

[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Warrington Borough Council Local Plan: Preferred Development Option Consultation.

I wish to register my objection to the councils Local Plan Preferred Development Option (PDO). My principal reasons for objecting are as follows:

1. The flawed assumption that Warrington is to become a city.
2. The destruction of the Trans-Pennine trail to make way for a major transport route.
3. The incorrect conclusion of exceptional circumstance requiring the need for extensive green-belt land release.
4. The absence of any serious brown field development consideration.
5. The dubious and misleading projections of future housing needs.
6. The whole consultation process.

The basic assumption that Warrington is to become a city is the critical fault with the local plan PDO. The council has not received any mandate from its constituents; there has been no consultation or referendum and no electoral manifesto suggested the idea. All the assumptions and projections in the local plan PDO are based on this assumption and are therefore incorrect.

If I wanted to live in a city I would have bought a house in Manchester or Liverpool. The countryside and village nature of the south part of Warrington is primary reason for living here. The existing green-belt land is barely enough to stop urban sprawl consuming everything. If the green-belt is built on then we will lose the distinct culture and nature of these areas.

I [REDACTED] use the Trans-Pennine trail and the surrounding green-belt land on a daily basis.

[REDACTED] s far as I am aware none of the local businesses affected by these plans have been consulted and the council does not appear to have assessed the impact these changes will have on existing businesses and the local economy.

The Trans-Pennine trail runs from Southport to Hull and it and the surrounding green-belt land is a haven for many species of animals and plants. It is used by hundreds of thousands of people every year; providing a safe environment for families walking their dogs, riding their bikes and basically enjoying nature. The idea that Warrington council wants to tear up the trail and build what appears to be a massive dual carriageway is completely irresponsible and displays a complete lack of appreciation for the environment.

As well as the loss of the trail the massive development suggested in the local plan PDO will be catastrophic for the environment and the health of the council's constituents. Warrington already has the second highest air pollution levels in the North-West (World Health Organisation study 2016) and the proposals put forwards in the local plan PDO would dwarf the current levels.

I appreciate that the government has issued guidelines to each council regarding the need for more house building however the PDO goes way beyond these guidelines. In my view Warrington Borough Council's agenda has always been to make a blatant green-belt land grab and have created the local plan PDO for the sole purpose of justifying this action. I believe the current local plan PDO to be fundamentally biased and therefore should be scrapped and reassessed with the views and wishes of the residents mind. Brown field development should be prioritized and green-belt land protected.

I urge the council to scrap the current local plan and work with the local residents to protect the green-belt land. The UK countryside is a valuable and diminishing resource and once it's gone we will all be much worse off, especially the future generations.

Yours sincerely

