

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Warrington [REDACTED]

5 June 2019

By email to localplan@warrington.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

Local Plan – Consultation Response

I have a major concern about the proposed amount of employment and housing land included within the 20 year plan period.

This appears to be justified primarily if not solely on the basis of the Council's economic growth "aspirations" and its consequent housing growth "ambitions". The elephant in the room is the Council's apparent desire to be a city.

The result is that the plan grossly over provides the employment land requirement. From that false premise, the housing requirement is grossly overstated. Both such errors mean that green belt is unjustifiably utilised and, once gone, it cannot be replaced.

Amazingly, the Plan does not include for the likely cessation of the current use at Fiddlers Ferry Power station and the probable availability of the Warrington Hospital site when, as is unavoidable, a new hospital is provided.

Using a 15 year plan period, rather than 20 years, would reduce if not eliminate the need for development on the green belt. This change in plan period would allow it to be clearer whether the power station and hospital sites will be available to meet any need further in the future.

I do wonder quite how the local highway network will be sufficient to cope with the massive changes proposed. The peak period throughout the Borough is a nightmare. The Plan does not give me any confidence that this will be addressed adequately.

Yours faithfully

Mark Winstanley