

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Local Plan](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Draft Local Plan
Date: 09 June 2019 22:15:46

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed development plans for south Warrington over the next 20 years.

My concerns are in relation to these specific points

Is this a "Sound" Plan? Each of my areas of concern highlighted below relate to the 4 constituent requirements that Warrington MBC must demonstrate. In my opinion, the council has failed to meet these requirements in all 4 areas, and therefore the evidence is that this is not a sound plan.

Positively Prepared/Justified/Effective/Consistent with National Policy.

- There is insufficient evidence to demonstrate why the scale of proposed housing and commercial investment are necessary, therefore, the local plan is in excess of national estimates and fails in a spectacular way to show evidence of sustainability.
- My interpretation of this is that the Council is simply aiming to increase its revenue (for understandable reasons) at the expense of its residents' quality of life in respect of congestion, pollution, loss of important green belt and green space, and therefore, the plan is unjustifiable
- Given the level of political and financial instability, would it not be extremely foolish to plan any further than 5 years ahead? even that timescale is ridiculous in the current climate.
- There is no evidence (because it hasn't happened) to demonstrate this plan has been co-produced with the necessary colleagues from health.

Health.

[REDACTED], so this is my main area of concern. The ability of the Health Services in Warrington to cope with current demand (both disease burden, complexity and increasing volume of patients) is being severely tested, and Warrington Hospital is unsustainable as things stand (insufficient workforce, capacity, skills to undertake the right procedures and is financially challenged). This, combined with reducing numbers of GPs and other primary care professionals demonstrate that the current situation is a huge cause for concern and your plans show no evidence whatsoever that Health has been taken into consideration in its preparation.

Specifically, I want to know:

- How will the hospital cope with the increased numbers of residents and the likely increase in disease burden caused by the inevitable traffic/pollution problems that this plan will result in?
- A substantial number of new residents will equal an increase in the need for maternity and paediatric services (the largest cohort of A&E attendances in any acute hospital are children) how will the plans address this increase in demand?
- Is there a realistic plan to identify how many GP and other community and primary care facilities will be required to support the increased number of residents? how will Warrington be able to recruit to the required numbers? and how do you intend to stop the inevitable increase in GPs and other health professionals wanting to retire and leave the area as a direct result of these plans?
- How will you ensure that pollution levels are reduced, not increased in line with national and global targets? to not do so will further increase the town's disease burden.
- How will you guarantee that there will be no increase in transport congestion? the Town is currently gridlocked on a significant number of days per year (especially in bad weather and in winter) increased congestion = lower mobility for residents and lower physical activity as no one wants to venture out onto polluted and congested streets = increased morbidity and mortality = further pressure on local health services.

Transport

There are virtually no public transport options in south Warrington. [REDACTED] having previously lived in Liverpool and Manchester and were shocked as to how poor the public transport situation was (1 bus per hour mon to sat until 5.30 pm and no service on sundays)
There are some walking/cycle paths available, but these are already being eroded with the new housing development.

Most of the areas affected are geographically higher than the areas that residents most need to visit (Stockton heath, Warrington Town centre) with the best will in the world, the vast majority of residents will be unable to walk or cycle to and from these areas [REDACTED] therefore, vehicle congestion and pollution are inevitable.

Specifically, I want to know:

- How will the plan guarantee that there will be no increase in traffic pollution and congestion ?
- Further, how will the plan deliver the expected reduction in pollution levels and improvement in air quality set out in national policy ?
- How will the plan protect the current 'green' transport routes ? and increase them over the next 20 years ?
- How will the plan mitigate the inevitable congestion and traffic problems that result from the increased ship canal traffic ?
- How does the council plan to make safe, green pedestrian and cycle routes from all areas of south Warrington to places such as Stockton heath and the town centre ?
- How will the council incentivise the privately run bus companies to run new routes to mitigate the problems highlighted above ?.
- Is there a realistic plan to build a tram between south warrington, the town centre and between Liverpool and Manchester, as, without this, south Warrington will be gridlocked for the next generation.

Impact on south Warrington demography

I and my family moved to [REDACTED] Warrington [REDACTED] years ago because its a lovely place to live, the town is 'down to earth' and the transport links were good (this is no longer true and will deteriorate based on this plan). The implementation of this plan would ruin all these positive aspects. I have absolutely no loyalty to Warrington, and many, many residents of South Warrington are in exactly the same position, and few are native to the town so the council needs to plan for a significant exodus of families and retired residents who will simply no put up with a reduction in quality of life on this scale.

On this basis, the plan is ineffective as it will not result in a net increase in funding revenue as the number of residents that will leave will far exceed the number that move to Warrington leaving the town with a significant housing stock problem and a worsening economic and health challenge (the people that stay will be the ones less economically active and are likely to consume public services).

Specifically, I want to know if this unintended consequence/risk has been factored into the plan ? what actions are the council planing to take to mitigate this risk ?. Given this is likely to affect health services even further, what plans has the council developed in conjunction with health and social care, to mitigate this ?

Education

Most of the local primary schools are at full capacity and have some of the lowest funded schools in the country let alone the Warrington area. The secondary school lacks investment and is already too big.

Specifically, I want to know how the plan can realistically provide for increased primary and secondary education facilities and then further education opportunities for such a large increase in residents ?.

I look forward to receiving a reply.

Yours sincerely

Chris Harrop