

Dear Sirs,

Response to the Draft Local Plan Reg 18 Consultation 2021

As Enfield residents for many years, we appreciate the opportunity to respond to this consultation.

We cannot agree with those policies proposing the taking out of use Green Belt Land for housing or any other purposes.

While we support housing development and the ambition to meet Enfield's housing needs we believe that the proposal to release Green Belt land is wrong and that there are alternatives available to meet housing targets.

The Borough's own records show that there are in excess of 2000 empty homes in the Borough. There are also a number of empty commercial properties that could possibly be converted into living accommodation, as has been done in the adjacent Borough of Barnet. There are brown field sites in Enfield for which new housing has been proposed but have been left undeveloped for many years.

Green Belt Land is a precious resource that should be protected for the future for everyone. It is too valuable to lose. There are many reasons for having a Green Belt, including environmental, ecological, economic, physical & mental health benefits to name just a few. All of these have proven to be even more essential during the Covid19 pandemic.

Your own leaflet, Future Enfield, states that a 'sound' local plan protects the majority of the Green Belt in Enfield from proposed planning changes. Just how much is the 'majority'? 50.5%? That is this time! Changing the use of Green Belt Land would set a precedent for the next time when you want to take more of it into other use. The Council has a duty of care for the Green Belt, in accordance with the London Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework. Any intentions to release parts of it for other purposes should definitely be taken out of the Local Plan.

For the reasons given above we strongly object to these parts of the Draft Local Plan.