

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'B'

Uttlesford District Council Regulation 19 Local Plan Consultation

Response by East Herts Council

East Herts Council supports the Plan's approach to meeting its housing and employment needs, in particular the approach taken to providing clear policy guidance on how different housing and employment proposals will be considered, and a clear position on the delivery of supporting infrastructure.

However, East Herts Council would like to request that Uttlesford District Council allocates land to the north of Bishop's Stortford on land to the rear of Goodliffe Park on Stansted Road to facilitate the expansion of the employment area. The employment area at Goodliffe Park is currently constrained only by the presence of the district boundary and the presence of Green Belt. This was requested at the Regulation 18 consultation. East Herts Council maintains that the benefits arising from the creation of new employment land in a location that is extremely well connected to the A120/M11 outweighs the limited role that the Green Belt in this location performs, particularly given the location of Bishop's Stortford within the LSCC innovation corridor. Therefore, East Herts Council suggests that, while Policy EMP1 (Employment Strategy) and Policy SP10 (Protection of the Countryside) are not considered unsound, they would be more positively prepared and effective, adding greater flexibility, by allocating land adjacent to an existing employment area for employment generating uses.

East Herts Council queries the effectiveness of reference to rapid transit measures to Stansted Airport in Policy SP6 (Easton Park), Policy SP11 (London Stansted Airport) and TA4 (New Transport Infrastructure or Measures). While East Herts Council supports this

in principle, as it would increase options for sustainable access to the airport and nearby settlements, such measures are not addressed in the current planning application for the expansion of the airport to accommodate up to 43 million passengers per annum. The application is likely to be determined in advance of the adoption of the Local Plan and therefore such ambitions may be prejudiced by the determination of the application in advance of any formal endorsement of rapid transit networks by either Essex or Hertfordshire County Councils in their role as Highway Authorities.

In respect of the policy references to the safeguarding of land between the airport and new and existing communities, in order to facilitate the development of new rapid transit options, East Herts Council is not aware of any discussions held under the Duty-to-Co-operate regarding this proposal. As Bishop's Stortford in East Herts District is the closest town to the airport, where a significant number of employees reside and many visitors to the airport pass through, there would be considerable benefits to such a scheme. However, such an option would need to be discussed and agreed with both East Herts Council and Hertfordshire County Council. Therefore, this authority would welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal with Uttlesford District Council and the two County Councils.

East Herts Council also requests that an amendment is made to Policy SP11 to include measures to address and avoid the impacts of inappropriate airport-related parking in nearby settlements.