

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'C'

	Consultee	Consultation Response	East Herts Response
1	Chairman, Stanstead Abbots Parish Council	Disappointed that the green deal and other initiatives to improve sustainable living are being discontinued.	This was a National Scheme from central government. East Herts works hard to work with partners on sustainability issues and continues to offer grants towards the cost of installing certain energy efficiency measures.
2	Chairman, Stanstead Abbots Parish Council	Would like to see more references to minimum standards in terms of space indoors and access to outdoor areas.	Space standards fall under the Local Plan and Building Regulations.
3	Chairman, Stanstead Abbots Parish Council	Concerned about people who depend on carers and equipment to lead active lives may need bedroom space to accommodate them often leading to a loss of benefits.	Under-occupancy is a national policy which seeks to encourage downsizing to free up much needed family accommodation. There has been a legal challenge to the government regarding the need for additional bedrooms for carers and medical equipment and we await the outcome.
4	Citizens Advice, East Herts	Concerned about affordability of housing. Changes to benefits, reducing the benefit cap, freezing existing benefits and the adoption of LHA for social tenants will make even social housing unaffordable to many. This is turn likely to lead to a further increase in the demand for the Housing Options Service	Noted. Affordability is covered in a number of sections of the Strategy and is recognised as a key challenge going forward for all partners.
5	Citizens Advice, East Herts	How will the new housing in the district impact. Will the new residents mirror the current profile of East Herts or will they bring in different needs and issues.	The Local Plan when adopted will indicate the areas of housing growth and data on demographics going forward. It is recognised that the District has an

			ageing demographic which is an area of concern for housing provision going forward.
6	Health and Community Services, HCC	Pleased to see the strategy mentions Accommodation Boards	Noted.
7	Health and Community Services, HCC	Under Section 3 would like to see more about what the plan is for the accommodation for this client group.	Would see this section being updated through the work of the Accommodation Boards.
8	Health and Community Services, HCC	Would like to have some information if possible about preventative element around mental health issues.	Prevention is a key aspect of housing advice and is not only an issue for mental health clients.
9	Homes and Communities Agency	The draft Strategy demonstrates a clear understanding of the challenges which face the district and is focused on a small number of objectives to meet its key priorities.	Noted.
10	Homes and Communities Agency	The HCA will work with the council to deliver housing which supports the specific groups identified within the Strategy, and in particular welcomes the focus on housing provision for active and frail older persons and in rural communities.	Noted.
11	Public Health, HCC	The Strategy should make the link with health more explicit.	Health is recognised as a key issue related to housing. The Strategy is the first step in promoting the joining up of these key areas of work and East Herts will continue to work to closely with health partners.
12	Public Health, HCC	Welcome the strategy and the opportunity to communicate the links between housing , health and wellbeing.	Noted.
13	Public Health, HCC	The Strategy might consider making a stronger case of the need for the involvement of partners, such as health and social care providers, in the provision of	Partners are referenced in the document and a majority of the priorities and tasks can only be achieved in partnership.

		housing services.	
14	Public Health, HCC	Further discussion may be required with regards the expectations and delivery of data and intelligence into the Hertfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.	Noted
15	Resident	Finds the strategy vague and unclear in parts. Data for example on the ageing population appears to be missing.	This is a light touch strategy due to the changing nature of national policy on a number of issues at this time, particularly those in the Housing and Planning Bill which is currently going through the parliamentary process.
16	Resident	There is no contents page or executive summary.	Contents page inserted. There is a summary of the Objectives, Priorities and Tasks at the end of the document. As this is a light touch document do not feel there is a requirement for an Executive Summary.
17	Resident	The East Herts map at the beginning is not referred to in the text specifically or provided with a key.	East Herts map removed as agree that it was not providing any additional/beneficial information.
18	Resident	Not clear about the link to the agreed 40% affordable housing target applied to new development but often negotiated downwards.	The 40% affordable housing requirement forms part of the District Plan/Local Plan Policy requirements which is a separate statutory document.
19	Resident	The table under Objective 1 pg 13 doesn't appear to show a picture of strong performance at least over the last 5 years.	Within the table there are some lower delivery levels which correspond with the housing recession. Overall, the District is a strong provider of affordable housing stock.