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Police & Crime  
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**Cheshire  
Constabulary**

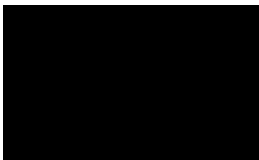
## **Independent Examination of Warrington Local Plan**

Hearing Statement submitted on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner for  
Cheshire and Cheshire Constabulary (Respondent ref: 0428)

### **Matter 12 – Warrington’s historic, cultural, built and natural assets**

August 2022

Cheshire Constabulary HQ



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## MATTER 12 – Warrington’s historic, cultural, built and natural assets

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This hearing statement is to be read in conjunction with the previous representation made by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire (PCC) and Chief Constable for Cheshire Constabulary (CCCC) dated 15 November 2021 (WBC ref: UPSVLP 0428). This representation was made by letter to Warrington Borough Council (WBC) in relation to the Updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan (UPSVLP).
- 1.2 The PCC and CCCC is grateful for the opportunity to comment further on the Warrington Local Plan. These further representations and comments are made in respect of the Inspector’s ‘Matters, Issues and Questions’ (MIQs) set out in the document issued by the Examination Programme Officer in June 2022. This document covers responses to the Inspector’s questions relating to Matter 12 – Warrington’s historic, cultural, built and natural assets.
- 1.3 Any additional matters that have arisen since the submission of the UPSLVP PCC and CCCC representations are addressed in this statement.
- 1.4 The PCC has a statutory duty to secure and maintain an efficient and effective police force for Cheshire and Warrington Borough Council is required by statute to consider crime and disorder and community safety in the exercise of its planning functions.
- 1.5 The letter of representation dated 15 November 2021 sets out in detail, CCCC’s comments on the UPSVLP in relation to exercising this duty and the issues raised remain relevant to the Warrington Local Plan Examination. This statement should be read in conjunction with the submissions made on behalf of PCC and CCCC. For the avoidance of doubt, the previous comments made on behalf of PCC and CCCC remain valid and in the interest of brevity, are not repeated in detail herein.

- 2 Issue – Whether the Local Plan is justified, effective and consistent with national policy in relation to the approach to the Borough’s historic, cultural, built and natural assets.

Questions

*Quality of place (DC6)*

**Question 33 – Is Policy DC6 effective, justified and consistent with national policy?**

- 2.1 LP Policy DC6 fully addresses the comments made by the Constabulary’s Designing Out Crime Team in the constabulary’s previous representations. CCCC therefore considers that Policy DC6 is justified, effective, wholly consistent with and supported by paragraphs 92 and 130 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Paragraph: 001 reference ID: 26-001-20191001) of the PPG.
- 2.2 However, the NPPF places an expectation on local authorities to prepare design guides or codes consistent with the principles set out in the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code (paragraph 128). The National Model Design Code: Part 2 – Guidance Notes requires “*neighbourhoods to be designed to make all people feel safe and to reduce the incidence of crime in accordance with the recommendations of Secured by Design*”.
- 2.3 The LP infers that Secured by Design Principles cannot be delivered in conjunction with good quality design. “*Other design principles*” as referred to in Part 5c appear to take precedence over the incorporation of Secured by Design principles whereas the two can be delivered throughout developments alongside each other in a cohesive and comprehensive manner. The PCC and CCCC therefore request that the following clause be removed from Policy DC6 part 5c.

*“...whilst ensuring that these are adequately balanced against other design principles and do not undermine the quality of development..”*

**Question 34 – Should Policy DC6 address fire safety matters?**

- 2.4 For planning applications made on or after 1 August 2021, PPG requires measures to ensure fire safety matters are incorporated at the planning stage for schemes involving a relevant high-rise residential building (defined at PPG Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 71-003-20210624). To ensure the Local Plan (LP) accords with PPG Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 71-001-20210624, it is requested that the following text be added to Policy DC6 Part 1:

*“1. For all relevant buildings and developments, consider and address fire safety matters as they relate to land use planning matters. Information provided should be proportionate to the scale, type and complexity of the proposal.”*