stop spiralling global temperature rises. We need these green spaces TO LIVE; for make air, to purify air, for food security in the way of supporting biodiversity, and as carbon sinks.

PLEASE wake up to the climate and ecological emergency we are in. Development might trigger short term financial benefits, but at what cost? Our health? Our homes being lost to flooding?

Our future survival?

Yours sincerely,

Holly Buckard.