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### **Golden Motion - Protect the Green Belt and Bristol's Green Spaces**

This Council welcomes the importance placed by Her Majesty's Government on the protection of the Green Belt and endorses the main reasons given for preserving this strategic space.

These zones are essential to check urban sprawl; prevent the merging of neighbouring towns; safeguard the countryside from encroachment; preserve the setting and special characteristics of historic areas; and assist in urban regeneration by encouraging the recycling of already developed land.

The need to conserve the existing Green Belt, as well as retaining vital green spaces, remains a major priority for most people in our city. As a result, Council notes the Mayor's recent decision to not now build housing on Brislington Meadows and to 'look again' at housing plans which would destroy the Western Slopes wildlife corridor.

Sadly, there are other equally significant sites which remain under the threat of the bulldozer. One such place is Yew Tree Farm, Bristol's last working farm. The family there has been recognised by the Avon Wildlife Trust and RSPB for the huge strides made in achieving sustainable, low-intensity, organic local food production, whilst maintaining abundant and attractive biodiversity.

Considering the Mayor's pledges around combatting food poverty and encouraging communities to grow more of their own food, Council calls for a halt to the proposed redevelopment of or incursion into any remaining productive wildlife rich agricultural land. Furthermore, the Mayor is asked to give a cast-iron commitment that he will look instead to increase the emphasis placed in the Authority's Site Allocations and Development Management policies on re-using or re-purposing existing and emerging 'brownfield', previously developed or urban centres rather than continuing to erode our surrounding fields and countryside.

This Council also notes the inclusion of the Government's Planning Bill in the 2021 Queen's Speech, the content of which runs contrary to the views expressed in this motion. Full Council believes this Planning Bill, that would abolish Section 106, fetter Development Control committees and lead to a free-for-all for housing developers, is an affront to local democracy as it could see developers build on green space with no public consultation or democratic oversight. This Council therefore calls on Party Group Leaders to write to the Government to make it clear of its view that this bill should not become law.