

From: Janine Lewis [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 November 2021 10:42
To: Local Plan
Subject: Comments on the local plan

As a resident of South Warrington I say 'no' to this new local plan.

Please note my reasons as follows:

- Green Belt - this new plan sees around about 5% of of green belt land being reduced. With most of this loss occurring in the "Urban Extension" in South Warrington, it equates to 1000 hectares in South Warrington alone. There has been an addition to the plan at Thelwall Heys - with 310 houses proposed on this site - a site which was granted greenbelt status and protection back in 2006. There has been no reduction in the quality or ecological diversity of this area. As it currently stands, Thelwall Heys provides a much needed greenbelt corridor providing protection to that land, the adjoining Bridgewater Canal and stopping urban sprawl. This loss of greenbelt is in no way justified both here and to the proposed site for the 656 development. The council needs to first consider brown field sites elsewhere before releasing greenbelt, as this current plan does not convincingly show what the "Exceptional circumstances" are for developing on greenbelt.
- Housing - the housing proposed will not be affordable for most local residents, developers will only have to make 30% of the 2400 proposed to be built up to 2038 affordable. These new homes will be too far from all of the towns railway stations meaning there will be a heavy reliance on cars by new residents.
- Fit for purpose - I don't see how the plan is deliverable. The number of houses that are driving the plan are totally unrealistic when looking at what the town has achieved in the past. There are no clear plans on where roads will go, in particular there seems to be no plan to improve the A49 as it goes North from the M56. There is no clear proposal on how residents in South Warrington will travel into town. How will the increase in traffic be accommodated on the already busy crossing over the Ship Canal and Bridgewater Canal?
- Infrastructure - this plan is dependent on roads and bridges that are already overstretched.
- Congestion and air quality - the new plan in no way addresses existing issues around easing the problems of heavy congestion and poor air quality. It flies in the face of the UK's Climate Change aspirations.

The plan is just not sound:

No justification for loss of greenbelt

No requirement for the volume of houses or employment land

No justification for the predicted growth

No justification for the harm to ecology and air quality

No need to destroy the land and character or our villages

No clarity on how the currently transport infrastructure will cope with increased levels of traffic

No explanation on how the plan will be delivered.

Kind regards,

Janine Lewis

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