London Assembly (Plenary) - 5 March 2026 - Proposals to Release London's Green Belt for Development - Petition Response

Dear AM Georgiou,

Thank you for your email and enclosed petition. I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Mayor, apologies for our delay in issuing a response.

By way of clarification, the Mayor does not have powers to release Green Belt, instead the boroughs release Green Belt land depending on their housing numbers and brownfield supply through their Local Plan review process. That being said, the next London Plan, as a long term spatial strategy for Greater London, will have an important role in establishing whether, and the general extent to which such releases will need to be considered by boroughs in coming decades.

The Mayor has been clear in setting out that to help address London's acute housing crisis, the brownfield first approach will not be sufficient, and some release of Green Belt land will be required across London. Where this will be proposed, it must be done in the best way possible, in sustainable locations with good access to good transport connections, making the best use of land and improving the amount of land that is genuinely green and accessible to Londoners

The Mayor remains committed to supporting nature and the environment and improving access to good-quality green spaces for Londoners. Such spaces improve Londoners' quality of life and provide significant health and wellbeing benefits, in addition to supporting London's biodiversity.

His goal is to strike a balance between protection and improvement of existing green spaces, the creation and protection of new and better green spaces, and the delivery of much needed homes and jobs in the right locations. Done in the right way, release of some green belt will allow us to make a considerable contribution to delivering the homes Londoners need, whilst also enhancing London's parklands, nature and biodiversity.

Kind regards,

John Diver

Principal Strategic Planner, London Plan