

11th September 2014

Mrs T Littleford

Dear Sir,

Matter E: Green Belt policy, the Langley Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) allocation and the Peddimore employment allocation (BDP policies TP10 & GA5-6)

This is my written statement with respect to Matter E.

The National Planning Policy Framework is explicit that key protections like the Green Belt cannot be overridden and that once established green belt boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances. I am unclear what the exceptional circumstances are to justify the release of the green belt here in Sutton Coldfield. The BCC have not made this argument very clear in their proposals.

- We have only 15% of Green Belt remaining here in Birmingham preventing urban sprawl. We also have a pipeline of 44,000 dwelling's (2012 Data) which should be utilized first before exceptional circumstances are justified for the release of the green belt.
- There has been insufficient consultation e.g. with local schools, churches or residents associations by the BCC about current sustainability issues let alone when you include an urban extension. Without sufficient consultation they will not have understood the current issues we face.
- There was very little information provided during consultation about what connectivity would be provided for the urban extension or the employment zone. Good Hope hospital is overstretched. Travelling to Heartlands hospital would increase private transport and carbon footprint as no public transport takes you straight there. Also pollution studies should be taken out to assess current Co2 emission levels and what an impact an extra 10,000 cars would make.

Finally as a community we should have been more informed and consulted. Due to the size of these proposals we deserved a consultation that was more than a tick box process and one that was more user-friendly. I am also unsure why we were asked to comment on the legality of the plan. We should have been asked for input into the plan and comment any changes we felt were necessary.

I hope now in the hands of an inspector reason will prevail.

Yours sincerely



Mrs T Littleford.