

Registered Address:

Victoria Buildings, Lewin Street,
Middleswich, Cheshire, CW10 9AT

Telephone: 01606 835046

Email: info@cprecheshire.org.uk

Website: www.cprecheshire.org.uk

Royal Patron

HM The King

Branch Vice President

Peter Raynes

Branch Chair

Jonathan Clarke

28/09/2026

Planning Policy,
Cheshire West and Chester Council,
The Portal,
Wellington Road,
Ellesmere Port,
CH65 0BA

Dear sir/madam

CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER LOCAL PLAN SCOPING CONSULTATION

I am writing on behalf of the Cheshire branch of CPRE (the Campaign to Protect Rural England) in response to the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan scoping consultation. I have submitted the on-line form on behalf of the branch but for the record also set out our comments and reasoning below, so that these can be shared promptly with our supporters and the wider public.

We acknowledge that this consultation is principally about the scope of the Plan rather than its content, and the comments are drafted accordingly. They should be read in conjunction with our much more comprehensive comments submitted in response to the Issues and Options consultation in 2025.

Chapter 5 – question 1 “scope of the new Local Plan”

CPRE Cheshire agrees that the Plan should or could include policies covering all the matters set out in this question. Indeed, many of the policy areas suggested (such as the need to have a settlement hierarchy and to support the delivery of the Cheshire and Warrington Local Nature Recovery Strategy) are central to CPRE Cheshire’s charitable purpose to protect and enhance the countryside. We have therefore ticked all the relevant boxes in our submission.

Chapter 5 – question 2 “Are there any other local policies that we should consider including in the Local Plan?”

CPRE Cheshire would like to see a pro-active policy promoting urban regeneration which would maximise delivery of development from suitable brownfield sites in urban areas with good existing community and transport facilities, and reduce pressure for development affecting the countryside.

Chapter 6 – question 3 “How should we share information and involve people?”

CPRE Cheshire agrees with all the consultation methods set out here.

Chapter 6 - question 4 “Are there any other consultation methods we should consider?”

No comments.

Chapter 6 – question 5 “How can we help people who do not usually take part to share their views?”

It is critically important that all sections of the community can engage effectively with the preparation of the Local Plan. With this in mind, we feel the following are essential:

- An “easy-to-read” FAQs at each main consultation stage – this should signpost people who are not familiar with planning to key information, for example any relevant policies or site allocations which may affect the area that they live or work in.
- An effective on-line draft Policies Map at key stages, which can be navigated effectively by people without a high spec computer or high IT skills. This would back up the paper versions which must also be made readily available.

In conclusion, we recommend that the scope of the Plan and the consultation methods should be adjusted with the above points in mind. For the avoidance of doubt our comments are not intended to address the critical issue of how the Plan policies should address the various issues. On this point our response to the Issues and Options consultation sets out our approach in some detail, including for example the fundamentally flawed nature of the Government “standard method” which would now result in an inflated requirement for 28,950 homes over 15 years.

We would be grateful if the Council would take these comments into account in the scoping of its Local Plan.

Yours Sincerely,

Jonathan Clarke,
Chair