

## **APPENDIX 'B11': SPATIAL THEMES**

### **Sustainable East Herts**

Sustainable development is at the core of the new planning process and is about ensuring development “meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Brundtland Commission 1987). This dovetails neatly with the issue of climate change, which has been accepted as the most serious global environmental threat, and the Government’s requirement that all new homes should be carbon neutral by 2016.

### **Housing East Herts**

The provision of new homes is a major part of the planning system. Not only is it important that new homes are provided in the most appropriate and sustainable locations, but it is equally important that the type and mix of these dwellings reflects both housing need and demand, and that the specialist accommodation requirements of specific groups that form part of East Herts’ community are also provided for.

### **East Herts Character**

One of the strongest issues to emerge from the Awareness Raising sessions was the value that residents place on the character of the District. Whilst previous local plans have covered topics such as design, landscape/the countryside, and heritage, they have been treated as distinct and separate from one another. In actual fact, all three combine to give East Herts its unique character and it is the spatial planning approach of the new LDF that will allow the Core Strategy to reflect this combined approach.

### **East Herts Economy, Skills & Prosperity**

The holistic approach of the Core Strategy also enables the various threads of the local economy to be brought together coherently to include not only employment, but retail and, importantly for East Herts, the rural economy. Furthermore, this theme also ties in the education and skills that underpin the local economy, as well as ensuring that all residents share in the prosperity that the local economy brings.

### **East Herts on the Move**

The prosperity and rural nature of the District dictate that East Herts has a high level of car ownership. But congestion and parking are major issues in town centres especially. One of the biggest challenges facing the LDF will be to reduce car dependency, whilst maintaining access to services through improving passenger transport and walking and cycling.

### **East Herts Health, Wellbeing & Play**

It is the provision of social infrastructure such as community and leisure facilities that enable communities to function successfully. Again, this holistic approach aims to unite the disparate and varied nature of such facilities, whether mind, body or soul to ensure community cohesion and wellbeing.

**Green East Herts**

Maintaining the environmental quality of East Herts is vitally important. We live in an environment of both 'natural' and 'built' components and this overarching theme brings together not just 'natural' issues such as wildlife and biodiversity or 'built' issues such as noise, but environmental issues that inter-relate such as flooding, pollution and recycling.

**East Herts Monitoring & Delivery**

Delivery is central to the LDF and successful delivery results from the tried-and-tested 'plan, monitor and manage' process. However, delivery of new development, as identified in the Awareness Raising sessions, must be supported by the delivery of infrastructure.

**East Herts People**

This section will include cross-cutting issues e.g. crime and disorder and the strength of the voluntary sector.