

Statement in relation to infrastructure (matter 10), on behalf of the Bold and Clock Face Action Group.

The infrastructure delivery plan as a supporting document to the Local Plan, concentrates more readily on the current situation rather than a clear indication and plan for the future and the impact of the Local Plan.

Although the IDP recognises the pressure on Primary schools, with work already been undertaken to identify suitable schools for expansion in Rainhill, Eccleston and Windle, there is no mention of any work being undertaken with schools servicing the Bold area. Given 55% of the housing development within the local plan has been allocated in the Bold area, this is a significant issue. I'm currently a parent governor at the primary school boarding allocation 5HA for 500 houses. It is the only religious primary school in the area and also the only school rated as Outstanding at the last OFSTED review. The school is currently running at full capacity, with no current options to expand. They have not been approached by anyone from St Helens Council with regards to the allocations within Bold and what we can expect to be a significant increase in primary school age pupils requiring a place. Without these discussions taking place and a robust plan in place, it's difficult to see how St Helens Council plan to tackle the potential problem of school place availability. This is in an area of high deprivation, where good engaging education from an early start is crucial in ensuring those children have opportunities in life.

St Helens Council have also failed to address the expected pressure on secondary schools within the area. Of the two schools who service the area of Bold, one is currently rated as 'requiring improvement', whilst the second currently rated as 'good' has previously been rated as 'inadequate' and 'requires improvement'. Government policy does not allow for schools in 'special measures' or 'requiring improvement' to be expanded, aesthetically improved, or given additional funding. The issue is immediate if the allocations as set out in Local Plan go ahead. There appears to be no plan as to how this will be resolved.

As with education, the IDP gives an overview of the Whiston and St Helens services, but does not clarify how the LPSD proposals will impact on demand and how this demand will be catered and funded for over the lifetime of the plan and beyond. The IDP notes, that there is a registered NHS GP population of 193,627 and 64 practices. Paragraph 4.29 notes that there are 52 GP's per 100,000 people or 1,923 people per GP. It also adds that a quarter of GP's are due for retirement. The National average is 1,538 people per GP. Staffing within the health service is already a known problem, particularly in St Helens, with a difficulty in attracting staff. At a recent British Medical Council (BMA) Local Medical Committee (LMC) meeting, November 2018, GP leaders proposed to limit GP patients to 1,500 and 25 consultations per day. They also wanted to set an unsafe number of 2,100 patients per GP. At 1,923 patients per GP St Helens is approaching the unsafe limit. Further development without an identified provision and funding will hit the most vulnerable members of our society the hardest. Bold has been identified as having some of the most deprived areas of

the country with poor health. These will be the people most affected by this development to the further detriment of their health. The IDP fails to meet the NPPF paragraph 8 b) for the social objective in Achieving Sustainable development.