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Dear Enfield Council,

I wish to express my concern about 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 SA52 page 372; and Policy SA62 page 383 and SP CL4 pages 277-279 – all of which are proposing the de-designation of the Green Belt for housing and other purposes.

I support and understand the necessity for housing development in the Borough, but wonder why this has to be on the Green Belt. To my knowledge, and from what I've read online, there are brownfield sites in the Borough which could be regenerated for this purpose, for example the industrial area around Brimsdown and also the Meridian Water site, which already have the infrastructure in place to support new developments. I imagine also that housing on a brownfield site would be far more affordable to first time buyers and Social Rent families. By contrast housing in the Green Belt would be a lot more expensive, and people would have extra financial commitments as they would be reliant on owning and using a car to access schools, shops, transport etc. This itself goes against the Mayor's Transport Strategy of encouraging people to walk and cycle more.

Most of the sites proposed in the document are part of the historic Enfield Chase, which is designated as an Area of Special Character and is therefore of national significance. There has already been significant development of the Chase at Southgate, Hadley Wood and Enfield, but fortunately a large amount of open Chase Land is still present. To lose this would affect the character of the Borough hugely, not to mention the permanent harm to the Green Belt. As a keen walker, I have walked many times along the footpaths in Enfield, enjoying nature, wildlife, and the views. I now find it incomprehensible that many of these might disappear, and the Enfield I have loved and enjoyed for more than 60 years, will be completely ruined.

The Green Belt is a valuable resource which should be looked after and preserved. Particularly in these days when we are so concerned with our environmental impact and climate change, we should be taking steps to reduce our carbon footprint as individuals and as a community. Creating an urban sprawl on the Green Belt would have the opposite effect, leading to increased pollution, destruction of wildlife habitats and the loss of recreation areas for the people of Enfield. The pandemic has revealed how important our green spaces are and why we need to preserve them.

In the last Green Belt Review, the Council stated "The Green Belt should be protected from inappropriate development". Let's see this in action, and look for alternatives!

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