

Date: 29th September 2017
Our ref: 221273



Warrington Borough Council
Planning Policy and Programmes
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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Sir/Madam

Warrington Borough Council Local Plan Preferred Development Option Regulation 18 Consultation

Thank you for your consultation on the above, which was received by Natural England on 18th July 2017.

Natural England would welcome an early opportunity to meet and discuss the Warrington Preferred Option and associated Local Plan review, so that we can work to find solutions to possible issues and also the opportunities that this option presents. A meeting on how we can help develop and enhance some of the objectives in the wider plan, and discuss how ecological networks, green infrastructure and net gain, as required by NPPF can best be incorporated into the plan. It would also be beneficial to discuss the evidence that will be needed on which to base an effective Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) assessment as the plan progresses.

By identifying and resolving issues early on in the process, we would expect to free up resources to support the development of policy solutions and ensure that your plan is able to maximise the natural capital of Warrington to deliver social, economic and environmental benefits.

It would be beneficial to also use this opportunity to discuss the Western Relief Road proposal that is also being consulted on, as the opportunities and possible issues around this are closely interlinked with the Preferred Options proposals.

I will be in contact shortly to discuss how Natural England can work more closely with you during the development of this Plan and arrange a meeting date.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED]
Lead Adviser
Cheshire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside & Lancashire Area Team