

MAYOR OF LONDON

Richard Knox-Johnston
Chair
London Green Belt Council

Our ref: MGLA071119-6586

Date: 11 DEC 2019

Dear Mr Knox - Johnston.

Thank you for your email and additional documents you have provided. I share your concern for London's Green Belt and appreciate your support for the approach I have taken in my draft London Plan, including during the Examination in Public.

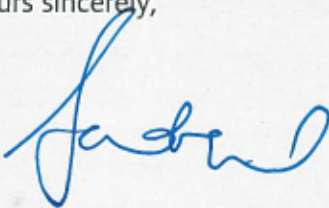
As you are aware, the panel of Inspectors has delivered its final report on the draft London Plan. I am currently considering these recommendations and will publish my response this month. However, I have made no secret of my commitment to preserving and enhancing the Green Belt.

I believe that the strong emphasis I have placed on protecting London's Green Belt is justified in order to help prevent urban sprawl; driving the re-use and intensification of previously developed land to ensure the city makes efficient use of its infrastructure and that inner urban areas benefit from regeneration and investment. This is a key part of the approach the draft London Plan takes to prioritising development on brownfield land.

As you point out, the strong protection of the Green Belt is also important due to the multiple environmental functions it performs, particularly within the context of a climate emergency. It provides many benefits including ensuring transport emissions do not increase from sprawl; supporting London's resilience to a changing climate (such as preventing flooding) as well as supporting food growing; providing important habitats for wildlife; and allowing space for recreation and relaxation for Londoners.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely,



Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London