

FAISAL RASHID MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr David Boyer
Assistant Director
Transport and Environment
Warrington Borough Council
New Town House
Buttermarket Street
Warrington
WA1 2NH

4 January 2018

Dear David

Further to my email to you dated 22nd December 2017, I am writing to confirm an issue I raised that is crucial.

As you know, I have given my backing to Warrington Borough Council's bid for funding for the Warrington Western Link in my letter dated 6 December 2017. This is a continuation of that letter of support.

I am writing now to raise concerns about section 7.4 of the Executive Report of the Council on the Western Link project. This section of the report makes it clear that the Council's prudential borrowing is £70.20m and that the capital and interest payment will be met by increasing Port Warrington's business rates, which it expects to be £43.18m over 40 years. I find this deeply concerning.

From the information I have seen and known to date I oppose the development of Port Warrington and I have previously made this clear to Councillor O'Neill. I do not believe the Port proposals will benefit our people or our town. After meeting with Peel my concerns were confirmed. The Port will not create quality jobs for the town, it will lead to an increase in HGV movements and air pollution. I also have serious concerns about the threat posed to Moore Nature Reserve and to our green spaces.

The proposals for Port Warrington have not been fully realised. Given this I was concerned to hear that the future of the Warrington Western Link is intrinsically linked to Port Warrington. The future funding of the Link should in no way be reliant upon Port Warrington.

The Western Link proposals were first suggested over 30 years ago and yet to date have never materialised. Warrington South residents have been looking for a solution to the town's problems with traffic congestion for many years. The constituency is long overdue infrastructure investment of this scale.

The Council's priority must be to fulfil the needs of current residents and not future significant developments. Although I understand this Link will free up brownfield sites for future housing development, which I believe the Link will be able to cope with and help reduce the use of Green Belt land.

Member of Parliament for Warrington South

Constituency Office:
1 Wilson Patten Street, Warrington, WA1 1PG
Telephone: 01925 657600

faisal.rashid.mp@parliament.uk
www.faisalrashid.com
fb.com/faisalrashidmp
twitter: @faisalrashid6



Any decision on this issue needs to be fully informed for the long-term benefits - not only benefits to the economic growth of the town, but more importantly, for the residents of Warrington who will benefit or suffer as a result of the decision made.

Yours sincerely

Faisal Rashid

Faisal Rashid MP

Cc: Bob Collins, Department for Transport