**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MONDAY 19 MARCH 2018**

**Statement from Hale Parish Council in response to the decision by Liverpool City Council to enter into an option agreement with DB Symmetry in relation to commercial use of the land nestled in between Hale and Speke, west of Ramsbrook Lane.**

Hale Parish Council stand horrified by the proposed option agreement offered by Liverpool City Council to DB Symmetry in relation to the commercial use of the land in between Speke and Hale.

There has been no prior consultation with residents within either ward and little regard for the impact this would have on the environment and character of our rural community.

Residents of Hale stand unsure of what benefit Halton Borough Council has realised since the creation of the combined authority. It would appear that the Liverpool City Region is little more than an alias for the City of Liverpool to extend an over-developing arm into neighbouring boroughs. Halton Borough Council is an authority that sits within one of four Cheshire councils and this apparent lack of consideration for our open spaces provides little confidence to our residents that Liverpool City Council has the wherewithal to protect a small Cheshire village.

Hale has stood for approximately one thousand years and this proposed development would see Green Belt, classified as some of the best quality farmland in the country, completely decimated. Our farming community play an important role in the culture, heritage and fabric of our village and it is in the national interest to save it.

Hale Parish Council believe Halton Borough Council must stand resilient against this plan to ensure it is representative of its constituents. Hale Parish Council expect our ward councillor Mike Wharton, Deputy Leader of Halton Borough Council, to represent our community and work to ensure these plans are taken off the table.

Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid MP, suggested not long ago that councils such as Halton should seek to merge with neighbouring boroughs. It would appear recent plans for development have reignited discussions amongst electors that Halton Borough Council should be abolished and parishes such as Hale merged with another unitary authority such as Cheshire West and Chester Council. Hale Parish Council would welcome such a decision if Halton Borough Council does not stand steadfast in defending our Green Belt with resource and vigour.

-ENDS-

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