

## Matter 2. Spatial Strategy

### Matter 2C: Locations for Development

**(2000 word limit encompasses Matters 2C & 2D)**

- (i) Is the evidence base for Table 7.1 sound? Should the proposed settlement hierarchy be reassessed, and should a consistent approach be adopted toward the identification of Key Service Centres?

Halton Borough Council would like to reiterate their support for the inclusion of Runcorn and Widnes within the list of Regional Towns and Cities set out in Table 7.1.

Both Runcorn and Widnes have populations close to 60,000 (Runcorn 61,250 and Widnes 57,660), and provide important functions for their respective populations and wider catchment areas.

Both towns are accessible from across the Region and beyond, with easy access to Chester, Liverpool and Manchester (each of which are roughly 35 mins drive, or train journey, away) or to North Wales, the Pennines and the Lake District (all within one hours drive). Both Runcorn and Widnes have easy access to the motorway network including the M56, M62, M53 and M6. Runcorn also has access to the West Coast Mainline and from Runcorn East to the Chester to Manchester line. Widnes also has access to services to Liverpool, Manchester and beyond.

- (ii) When, and in what circumstances will there be a need for a review of the Green Belt?  
Halton Borough Council do not wish to submit any additional response in relation to this issue.

### Matter 2D: Rural Issues

- (i) Are rural issues, including the development needs of small towns, adequately addressed in the draft RSS?

Halton Borough Council do not wish to submit any additional response in relation to Matter 2D.