

LDF

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 August 2017
To: LDF
Subject: Consultation views.

I am submitting brief comments on the proposals. I would have used the "standard form" referred to in Para 7.2 of the Consultation document but the form does not appear to be embedded as a download in the document.

In general I am supportive of the Proposals which I believe address the key requirements for the future of the Town.

Specifically, I wish to comment on the proposals for the South Western Urban Extension. I am in broad agreement that the site of this proposed development is appropriate but I have concerns that the current access link to the Town Centre is one of the most highly congested roads in the town, with lengthy queues seen every day for hours at peak times. This route will become even busier when the new tolled Runcorn bridge opens shortly. The Swing Bridge is an added complication, given that Ship Canal traffic is forecast to increase.

It is, therefore, essential that this urban extension has the benefit of new, high quality links with the town, including one, if not two, new high level bridges over the Ship Canal. These links should also be fully accessible to all traffic in the general area, including Walton and Stockton Heath. The links need to enhance the routes directly into the Town Centre as well as the routes skirting the town towards Liverpool. The link between the A56 and A50 at the Stag Inn needs to be completely redesigned as part of this process.

Without this major upgrade in connectivity I would be firmly opposed to a major new development in this area. The Consultation document doesn't deal with public transport links and I think that an ambitious strategic plan is required, possibly involving trams, to alleviate the already difficult road system.

Warrington, as well as bring an independent centre of population, is a key commuter centre for several neighbouring cities and our railway stations, particularly Bank Quay, need to be become more integrated into an holistic transport plan.

One further point which arises from the whole plan is the added pressure on our local services, particularly our hospitals, which will result from a big increase in population. Given that our major hospital has lacked capital investment for several years, full support needs to be given to the hospital to ensure it is fit for purpose. A modern, effective town needs to have suitable services.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]