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22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017

To Whom it May Concern

**Preferred Development Option plan**

Please see below our comments and concerns with regard to the on-going consultation. As such please register the same comments for both of the named parties at the bottom of this letter.

Our specific interest is Grappenhall and the surrounding areas but our comments apply to the entire plan.

We recognise that any sensible individual recognises the need and potential for Warrington Borough council to invest, improve and secure the future of its residents. However this should not be at the cost of the existing areas that bring the most environmental and economic benefits to the area. Therefore we would hope that this plan is scrapped and that a strategic piece of work takes place to review the overall approach taking into account local residents beliefs and the points that they raise.

We strongly oppose the plan based on the following:

- We do not agree with Warrington Borough Council's aspirations and arguments for massive urban growth and/or a New City status – the residents do not want City Status, as a couple we moved away from a City elsewhere for this very reason [REDACTED].
- We believe that the proposed housing calculation is not substantiated and does not reflect of the needs of Warrington and its people either in type, number or distribution. This does not take into account the current economic climate nor does it “stop” to assess the long term impact of

Brexit and potential downturn in net migration. We choose not to live in an urban sprawl with row upon row of housing estates because this is our lifestyle choice and not one which is forced upon us and infringes our human right.

- The suggested 'need' for increased acreage for employment sites is grossly over-exaggerated. It does not reflect the current economic position and is likely to cause increased financial instability.
- The release of Green Belt land for the purposes of urban development and sprawl in any area of the town is unacceptable and unnecessary. Green Belt should remain Green Belt. Green fields, woodlands, natural habitats should not be destroyed. Green belt should only be altered in exceptional circumstances, this land is not spare – it is agricultural. What reasons do the council have to believe this is exceptional as this is not clear in the plan. The ability to enjoy green space is an amenity in itself and one that supports the health and wellbeing of the local community.
- The proposed supporting infrastructure of roads and highways will be destructive, invasive and difficult to build. It will not alleviate congestion/pollution in the town. Warrington is already listed as the second most polluted area in the North West. Stockton Heath is a no-go zone as it stands at peak activity times and as such any increase will cause gridlock heightening the risks of accidents and injury. The local infrastructure is severely impacted by the current levels of traffic at J20 M6 and J9 M56 – any development will only serve to increase this disruption and inconvenience to residents and those traveling through it.
- The consultation period has been badly timed over school/family holidays leaving people insufficient time to thoroughly consider the plans and thus depriving people of the opportunity to participate effectively.
- Warrington Borough Hospital is at present unable to serve the town's residents and no adequate provision for healthcare has been suggested in the plan. Healthcare provision is already on the brink of collapse and as an underperforming Trust, this will only add to the burden and will only increase the risk of detriment to local residents. Taking into account the risk of increased pollution, how will the medical systems take care of

residents at increased risk of lung and associated diseases.

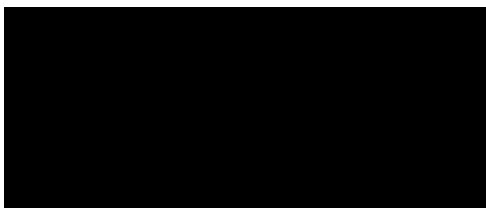
- This plan does not constitute 'sustainable' development.

Warrington, particularly the town centre, has already suffered far too much destruction of its historic buildings, distinctive identity, local culture and character by the building of shed shops, malls and huge car parks. Many of its local and town centre businesses have disappeared.

Living in a semi-rural location, we benefit from beautiful wildlife, vistas and low levels of pollution – the conservation area of Grappenhall village and the surrounding areas is currently there for all residents of Warrington to enjoy – the impacts of the proposed plan will be to the detriment of all residents of this and the surrounding areas resulting in loss of investment in the entire area resulting in a destabilisation of local businesses, economy and the communities health and well-being.

We feel utterly disappointed in our local council and the way you have let down the local residents. As a result we trust that you will at least take our thoughts and comments into account along with those of the other significant objections.

Yours sincerely

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