

From: Neil Skivington [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 November 2021 14:19
To: Local Plan
Subject: Objections to Local Plan

Dear Sir

Re: Objections to Warrington Borough Council’s revised Local Plan

I am writing to raise my objections to the Local Plan as part of the consultation process. I believe that the revised Local Plan remains unjustified, unsound and undeliverable for the reasons I detail below.

Required Housing Levels

Looking at the Local Plan, I believe that the growth projections are based on unrealistic economic forecasts and flawed population projections. In my opinion the economic growth levels stated in the revised Local Plan are overly optimistic and the housing numbers unrealistic and undeliverable.

In my opinion, the proposed development of employment zones on Green Belt is not backed by any meaningful economic strategy for the town. By focusing on the logistics sector, the Local Plan does not encourage sustainable economic growth nor develop high skilled employment opportunities. Also, by focusing on this sector it does little to help address the global climate emergency we now face.

As such, in my opinion, by including unrealistic population projections and overly ambitious economic growth forecasts, the Plan has overstated the need for housing to meet this growth. If the population growth and economic growth targets were more realistic then the housing numbers required would be reduced.

Infrastructure

After looking at the details of the infrastructure planned, I believe that these remain vague and that the traffic infrastructure proposals do not present a coherent and deliverable plan.

I believe that the plans presented are totally inadequate to alleviate the current problems of traffic congestion, noise and air pollution across Warrington and also fail to support the proposed new housing and commercial developments.

For example, there is no explanation of how the already poor transport infrastructure of south Warrington can cope with increased levels of traffic.

In addition to this, increasing reliance on road traffic is also wholly inconsistent with the UK’s Climate Change aspirations.

Wider Social Infrastructure

In my opinion, the revised Local Plan does not properly consider the impact that increased population growth will have on the wider social infrastructure and services of the town such as GPs, hospitals, social care and schools. We are currently seeing a nationwide shortage of GPs, care workers and teachers but there appears to be no detail in the Plan to show that this has been identified as a real risk to delivery.

In addition to this, there does not seem to be information provided about how Warrington Borough Council will secure the additional professionals required to provide these essential services to a fast-growing population.

Green Belt

Government policy protects the Green Belt and any release needs to be fully justified. In my opinion the revised Local Plan does not present 'special circumstances' to justify the destruction of Green Belt in Warrington.

The importance of Green Belt had been highlighted further by the global climate emergency and the Government's plan to cut emissions to net zero by 2050. The Government's proposals mean that emissions from homes, transport, farming and industry will have to be avoided where possible or offset.

The revised Local Plan does not appear to support this aspiration and is likely to lead to a huge increase in pollution across the town. This pollution will come from the massive increase in traffic from huge logistic businesses, house building and population growth, while destroying the very areas where trees thrive or could be planted to offset some of the pollution.

In my opinion, despite the changes made since the PSV Local Plan, the revised plan is still unsound, unjustifiable and undeliverable. I believe that there are widespread flaws and weaknesses throughout the Plan. In my view this is not the right plan for Warrington as it fails to meet the needs of local residents and communities.

Yours faithfully

Neil Skivington

