

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL – 3 DECEMBER 2013  
EXECUTIVE – 9 DECEMBER 2013

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING  
AND TRANSPORT

DISTRICT PLAN UPDATE REPORT AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENT  
CHAPTER 6

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- This report presents the final chapter of the District Plan Supporting Document, Chapter 6: Conclusions
- It explains the revised scope of Chapter 6, and how the conclusions of the overall strategy selection process will be presented in the Strategy Report at the next meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL AND EXECUTIVE: That:**

<b>(A)</b>	<b>the revised approach to presentation of the strategy for the District Plan, set out at Essential Reference Paper ‘B’, be supported; and</b>
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<b>(B)</b>	<b>Essential Reference Paper ‘C’, containing District Plan Supporting Document Chapter 6: Conclusions, be supported.</b>
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**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COUNCIL: That:**

<b>(A)</b>	<b>the revised approach to presentation of the strategy for the District Plan, set out at Essential Reference Paper ‘B’, be agreed; and</b>
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<b>(B)</b>	<b>Essential Reference Paper ‘C’, containing District Plan Supporting Document Chapter 6: Conclusions, be agreed.</b>
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## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 The District Plan Update Report on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013 explained that Chapter 6 of the Supporting Document will perform the central function of striking an appropriate balance between all the various constraints and requirements, based on earlier work in the Supporting Document and supplemented by other evidence as necessary.
- 1.2 The District Plan Update Report on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2013 explained that given the large amount of work to consider, and the need for Members to have an opportunity to properly scrutinise the draft development strategy and settlement policies, the agenda items proposed for the District Planning Executive Panel on 3<sup>rd</sup> December would be split across two panel meetings, with an additional panel meeting scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

## 2.0 Report

- 2.1 Reflecting the decision to increase the time for scrutiny of the final stages in plan preparation, the scope of Chapter 6 has been reduced. Chapter 6 as presented focuses on evaluation of the main issues as they affect each area of search. Issues relating to national policy requirements and matters of soundness do not feature in Chapter 6 as presented.
- 2.2 Further reports prior to consultation will be presented on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014. These reports will include a Strategy Report, Infrastructure Topic Paper, and Sustainability Appraisal, all of which will contribute to the emerging development strategy.
- 2.3 The Strategy Report will present the overall conclusions for the strategy selection process. It will include assessment of matters relating to soundness and other requirements of national policy which were previously envisaged to be presented in Chapter 6 of the Supporting Document.
- 2.4 As presented, Chapter 6 does not attempt to formulate a strategy for the District Plan. This can only be achieved in the context of the national policy requirements and local policy approaches. Therefore, the title of Chapter 6 has been changed from 'Strategy' to 'Conclusions'. These are not the conclusions of the strategy selection process, but only of the Supporting Document, which forms one part of the strategy selection process.

- 2.5 Reflecting these changes, Version 6 of the Stepped Approach Diagram is attached at **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**.
- 2.6 Supporting Document Chapter 6: Conclusions is presented at **Essential Reference Paper 'C'**. This draws together the main findings of the work contained in Sieves 1, 2, and 3, and provides supplementary information drawn from a number of sources including the Green Belt Review, Transport and Schools updates, and also from landowner/developer information.
- 2.7 In order to assist with understanding of the process of reaching the conclusions set out in Chapter 6, a webpage has been set up which draws together the earlier chapters of the Supporting Document with an explanation of when they were submitted. A link to this is provided under 'Background Papers' below.
- 3.0 Implications/Consultations
- 3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

### Background Papers

The earlier chapters of the Supporting Document, together with links to relevant reports and documents, are available at [www.eastherts.gov.uk/supportingdocument](http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/supportingdocument)

Panel reports are available on the Council's website:

- District Plan Update Report (18<sup>th</sup> November 2013)
- District Plan Update Report (3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013)
- District Plan Update Report (25 July 2013)

<http://online.eastherts.gov.uk/moderngov/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=151>

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