



CPRE Avonside  
PO Box 1621  
Bristol  
BS405YG

10<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**Re: Consultation on the West of England Joint Spatial Plan January 2018**

Dear Sir/Madam

We welcome the opportunity to comment on the above plan, and we are supportive of the process of planning for the whole of the West of England area, as well as for individual districts. We can only comment on the soundness of the plan, and we are concerned about the soundness of the figures and sites that have been identified as they do not present sustainable solutions or meet NPPF and government guidance relating to being kept up to date.

We are supportive of the Vision and the Strategic Priorities and welcome much of what they aim to achieve. Our concerns lie in the content of the plan. This demonstrates an error in the way the Vision and Strategic Priorities have been realised. The locations that have been identified are not sustainable, the opposite of what the Plan sets out to achieve. We are dismayed by the numbers of houses proposed in both Green Belt and greenfield sites, both highly valued by local people.

The mitigation for the choice of locations, often remote from employment and in some cases services, is a large number of new roads, which have a devastating impact on our high quality and highly valued environment. New roads tend to generate more traffic, adding to the problems of air pollution, loss of tranquillity and congestion that already blight this beautiful area.

We have responded, as suggested, using different forms for different paragraphs of the Plan. This has proved extremely time consuming, and we have been forced to combine paragraphs where they address similar issues. This, combined with the timing of the consultation over the Christmas and New Year period, a time of national holiday, has made it more difficult for smaller volunteer organisations, like ourselves to contribute.

We wish to continue to be part of these discussions in the future.

Yours faithfully

Georgie Bigg

Chair, CPRE Avonside

*We're an environmental charity, with over 200 local groups, a branch in every county and 55,000 members, and supporters - including more than 2,000 affiliated parish councils. Our local knowledge and national profile means CPRE is effective in tackling both the specific issues that really matter to our members and the public, as well as the wider challenges the countryside faces. Our members are united in their love for England's landscapes and rural communities, and stand up for the countryside, so it can continue to sustain, enchant and inspire future generations.*