

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Planning & Strategic Transport

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Date: 27 September 2017

[REDACTED]
Planning Policy & Programmes Mgr
Warrington Borough Council
3rd Floor New Town House
Buttermarket Street
Warrington
WA1 2NH

Dear [REDACTED]

Warrington Borough Council Local Plan Consultation 2017

Thank you for consulting Cheshire West and Chester on the latest proposals for Warrington's Local Plan. A significant amount of work has gone into the Plan and the accompanying evidence base and CWAC welcome the opportunity to comment. Throughout the Plan preparation process Warrington has engaged constructively CWAC over potential cross-boundary strategic issues. Cheshire West will also shortly be formally consulting Warrington on the publication draft of the Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies.

It is noted that in response to a representation received from NLP after the last round of consultation that the Council's consultants have reaffirmed the housing market area for Warrington. As reflective of the evidence it is agreed the two boroughs are not part of the same housing market area. The additional work also identified that the boroughs do not operate as a functional economic area as the evidence demonstrates that the LEP boundary is not reflective of Travel to Work areas. Cheshire West and Chester agree with this assessment and this also reflects the evidence base used to prepare the CWAC Local Plan (Part One).

It is recognised that through the devolution joint working which took place that Warrington had significant ambitions in delivering economic growth and unlocking public land for wider benefit. This is reflected in the draft proposals although most, if not all, Local Planning Authorities in the wider area (including Cheshire West) are planning for levels of growth in excess of household projections and indeed the Government's draft OAN proposals. This reflects a desire to plan positively for economic growth however this will require the retention and attraction of working age people to achieve ambitions. As part of modifications to its Cheshire East Local Plan it was identified that there would need to be migration and

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commuting from neighbouring authorities to meet job growth ambitions. Although Cheshire West was highlighted as being potentially significantly affected CWAC took the view that is extremely difficult to predict where people choose to live and work. Given the cross-boundary movements between Warrington and CWAC are more limited CWAC has no additional comments to make on this issue.

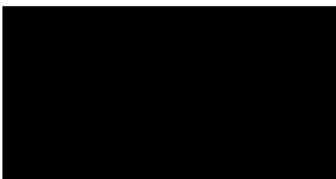
In relation to other issues CWAC has the following comments:

- GTAA – CWAC is leading on the update to the GTAA and Warrington, Cheshire East and Halton are supporting this work. It is hoped the GTAA will be published before the end of the year.
- Waste - The document does mention looking at sites outside the borough to meet waste needs so it would be useful to understand in more detail how Warrington is seeking to deal with this.
- Minerals – it is recognised that the Plan is at an early stage of preparation and the Minerals Safeguarding Areas have been identified. CWAC would welcome continued discussion especially on requirements for sand and gravel although this may be addressed through the joint working by the AWP.
- Infrastructure – CWAC recognises a great deal of work has been undertaken on this and the commitment to working with key bodies such as Highways England. The draft proposals propose a number of significant allocations that will impact on the Strategic Road Network including the M56 and M6 and CWAC would wish to understand these impacts and whether mitigation is necessary.

I would like to highlight that this is an Officer view only. I note in the consultation documents that Warrington have said they will speak to neighbouring authorities and other DTC bodies after the close of the consultation and we would welcome this opportunity.

If you require any further explanation please contact me.

Yours sincerely

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