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Ms Helen Martin
Director of Regeneration and Enterprise
Dudley Council
Council House
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EJ/MW28072

22nd December 2023

Dear Helen

I am writing as the local Member of Parliament for Dudley South to formally submit my comments on Dudley's Draft Local Plan. My comments reflect a variety of different emails and letters that I have received from local residents in relation to this draft plan.

After carefully reviewing the document, it is clear that the Draft Plan is significantly better for Dudley South than the previous proposals contained in the Black Country Plan. I am of course particularly pleased to see that Green Belt land will be protected in the Plan, and that proposals to build on precious green spaces such as at Crestwood and off Severn Drive in Pensnett do not appear in the Draft Local Plan. This is something I have campaigned for, and local residents frequently contact me about.

However, residents have raised concerns with me about the strain on infrastructure the building of new homes will have on the local area and community. My office regularly receives complaints about congestion on the roads, particularly on main routes such as the A491, A4101 and Bromley Lane / Bromley, and proposals in the Draft Local Plan will inevitably place even greater pressure on roads that are already extremely busy at peak times. It is imperative that the Council ensures that the necessary provisions are in place to accommodate any increase in population or changes in land use as a result of the plan.

Furthermore, there are of course potential environmental impacts as a result of the proposed changes. It is crucial that the Council conducts a thorough environmental impact assessment to evaluate the consequences on local ecosystems, air and water quality, and biodiversity. Without such an assessment, the plan may inadvertently contribute to environmental degradation.

There is also a clear need for different levels of government and potential developers to work together to make renewed efforts to secure additional brownfield sites, to invest in any land remediation necessary to make them suitable for housing development, and to continue to avoid development on important green spaces.



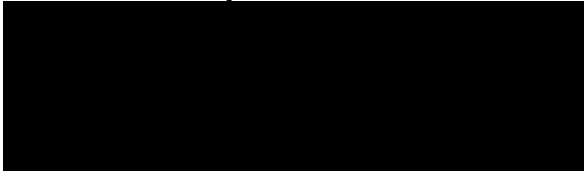
Working hard for you, to put Dudley South first

I very much hope my comments are noted.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to a comprehensive and collaborative outcome that takes into account the best interests of the community.

Furthermore, I would appreciate the opportunity to participate in any public hearings or consultations to further discuss the Plan.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Mike Wood.

Mike Wood
Member of Parliament for Dudley South