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Dear Resident,

I am writing to you regarding recent developments regarding Sheffield's Local Plan.

I am sure you will share my disappointment and dismay at the Planning Inspectorate's decision where they found the current proposals put forward by the Council to be acceptable except for a few minor changes. In doing so they failed to adequately explain some of the fundamental challenges facing the sites, alternative sites that are more suitable, and the inequality in green belt house building in the East of Sheffield compared to the West.

There has not even been an admission that these are relevant concerns which they clearly are. I find this lack of justification deeply unfair. At the very least the Planning Inspectors should have offered some commentary on the consultation and objections, but this was entirely lacking from their judgement letter.

The next stage in this process is a further consultation starting in March. This will be another opportunity to make a submission on the main modifications and updated supporting documents for the Local Plan. I will be honest with you; I am incredibly sceptical that this is a meaningful consultation given the way the Council and the Inspectorate have refused to take account of alternative views so far.

Nevertheless, I will still be making a submission opposing this unfair and inequitable local plan and I would urge all residents to do so as well. We may not be listened to, but we should be heard. It also ensures we maintain maximum attention on this issue.

This will be particularly important as after the consultation there will be a final vote at full council later this year to formally adopt the plan or not.

I have always been clear that I do not object to the idea of developing some green belt as we have allocated all available brownfield sites. However, I do object to how unfair it is for our side of the city where most of the green belt allocation for housing is based, especially compared to the West which have little to no green belt deletion

I want to reassure you that I remain opposed to this Local Plan. It does not serve the area I represent or my residents and only adds to the inequality between the East and West of the city. The Council must reject this local plan, and I will be campaigning to this end over the coming months. There is still time to prevent this injustice.

If you have any questions, please call or email my office and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Clive Betts
MP for Sheffield South East