



## Directorate of Transformation

**John R Harrison DipEnvP, MRTPI**  
**Assistant Director Planning**

PO Box 16, 52 Derby Street  
Ormskirk, West Lancashire L39 2DF  
Telephone: 01695 577177  
Website: [www.westlancs.gov.uk](http://www.westlancs.gov.uk)  
Email: [plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk](mailto:plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk)

Derek McKenzie  
Interim Head of Planning Services  
Sefton MBC  
First Floor Magdalen House  
Trinity Road  
Bootle  
L20 3NJ

Date: 23 March 2015  
Your ref:  
Our ref:  
Please ask for: Peter Richards  
Direct dial no: 01695 585046  
Extension: 5046

Dear Derek

### **RE: Sefton Local Plan – Publication and the Duty to Co-operate**

Thank you for inviting West Lancashire Borough Council to make representations on the Sefton Local Plan (Publication version). I enclose the agreed representations of West Lancashire Borough Council, which have also been inputted online via your website.

As well as the formal representations enclosed, the Council wishes to confirm its general support for the Duty to Co-operate Statement that was published alongside the Publication version of the Local Plan, and that, so far as West Lancashire is concerned, and subject to two amendments, the Council can confirm it is an accurate summary of the co-operation Sefton has undertaken with neighbouring authorities and other “prescribed” bodies and that, in this Council’s opinion, it demonstrates that Sefton Council have fulfilled the Duty to Co-operate in preparing their Local Plan.

The two specific amendments West Lancashire would like to see reflecting in the final Duty to Co-operate Statement submitted alongside the Local Plan are as follows:

- Southport Eastern Approach (A570 corridor)

Sefton Council have liaised with West Lancashire Borough Council and with Lancashire County Council (as the highways and transport authority covering West Lancashire) on this strategic, cross-boundary issue for several years and it is a matter of some importance given the level of development proposed in the Southport area and the current constraints and congestions issues on the A570 through the Western Parishes of West Lancashire and into Southport. One such example of co-operation on this matter has been the liaison and input on the West Lancashire Highways & Transport Masterplan prepared by Lancashire County Council. As such, the Duty to Co-operate Statement should refer to this matter, perhaps in relation to Framework Strategic Priority A, Issue 3 or Framework Strategic Priority C, Issue 2

**Gill Rowe LL.B (Hons) Solicitor**  
**Managing Director (People and Places)**

**Kim Webber B.Sc., M.Sc.**  
**Managing Director (Transformation)**

- Reference to Provision for Travellers

Framework Strategic Priority A, Issue 5 addresses Provision for Travellers and, while the Council can confirm that Sefton and West Lancashire Councils have co-operated on this issue, this section should be updated to reflect the recent correspondence on this matter between Sefton and West Lancashire.

The Council received a letter on 5 February 2015 from Sefton Council, in response to the Council's letter to Sefton Council of 14 January 2015 where the Council asked whether Sefton might be able to accommodate any of West Lancashire's identified need for Travellers. The Council accept Sefton Council's response on this matter (that Sefton would not be able to accommodate any of West Lancashire's Traveller needs) but this exchange of correspondence on a cross-boundary issue should be reflected in the Duty to Co-operate Statement.

In addition, as a result, the statement regarding Traveller needs on p.22 of the Duty to Co-operate Statement that "*All the participating authorities have agreed that the identified need for each authority is suitable and achievable*" is now not entirely accurate for West Lancashire, as the Council cannot say with any certainty that the identified need for Travellers in West Lancashire is "achievable", given the lack of deliverable sites thus far put forward for Travellers in the preparation of the West Lancashire Provision for Travellers Sites DPD.

If you have any queries regarding our representations or our comments on the Duty to Co-operate Statement, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or Peter Richards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Harrison', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**John Harrison**  
Assistant Director Planning