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RE : DRAFT LOCAL PLAN

I am grateful for this opportunity to contribute my views to the consultation process.

I am writing to object to the following policies, which would all repurpose Green Belt land for housing and other uses:

SP PL10, pages 80-87 and Figure 3.11

SP PL9, pages 77-80 and Concept Plan Figure 3.10

SA45 : land between Camlet Way and Crescent Way, Hadley Wood, page 364

SA54, page 374

SA52, page 372

SA62, page 383

SPCL4 pages 277-279

The Green Belt is an area of land protected from development, and it must remain so. There are many strategically located Brownfield sites within the borough that are crying out for regeneration. Repurposing and regenerating land, developing it into attractive, convenient, sustainable and affordable places for people to live should be our elected Council's first aim.

As supporting evidence for this I quote a letter of 28/2/2019 from the Mayor of London to Enfield Council's Planning Policy team :

*The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open ; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence. The retention of the Green Belt is also to assist in urban regeneration by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.*

The same letter states categorically the unsuitability of SP PL9 SA27 land at Crews Hill for housing development, giving specific reasons and summing up : *On all three counts the Mayor, including Transport for London, does not consider Crews Hill to be a sustainable location for growth as stated in Enfield's Draft Local Plan.*

I support the building of more affordable homes in the borough. However, I object to the distinct lack of any concrete evidence in the plan of a corresponding increase in infrastructure : for example I can find no reference to specific plans to build new primary and secondary schools or medical centres to meet the needs of the growing population. Vague references are simply not enough. I speak from experience : I was one of the

campaigners for school places in 1997/8 when the lack of secondary school places in west Enfield reached crisis point (before Highlands school was built) and we had to resort to bringing children and parents with banners to protest outside the Civic Centre. The council at that time was Conservative-led, but unless you can guarantee local schools for local children, by incorporating new schools into your Local Plan, you will lose the support of Labour voters like myself.

Likewise, there is insufficient evidence in the plan of road and transport improvement in the borough, to meet the needs of a growing population. There is a lot of wishful thinking in this plan about walking and cycling. Unless you have specific plans to improve the frequency and efficiency of public transport across the borough, and workable 'human' solutions for improving traffic flow on the roads, pollution and congestion will only increase with the building of new homes.

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