

**Joanne McCartney AM**

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**Our ref:** JM/YK  
**Date:** 06 November 2013

Dear Mr Whitehead,

**RE: North Circular Area Action Plan**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft North Circular Area Action Plan (NCAAP) as part of the independent examination. In addition to the comments raised in my 23 May 2013 letter, I ask you to consider concern of local residents, which I share, regarding density.

The existing character and context of the area is suburban, and consequently all future planning decisions should be based on the suburban setting in the London Plan density matrix table (3.2).

The area surrounding the A406 is very much a residential area of predominantly two-storey, suburban dwellings. Most of the homes, ranging in design from inter-war semi-detached properties to earlier suburban styles in terraces set back from the pavement, are occupied by families. Local residents appreciate the residential suburban feel of the area. This local understanding was confirmed by the council's 2011 Characterisation Study, which classified much of the area as 'classic suburban'.

The importance of maintaining character and context is established by London Plan Policy 7.4 (Local Character), which requires regard "to the form, function, and structure of an area, place or street and the scale, mass and orientation of surrounding buildings." This principle is strengthened by the draft supplementary planning guidance Shaping Neighbourhoods: Character and Context, which explains how boroughs should use local development frameworks – including Area Action Plans – to sustain, protect, and enhance the character of a local area. In the case of the areas within the NCAAP, this would require recognition of the suburban character.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. McCartney', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

**Joanne McCartney AM**  
London Assembly Member for Enfield and Haringey

CC: Ken Bean, Programme Officer