**LOCAL PLAN PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION**

**ST HELENS COUNCIL, TOWN HALL, VICTORIA SQUARE, ST HELENS, WA10 1HP**

planningpolicy@sthelens.gov.uk

**Reference St Helens Local Plan – Preferred Options Consultation – ends 30th January 2017**

My contribution to the public consultation would include:

* Green Belt legislation exists to protect public well-being by preventing urban sprawl. The proposed plans are excessive around junction 22 and 23, and will impact on the environment for thousands of residents.
* There has to be a balance - Newton and Haydock are taking the same housing as the rest of the borough but could receive 90% of the commercial development.
* The commercial development appears to only be for warehousing. This will have negative economic impacts both for the borough and surrounding boroughs by absorbing almost the entire road capacity on what is a vital artery for economic development in the wider economy. St Helens’ economic strategy has to have further options than warehousing.
* The M6 in this area is at full capacity, even with a future smart motorway it will be impossible to absorb anything approaching the capacity required by the proposed developments.
* The council has a legal duty to protect public health and the Local Plan does not contain any viable policies to prevent/monitor an increase in air pollution.
* HGV’s should not be routed through residential areas.

In addition I would like to add the following comment:

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