From:
To: Local Plan
Cc:

Subject: Objection to the local plan

Date: 14 November 2021 20:09:53

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to object to the Warrington Local Plan on the grounds that the plan is not sound and does not justify such large scale development on green belt.

Given the climate crisis, which has been declared by Warrington Borough Council itself, I do not believe this Local Plan to have the best interests of current and future generations of residents in consideration.

The large scale warehousing area proposed in South Warrington on green belt is not justified given the amount of empty warehouse units and the inability for the sector to even be able to hire HGV drivers to drive the lorries required to operate from such motorway hub areas. Developments like this should be built by railways with a view to move the transportation on to rail rather than add yet more polluting HGVs to the roads, impacting residents health through the air pollution as well as adding to the already serious traffic issues. These developments do not offer significant employment opportunities as suggested as the warehouse work is typically automated and those living in the affluent local area of South Warrington are not the people who will fill these jobs meaning commuters moving through the area causing more traffic and pollution.

The development would destroy a significant area of green belt, where wildlife is supported and people benefit from the views to the Pennines and the mental health benefits of the countryside area.

They would also have a detrimental impact on the health of local people due to the pollution from particulates from HGVs and reduction of countryside to counteract carbon emissions.

I especially also oppose the large amount of new housing proposed for South Warrington. The government will be reviewing the calculations again on which the housing numbers are based and Greenbelt should not be built on unless an absolute last resort when all brownfield sites have been used and the calculations really justify it. The housing in South Warrington will just be taken up by people commuting to Manchester and Liverpool due to the lack of affordability of housing in this area.

It will also ruin the character of the area, building on large areas of countryside which give local people the semi rural lifestyle that is good for their health and well-being as well as being desirable to live in.

It will also ruin the character of the villages by merging the villages in to each other and overrunning them with housing.

Furthermore the plan lacks details about how exactly the infrastructure will be set up to support such a large number of new residents in an area which already suffered from traffic bottlenecks with limited crossings of the Bridgewater canal and no solution provided; oversubscribed schools but no guarantees of when new schools will be built; and other amenities such as medical centres.

If Warrington Borough Council are really committed to cutting the climate change impact, they should not be proposing huge development on green belt, destroying the countryside permanently and adding thousands of extra houses and vehicles to the the area, and with no climate friendly transport changes, in areas where people are dependent on cars. The numbers need to be reduced and the redevelopment and better utilisation of brownfield and town centre space needs to be prioritised. Once built on, green belt can never be recovered, and given the climate crisis, this should not form part of the plan.

I therefore oppose the Local Plan and ask that the numbers be reviewed in line with the governments revisions and a green climate friendly Local Plan be developed with commitments made to not developing in green belt.

Regards

