

News Release



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Release Sent

David Brown letter on Local Plan to Macclesfield

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OUR REF:

YOUR REF:

Dear Editor

RE: Macclesfield

Cheshire East has been in constant dialogue with its residents over the past two years and it's clear that across the Borough people are against development for development's sake.

Accordingly, what we have endeavoured to do is prepare a Development Strategy which offers a holistic view for the planning of the area whilst taking on board many residents thoughts and comments.

This is a consultation document which delivers our much vaunted five year supply and at last offers a shield against unwanted, unplanned and unsustainable development.

For Macclesfield our overriding priority is to ensure the future prosperity of the town. In recent years Macclesfield town centre has experienced a steady decline, there has been limited growth in employment and few new houses have been built. Macclesfield is a town with so much going for it - its silk heritage, its distinctive buildings, its landscape setting next to the Peak District, its excellent rail connections and strong local

businesses. We therefore want to see that potential fulfilled - by providing a strategy that maintains the best of what we have whilst providing for future needs.

We will adopt a strong town centre first approach to retail and commerce - recognising the town centre as the focal point of community and business life. This means supporting new developments and promoting other complimentary uses such as town centre housing.

To redress the historic imbalance in infrastructure in the east of Cheshire we want to improve connectivity between Macclesfield and the M6 and M60 - and thus provide the right environment for businesses to grow. We will improve the A532 route to the north and the A536 / A534 to Congleton and beyond. Closer to the town we propose a new southern and south western link road. To support this infrastructure we propose new development in South Macclesfield and between the Congleton & Chelford Roads. This will also provide the space in which the town can grow and meet the needs of future generations

This necessitates selective alteration to the green belt. This is not a step to be taken lightly - but it is right and appropriate to review such boundaries once every 30 years or so as part of a statutory development plan process in which everyone can participate.

Finally a key purpose of the Development strategy is to identify a five year supply of housing land so we can meet our housing obligations - and we will be doing the necessary technical work over the next few weeks to provide a robust case to underpin future decision making.

This strategy will be published for consultation early in the New Year. We feel we have listened already to many people's views - but we still want to learn and understand more and obtain different perspectives on these issues. Where there are difficult decisions to be made I will be meeting residents and others personally to fully understand the concerns. Overall I believe this to be a plan which keeps the best of what we all cherish about our towns and villages whilst also providing for a successful and prosperous future for us all.

I therefore urge you to let us know your views when the consultation starts in mid January.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor David Brown
Deputy Leader of the Council
Portfolio Holder for Strategic Communities

