From:
To:
Local Plan

Subject: Warrington Local Plan Objections

**Date:** 16 June 2019 20:53:23

Dear Sir/Madam,

We have set out below reasons why we believe the Local Plan to be unsound:

- 1. The number of new houses proposed in the Plan is not justified by the expected population growth. Such a large increase in the number of houses needs to be driven by increased employment opportunities, rather than being a goal in itself, which appears to be the case.
- 2. The Plan relies excessively on development of Green Belt land in South Warrington. Loss of Green Belt land should only be allowed in exceptional circumstances, and the planned developments within the proposed Garden Suburb will lead to a total change in the character of Appleton and Stretton. The green spaces and the network of footpaths in these areas have been part of what has attracted people to purchase properties in this neighbourhood. These would largely disappear under this plan. The Plan should concentrate instead on development of Brownfield sites within Warrington and the surrounding area for example, Fiddlers Ferry Power Station, which is due to be closing next March.
- 3. Such a large increase in house numbers in South Warrington is bound to lead to significant congestion in areas around Stockton Heath, where existing infrastructure (e.g. the A49) will not be able to cope with the consequential increase in traffic. Air pollution levels will inevitably rise as a result. Parking in Stockton Heath is already an issue at busy times, and will become very problematic if this Plan is implemented.
- 4. The Plan relies on a significant increase in school capacity (both primary and secondary) along with other facilities. There is no guarantee that these will be delivered in time as the number of houses increases (as evidenced by the recent developments in Chapelford).

Regards,

Martin and Myrna Edwards

Warrington