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## Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this important consultation.

I am writing to object to the following Policies: SP PL10, pages 80-87, and Figure 3.11; Policy SP PL9, pages 77-80 and Concept Plan Figure 3.10; Policy SA45: Land Between Camlet Way and Crescent Way, Hadley Wood, page 364; Policy SA54, page 374; Policy SA62 page 372; and Policy SA62 page 383 and SP CL4 pages 277-279 – all of which propose the redesignation of Green Belt for housing and other purposes.

All these sites are part of historic Enfield Chase, which played an important role in the development of Enfield. The remaining parts of the Chase are unique in the southeast and a rare and valuable landscape asset. The loss of these sites would cause permanent harm not only to the Green Belt, but also to the very character of the borough.

I am particularly opposed to the loss of Vicarage Farm. The land is crossed by the Merryhills Way footpath, much-used by Enfield residents and others for exercise and relaxation and the physical and mental health attributes of the footpath would be destroyed by development. The farmland could be put back into productive use growing local food for local people.

The Council has a duty of care for the Green Belt, in accordance with the London Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF], and any intentions to release parts of it should be taken out of the local plan.

The ongoing pandemic has demonstrated the invaluable importance of access to the green belt, to Enfield residents, particularly those without gardens. It is vital that the children have access to the natural affordances of the green belt. If they do not have contact with nature, they will not understand the need to preserve it: Pollution and climate change instruct the preservation of the “lungs of London”

When the last of the brown-fill sites are built on, when **all** houses/flats occupied, when empty offices and other buildings converted into living spaces, and multiple home ownership, prohibited, there will be no need to build on the green belt. Such a progressive policy will resolve the housing crisis, not the destruction of the natural environment.

The comments provided in this response to the consultation are my own views.

