

DRONFIELD GREENBELT GROUP REPRESENTATION REGARDING 4105 SIGNATURE PETITION

Representation Number: 6893

Document: North East Derbyshire Publication Draft Local Plan (Reg 19)

Document Section: The Publication Draft Local Plan

Support / Object: OBJECT

Paragraphs and Policies referred to (Qu 1):

Paragraphs 4.64–4.66: NE Derbyshire Green Belt and 4.67–4.70: Green Belt Review

Policy SS2 p41: Spatial Strategy and the Distribution of Development

Policy SS10 p61: NE Derbyshire Green Belt, Policy LC1 p66-67: Housing Allocations

Your representation has been summarised as follows (Qu 3):

A petition has previously been submitted to the Council and confirmed as a duly made representation. Subsequently, the lead petitioner has submitted further information, which is included in this representation.

Petition Statement:

Petition to Councillor Graham Baxter MBE (Leader of the District Council) and North East Derbyshire District Council.

We, the undersigned residents of Dronfield, are opposed to plans to remove land from the Dronfield Greenbelt for development.

We call upon North East Derbyshire District Council to reject the proposed plan.

Council refused a 30 minutes debate regards petition between Councillors. Council denied petition representative 5 minutes to address Council and justify our stance: there are no exceptional circumstances to warrant release of Green Belt land in Dronfield for development. (100 words)

(Council response to petition attached)

Changes we would like to see to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound (Qu 4):

Petition demonstrates views of 4105 residents, collected pre-2018 draft, relating to Dronfield's Green Belt.

Spatial Strategy places much emphasis on Dronfield, hence Council's response is invalid: it is highly appropriate to debate petition during consultation.

Wastes time and public money to refuse debate on key issues and submit plan "blindly" to Inspectorate.

Request extraordinary Full Council meeting for debate and 20 minutes residents' speaking rights regards:

Appraising Local Plan 2018, available evidence and conspicuous absence of Green Belt Topic paper: all 1275 proposed housing allocations on the District's Green Belt should be withdrawn as there are no exceptional circumstances.

Council's Response to Petition:

Dear Dr Gadsden,

Petition in relation to the local Plan presented on 14th February 2018

Further to previous emails in which receipt of the above Petition has been acknowledged, I now write to let you know what the Council intends to do with the Petition.

Please be assured that the Council has considered the Petition seriously. The Council notes there are a large number of signatures on the Petition and that clearly there are a significant number of people who feel strongly on this. I would also like to point out that Council Petition Schemes are now not required by law. It is entirely the choice of the Council to have such a scheme or not and obviously this Council has chosen to have such a scheme. The Petition was presented immediately after the NEDDC Cabinet had decided to publish the draft Local Plan for consultation prior to submission for examination. Although the Petition was presented before the consultation period formally began, the Council will accept it as a consultation response. It will therefore be submitted with all other consultation responses.

In relation to the Petition and whether it will be presented to Council, the Council's Petitions Scheme provides for Petitions to be rejected in certain circumstances including where the Petition is inappropriate. I believe there are 2 reasons why consideration of the Petition would be inappropriate at this stage.

Firstly the Council cannot consider the Petition request without considering the whole local plan. This is because decisions on green belt in Dronfield should not be considered in isolation from the rest of the plan provision as the decisions affect one another. As the draft is now the subject of consultation it would be inappropriate to do so at this stage.

The second reason is that the draft is out to consultation and that there are still a number of stages for the Local Plan to go through including the public Examination where you will get the chance to put your views to an independent Inspector. Only following this will the Local Plan be presented to Council for adoption with the benefit of the Inspector's report following that Examination. It would not be appropriate for the Council to consider any aspect of the draft Local Plan in advance of these stages.

Should you disagree with my decision you have a right under the Petitions Scheme to raise the matter with the relevant Scrutiny Committee. This is limited to the way the Petition has been dealt with and is not for the subject matter of the Petition to be debated. I enclose a copy of the Petitions Scheme for your information.

Yours sincerely

MO

(MO = Monitoring Officer)