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Dear Sirs,

I write in respect of the Draft Local Plan (DLP) and consultation process due to expire on 12th September 2017. The aspiration of this letter is to request to you as Executive Members of the Local Authority, to extend the consultation process.

Firstly, I have noted within Para's 2.1 & 2.2 of the DLP that a draft consultation was undertaken between 24th October and 5th December 2016 and 78 responses were obtained to the draft consultation. I would note that Warrington has a population of circa 200,000 and the initial response rate is an extremely low rate of return for such significant proposals. As such, the local authority should have reviewed the consultation process at this initial stage given the low turnout and identified how they could reach out to and consult communities more effectively. I cannot accept that the planned consultation events mainly in areas not effected by the proposals as adequate i.e. there is no planned consultation in the key development area of Grappenhall.

I attended the consultation event in Lymm on the 22nd August 2017 and it would be fair to say that the building was not big enough, there were not enough local planning authority staff in attendance to answer questions and information was answered in a hearsay format and comments could not be logged formally. Indeed, residents were having to queue to gain entry and to an extent the approach seemed chaotic. This event illustrated that prior to a strong social media campaign and flyering by residents that not many people were aware of the consultation events and this can be evidenced by the poor turn out at the previous consultations.

I was also shocked and applauded to identify that the proposed "concept route" put forward as a new strategic road as a route over the railway line/ Trans Pennine trail (dotted blue line) is one of a number of options that will be part of an options appraisal and modelling process. In the main, it would be fair to say that the local authority should have included each and every "concept route" option of a new strategic road within the draft document for comment and given this, I put it to you that the draft DLP is not accurate, missing key information on infrastructure that should be available for comment and; as such, the process is invalid and should recommence with key missing information on road infrastructure and other areas included.

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Moreover, at yesterday's event, I received mixed messages from local authority officers as to progress on feasibility works for any new road routes and associated dialogue with Highways England. This does not give me any confidence or, an ability to trust the local authority and does not provide accurate information for me to make comment. Given this, the community require clarity as to where the feasibility and traffic modelling works of the new highways infrastructure are up to i.e. the strategic road (dotted blue of the plan) and the preferred route option. In addition, we require clarity on the timeline for the implementation of the infrastructure; this is on the basis that the consultation event on the 22nd August 2017 suggested the new road is 10-15 year away from delivery yet the DLP suggests that the greenbelt in the South cannot be built upon until the strategic infrastructure road is delivered. Moreover, we require clarity on the output of the local authority's discussions with Highways England and what the traffic modelling work consist of. Please consider this element a Freedom of Information Request for Information.

I want to take this opportunity to remind you all that as local and executive members you were appointed into post as part of a democratic process, elected by the people to represent our view's. The groups created on social media have identified a significant proportion of the population are not aware of the substantial 20 year plan that will change the shape of Warrington. Based on the above and your duty to reflect the needs of your resident, I would respectfully request that an urgent Executive Board is sought with a key agenda item to extend the consultation by a further 8 week period. This approach would also allow the local authority to provide further key information that is missing i.e. missing options of strategic road infrastructure into the town centre from the draft plan and provide the community with an opportunity to comment on the whole package of urban renaissance. I would note that the missing information on road infrastructure is just one illustration of missing information.

I will of course provide more further comments in the future on the wider development as a whole but would be grateful given the urgency to receive feedback on my request with justification by 1st September 2017.

I trust we can work amicably to resolve this issue without the need for an alternative method of review.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours faithfully

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