

Strong objections to the Warrington Local Plan Review

1. The plan appears to assume that everyone wants Warrington to become “a new city”. I have never been asked and do not want this. Warrington is a large and successful TOWN and should stay this way.
2. The proposed Garden City Suburb calls for large areas of Green Belt land to be built on leading to smaller villages like Appleton Thorn, Grappenhall and Thelwall losing all its fields and being joined together by new housing. This will effectively destroy the character and heritage of the area. The use of Green Belt is for “exceptional circumstances” and this need has not been demonstrated.
3. The assumption of 1,113 new home per year is wildly optimistic particularly in the light of the present environment and the scale is aimed disproportionately against the south of the Town. It is also far in excess of the numbers calculated using the Government’s official methodology.
4. The plan calls for a significant expansion of the Barleycastle business park but is expansion of the magnitude needed and what type of business is expected. What about the increase in heavy traffic?
5. The road infrastructure problems have not been properly addressed and much more detail is needed with firm binding commitments that they will be put in place before the housing is built not years after (if ever).
6. The problems of pollution and environmental impact have not been fully assessed.
7. Stockton Heath is already a traffic and pollution problem and no thought appears to have been given to alleviating this.
8. Little attention has been paid to the huge increase in demand on amenities such as Doctors, Hospital, Dentist etc. which are already stretched.
9. There is no mention of proposed housing for older residents to downsize.
10. In summary the plan is over optimistic and vision of grandeur from the planners to which many residents will not aspire.

In conclusion, this plan is incomplete and needs much more consultation and assessment. The Plan must be rejected in its present form