



**PRESENTATION BY CHAIRMAN WPC TO WCC LDF  
CABINET COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2009**

**Mr Chairman - notwithstanding the substantial development that has already taken place in Whiteley, the Parish Council has made it clear that it supports an expansion to the North of Whiteley in order to facilitate the provision of improved facilities and infrastructure. As you know this support is on the strict understanding that the present deficiencies which include schools, sports pitches and access roads are addressed and fully satisfied prior to, or early in the proposed new development. Indeed, we were pleased to note that this Committee at its previous meeting on 6 March expressed similar concerns, and I can assure you that nothing less will satisfy the Parish Council and the local community.**

**As Whiteley is making a key contribution to the District's housing requirements in the next decade, it is essential that local residents are able to influence and play a part in the future of their community. As a result the Parish Council updated the Whiteley Parish Plan in 2008, and unlike the previous one in 2004, a questionnaire was sent to every Whiteley household. The response was excellent, and in June last year, as part of the LDF process, a presentation of the results from the questionnaire was given to the City Council. However, it would appear that the current views of the local community are being disregarded. I say this purely because the Committee papers before you today refer to the 2004 Parish Plan as a core document. Mr Chairman, can I please have your assurance that the current views of the Whiteley community as given in 2008 Parish Plan will be reflected as part of this process.**

**What the 2008 Parish Plan has shown us is that the present Whiteley population has, and continues to suffer from the failure to deliver key infrastructure, and reduce road congestion. More than 70% of residents who completed the 2008 questionnaire see access difficulties, traffic congestion and the provision of schools as a top priority.**

**Since the City Council began the LDF process there has been a downturn in financial stability across world markets, and it is very possible that this situation will significantly delay the planned expansion of Whiteley. If this is the case then in practical terms this will have major implications for the Whiteley community.**

**Something must be done now and if there is no prospect of key infrastructure facilities being provided within the next 5-10 years, there is a strong argument for the City Council in conjunction with the Parish Council and others to produce a contingency plan to fully assess the implications and determine how to deliver much needed schools and access roads sooner rather than later.**

*MRE Mar 2009*

