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To whom it may concern

**Re: Submission to the Inspector's Main Modifications in Haringey's Local Plan**

I write in response to the consultation on the emerging Haringey Local Plan. The Bridge Renewal Trust is disappointed to note that the public examination with the Independent Planning Inspector has led to modifications that compromise on the integrity of the Hot Food Takeaway policy (DM47). Specifically, the removal of the 400m zone controlling the number of fast food takeaways around schools and text changes sited from DMod100 – 106 in the published list of modifications are alarming.

The Bridge Renewal Trust is a charity based in Tottenham, an area in the east of the borough where the high number of fast food outlets is evident. Our main purpose is to deliver practical ways that people can live healthier and fulfilling lives – thus playing our part in working towards reducing health inequalities and building stronger communities. As the Council's Strategic partner for the Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS), our deep understanding of the local community gives us on the ground insight that is not always captured by academic researchers, evidence or in this case, policy. The Bridge Renewal Trust is also a member of the Haringey Obesity Alliance which contributes to the improvement of health and wellbeing of people living and working in the borough through co-ordinated, effective and sustained action to reduce obesity. As a member of the HOA steering group, The Bridge Renewal Trust also provides strategic direction, knowledge and expertise to the partnership.

We deliver whole health services that sit alongside the primary care services at Laurel's Health Centre and are becoming increasingly aware of the life threatening health harms associated with obesity. Two thirds of adults, one fifth of children in reception (4 to 5 years old) and a third in year six (10 to 11 years old) are overweight or obese in Haringey. Approximately 70% of obese children or adolescents will become obese adults, and are at significantly increased risk of developing life changing diseases such as cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes.<sup>1,2</sup> Thus, this is a serious public health problem with negative physical, social and health consequences for our community.

Our membership of Haringey's Obesity Alliance (HOA) not only demonstrates our commitment to reducing obesity but has also provided us with the forum to reflect on our collective responsibility to reduce levels of obesity in the borough. Attendance of the HOA conference in July 2015 allowed us to hear from experts in the field, including Professor Harry Rutter. His presentation on the 2007 UK government Foresight report 'Tackling Obesities: Future Choices' was incredibly insightful. One important action which the Foresight report identified was the need to modify the environment so that it supports being active and does not provide easy access to foods high in sugar, fat and salt. We also heard how food purchased from fast food takeaways is more energy dense than the average diet which leads to weight gain when eaten regularly.<sup>3,4</sup> We are concerned that the modifications disregard this and will make the unhealthy choice, the easier choice.

The 2015 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) rank Haringey as one of the most deprived in the country; it is the 30th most deprived borough in England and the 6th most deprived in London. In Haringey we know that obesity is closely linked to deprivation with children about to start secondary school being two and a half times more likely to be obese in the deprived areas east of the borough than children in the west.<sup>5</sup> We also know from local research that the number of fast food takeaways influences children's purchasing habits. A study of secondary schools in Haringey found that where schools had a fewer number of takeaways and other shops within a 300m radius of a school, less pupils were observed in nearby takeaways and shops at lunchtime or after school.<sup>6</sup> Given this evidence we now know that improving the food environment around schools does have potential to influence children's food-purchasing habits and therefore diets<sup>7</sup>.

Successful preventative efforts are urgently need and the removal of the 400m boundary undermines local effort to improve diet and health outcomes among Haringey children.

There is a need for local planning authorities to manage the over concentration of fast food takeaways as a means of improving the health of local children in Haringey. In particular, management should be focused around schools. It is our earnest hope that you will reconsider the modifications you have made and will reinstate the original policy proposal for Hot Food Takeaways (DM47). Please feel free to engage with the organisation further should you require additional support on this matter.

Kind Regards



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