

News Release



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Release Sent

David Brown Letter on Local Plan to Poynton

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OUR REF:

YOUR REF:

Dear Editor,

RE: Poynton

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 Poynton we recognise that the village is tightly constrained by green belt and the major conurbation of Greater Manchester lies but a short distance away. Indeed, just over the border a major new community is planned on the former woodford aircraft factory. We ourselves are planning another new settlement near Handforth which aims to meet much of the 'footloose' demand for housing in the north of the Borough. As a consequence we feel that Poynton itself should accommodate only modest growth - only

200 homes over the next 20 years and 5ha of new business space.

Some of the new homes can be accommodated on sites within the existing settlement - but to accommodate the remainder - and to meet business needs we anticipate that some very limited re-alignment of the green belt may be required. This is not sufficiently large or significant so as to be considered a 'strategic site' and therefore any such small scale areas will be identified in the later, more detailed stages of the Local Plan.

The strategy also signals that we are committed to securing the Poynton Relief Road to provide a strategic link between Macclesfield and Greater Manchester. This will improve the quality of life in the centre of Poynton whilst also enhancing accessibility in the north of the Borough

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 early January.

Yours sincerely,

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

