**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MONDAY 19 MARCH 2018**

**Statement from Hale Parish Council in response to the draft Delivery and Allocations Local Plan 2014-2037 sent to public consultation by Halton Borough Council.**

Whilst welcoming development, Hale Parish Council do not condone the proposals that endanger the identity of our village and present a potential threat to the livelihoods of our residents.

The decimation of our open spaces harms the health of our residents and wildlife, and poses a menace to the idyllic rural setting of Hale.

Hale has stood for approximately one thousand years and our farming community play an important role in the culture, heritage and fabric of our village. By proposing to turn Manor Farm into residential development, Halton Borough Council are suggesting to extinguish the economy that has helped Hale to thrive for hundreds of years, jeopardising our future as a village and terminating the employment opportunities that have helped to fashion such a vibrant ward.

If the plan went ahead, the two conservation areas of Hale’s original settlement would be devastated, policies to protect our heritage would be lost, and there would be two areas of the village developed that sit directly underneath the Public Safety Zone of Liverpool John Lennon Airport – an area of land at the end of runways established to control the number of people on the ground at risk in the unlikely event of an aircraft accident on take-off or landing.

By promoting the destruction of Green Belt and prioritising the development of greenfield over brownfield, Halton Borough Council’s strategy is idle, short-sighted, and detrimental to the long-term wellbeing of our population - offering only a brief solution to housing, through irrevocable damage to landscapes.

Central government’s housing White Paper states that “Unmet housing need…is unlikely to outweigh the harm to the Green Belt and other harm to constitute the ‘very special circumstances’ justifying inappropriate development on a site with the Green Belt”. Hale Parish Council agree with this notion and expect our ward councillor Mike Wharton, Deputy Leader of Halton Borough Council, to represent our community and work to amend these plans.

Halton Borough Council offered no notice to Hale Parish Council prior to the commencement of the public consultation and many residents in Hale were unable to review and respond in the given timeframe.

-ENDS-

Editor’s Note: For further comments, interviews, images or information please email haleparishcouncilclerk@gmail.com