

## Why should you care about the Green Belt?

- **The Green Belt gives somewhere for food to be grown.**
  - Reducing the distance between where food is grown and where it is consumed is ecologically sound. Towns with a Green Belt, such as Rotherham, will benefit from lower transportation costs and fresher food.
  - Local food is more likely to be grown organically, which may be better for people than intensively grown food, and is definitely more sustainable.
- **Green Belt land prevents and controls flooding**
  - Open areas of land absorb and collect rainwater before channelling it into streams and rivers, preventing run-off that can lead to flooding in low-lying areas.
  - Water can spread into open land which benefits from it by becoming more fertile.
- **Green Belts improve air quality.**
  - Plants produce oxygen, and absorb carbon dioxide. Increased amounts of carbon dioxide may be affecting the climate in ways that will have unpredictable results.
  - The oxygen produced by Green Belt land helps to lower the effects of air pollution, especially on hot, sunny days. Green Belt land helps people with breathing problems, such as asthma.
- **Green Belts improve the life of people living nearby.**
  - Many journeys in Rotherham go through Green Belt land, which makes travelling much nicer.
  - Rotherham is popular because it is such a green town. It is very easy for people to get out into countryside no matter where they live.
  - Green Belt land gives people somewhere to exercise. Rotherham is at the forefront of anti-obesity measures, and Green Belt land is important for people to go walking and cycling safely away from traffic.