



Date 5th December 2016

By E-Mail and Post

Warrington Borough Council
Planning Policy and Programmes
New Town House
Buttermarket Street
Warrington
Cheshire
WA1 2NH

Dear Sirs

RE: WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN REVIEW STAGE 18 CONSULTATION

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed scope of the review to the Warrington Local Plan, as set out in the regulation 18 Scope and Contents Document dated October 2016.

The LEP response is guided by our role: to set the sub-regional economic strategy for Cheshire and Warrington. We are currently embarking on a review of our Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), updating the current plan 'Cheshire and Warrington Matters' which was first published in 2014. One of the principle drivers for the refresh is the decision to revise our economic growth ambitions following discussions with Government on a potential devolution deal. These discussions led the Cheshire and Warrington local authorities and the LEP to conclude that by 2040 we could deliver:

- A £50 billion GVA per year economy
- 139,000 new homes
- 127,000 new jobs

The LEP is supportive of Warrington's decision to review its Local Plan and the consultation process associated with it. The proposed scope appears reasonable and well thought out and offers the Council an opportunity to set out the Borough's role in meeting these ambitions.

We note that you propose that the scope of the review should focus on three identified strategic matters: -

- The provision of land and level of housing development that can be accommodated within Warrington, taking into account Objectively Assessed Needs (OAN);
- The provision of land for economic development and a growing local economy, taking in to account Objectively Assessed Needs (OAN); and

RICHMOND HOUSE, GADBROOK BUSINESS PARK, RUDHEATH, NORTHWICH, CW9 7TN



- Ensuring the timely delivery of new and improved physical and social infrastructure required to meet the needs of new development and mitigate the impacts on existing communities

We also note your proposals to review the current Green Belt including safeguarding Green Belt land for future longer term development beyond the current plan period.

In addition, we acknowledge that the review provides an opportunity to consider needs in relation to Minerals and Waste and Gypsy and Traveller Needs.

Evidence Base

The revised housing and employment figures set out in the more detailed documents as part of the review evidence base are in line with the ambitions set out in the current devolution proposals and framework for the review of the SEP.

At this stage we are not in a position to identify any additional evidence requirements beyond those already included on the Local Plan Review Page.

Yours sincerely

Philip Cox
Chief Executive, Cheshire and Warrington LEP