



Our ref: Residents First Planning

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Dear All

Since we last met to discuss a resident first approach to local planning, I know there's been an enormous amount of effort, enthusiasm and hard work applied to considering the best and most appropriate approach for your towns and villages. At our first meeting I emphasised that support is available from Cheshire East to prepare neighbourhood plans and that we were seeking to establish a group of 'front runners' - groups ready to go now and get a neighbourhood plan up and running as soon as possible. Following our meeting, we received some thirty two expressions of interest to prepare neighbourhood plans, an absolutely fantastic response! And a great testament to the appetite of communities in Cheshire East to take responsibility for their own futures.

Within this group nine communities have now submitted their neighbourhood area applications. This is the first formal stage of the process and reaching this point is a real milestone; that you've submitted your application is a testament to just how ready you are to progress quickly. And on that basis, I'd like to confirm that you will form part of the front runner group of neighbourhood planners in Cheshire East. The full group is:

- Adlington
- Astbury and Moreton
- Audlem
- Brereton
- Bunbury
- High Legh
- Middlewich
- Sandbach
- Stapeley and District

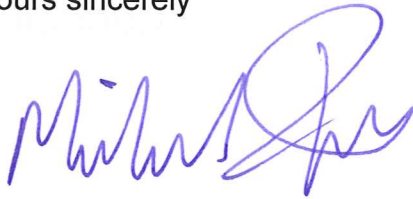
Over the past weeks I've been meeting with you all to discuss your ambitions and plans – it's really clear this is an exciting agenda for you, your communities and for Cheshire East as a whole.

Neighbourhood plans are here to stay and once adopted they can be reviewed and built up to cover the whole suite of planning issues you and your community seek to deal with. So the clear emphasis here is on those issues that are important right now and how to produce a sound, well evidenced and robust plan for adoption as soon as possible. As we talked about over the last few weeks, the best means of achieving this

is to focus clearly and tightly on what is really important to your communities now, those three or four essential policy areas that you need to address right now.

Thank you once again to all those who have engaged with this exciting agenda; I really look forward to supporting you all as we plan for the future of our communities in Cheshire East.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Michael E Jones**  
**Leader of the Council**