

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Local Plan](#)  
**Subject:** Warrington draft local plan  
**Date:** 14 November 2021 21:16:11

---

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to state my objections to the local plan that has been published for consultation for Warrington.

The Council has declared a climate emergency and supported the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill. The aims of this Bill are to avoid climate catastrophe and to protect nature. I do not believe the local plan is in keeping with these aims. I strongly urge you to think again about how best to protect nature within our town and to avoid implementing any policies that will contribute to the climate catastrophe. The release of greenbelt and development that encourages the use of cars is directly at odds with our global, national and local aims to reduce the release of carbon into the atmosphere.

The case has not been made for the number of houses in the plan. The 2018 ONS data predicts significantly lower growth for the town. The Plan has not been adapted to take into account the latest data. Importantly the growth in housing numbers generated by the standard model are “not a target” but a starting point. This starting point should be amended to reflect the 2018 ONS data. Because of this failure to adapt the growth numbers driving the plans are not sound. The case that is made for the green belt release is not sound. The Plan refers to an annual “target”, but this is actually a starting point. The Council appears to have used this as a target and then increased the numbers.

I understand that there is sufficient brownfield land to support a significant amount of building. I would urge you to use this instead of any greenbelt. There is no need for greenbelt release for well over 10 years if the Brownfield land available is remediated. In the early years of the plan an enhanced stepped approach to the building figures could be taken which would allow for only the available brownfield sites to be developed. When Brownfield land is available for use there is no sustainable justification for the release of greenbelt land on the outskirts of the town. The release of greenbelt in the countryside surrounding the town and in particular the South East Urban Extension will create further car dependent suburbs, leading to further congestion, pollution and negatively impacting the climate change agenda of our town. The release of greenbelt for the building of the South East Urban extension is not sound and unsustainable given the context of a climate emergency.

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 South East Urban Extension has no provision for any form of mass transport other than the motor-vehicle and vague promises of public transport systems. The topography of the area that is ear marked for the South East Urban Extension makes realistic alternative

to the car almost impossible for journeys to and from the town or journeys to work.

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 that increases the unacceptable levels of air pollution already experienced in South Warrington cannot be considered sound.

The plan is not sound because it 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, and is woefully inadequate in terms of infrastructure. The greenbelt 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.

I strongly oppose the current plan and urge you to reconsider these proposals.

Yours faithfully,

Nicola Baird