

My objections to the proposed 24,000 home development of the Warrington area listed below.

- The transport infrastructure around Warrington is already woefully inadequate. We already experience significant delays trying to travel even the shortest distances if there are any road closures or road works in the area. There has long been discussions about building new road crossings over both canals, but they appear to have only been idle talks designed to make the inhabitants think their needs are being considered. Not only are the roads inadequate they are in a terrible state of disrepair. If the Council cannot afford to maintain the current transport infrastructure I fail to see how then can afford to build and maintain the proposed new road links. The new links in principle appear to be sensibly located, but in order to convey the amount of vehicles that 24,000 homes plus the business areas proposed will bring they will all need to be 4-lane highways. Add to this the existing traffic in the area and even 4-lane is unlikely to be adequate
- Schooling in the Borough is already suffering from significant funding shortfalls. It has been mentioned that new primary and secondary schools will be built, but I fail to see where funding for their construction or running will come from. In other housing developments across the country schools and community areas have been a key part of the bargaining when the plans are put forward, but in every case the promises are not fulfilled and the amount of promised schools and community facilities have never achieved anywhere near those promised, or indeed needed
- Healthcare in Warrington is already stretched with continuing budget cuts and loss of staff. There has been talk in recent years of reducing the size of our hospital and sharing resources with neighbouring districts and boroughs. The increase in population in the Warrington area following the construction of the 24,000 houses will clearly not be something that the current hospital and local surgeries can service. The system is already failing and will continue to get worse as resources are stretched further and further to achieve even the minimum of care
- Warrington is like many other towns and cities in the UK in that the utilities to support (sewerage, power, water, etc) are very old and already failing. To accommodate the new development the whole of the local service utilities will need to be upgraded. Who will fund this? The utility companies will shy away from this. The disruption caused across the Borough would be truly enormous and likely involve the demolition of existing properties in order to access services below ground.
- Local communities have already suffered from encroachment from previous developments (eg, Pettersfield). Continuing to in-fill around Warrington will take the heart and soul away from the communities and create a single mass of housing with no identity.