

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 November 2021 14:02
To: Local Plan
Subject: Response to draft Local Plan 2021

To whom it may concern:

Dear Sir,

The draft Local Plan answers the legal need to have a development plan for increasing the housing requirements of the borough but it is not sound in-so-far-as it does not adequately address the transport infrastructure needed for such a vast increase in population and other associated infrastructure needs. The **special problems** of a town divided by the River Mersey and The Manchester Ship Canal (crossed using four ageing Victorian bridges) and with the added divide of the C18th Bridgewater Canal in south Warrington, appear not to be addressed in the transport infrastructure proposals. There may be an assumption that a Mass Urban public transport system would stop car dependence but the probability of this is low given the current low uptake of bus services to the South East Urban Extension area. Without new crossings of the canals, the provision of hundreds of new homes in the south east part of Warrington would be unsustainable. The minimal proposed road improvements will be inadequate and there is **no plan** to overcome the problem of canal crossings.

In the area re-named as the South East Urban Extension, the council says new schools and medical and leisure centres will be needed but no concrete proposals are to be seen in the Plan. When would such facilities be developed and how would they be funded in a timely fashion in tandem with house-building?

The loss of Green Belt in the Borough has been reduced in the Plan from 11% in the 2019 version to 5% which is laudable but brownfield sites should be utilized before **any** Greenbelt is taken. The local press identified circa 150 such brownfield sites some of which could be part of a regeneration of the town centre. The communities on the outer fringes of the Borough, without improved road capacity to the town centre, will no doubt be more readily attracted to neighbouring shopping centres with easier access, rather than supporting Warrington town centre.

Yours sincerely,
Janet Tilling

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